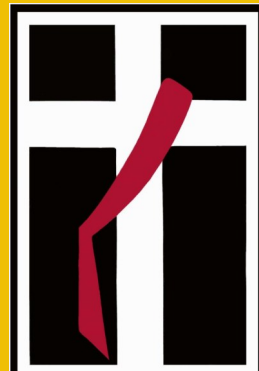


St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

1820 E. County Rd. 540A
Lakeland, FL 33813
863-646-6115
Office Hrs. M-Th 9am-3pm

FYI 2026

April 19, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 16
3rd Sunday of Easter



PEACE Nehemiah Action

Please attend the Polk Ecumenical Action Council for Empowerment's annual **Nehemiah Action** at **6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20**, at **First United Methodist Church, 72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland**.

This is a different location than usual, but our purpose remains the same: to seek solutions to local problems and urge local officials to address them.

PEACE is working to persuade Polk County government to do more for low-income senior citizens. More than **2,000 seniors** are on a waiting list for basic services such as help with chores and other daily living activities. The goal is to help them remain in their homes longer, but existing programs cannot meet the need.

PEACE is also asking local agencies to work with us to improve awareness of and access to mental health care for children.

A large turnout at the Nehemiah Action is vital to convince officials to address these problems more effectively.

For questions, please contact:

- **Karen Beasley** — 863-838-3028
- **Robin Williams Adams** — 863-640-5240
- **Joanne Gunner** — 863-670-3991



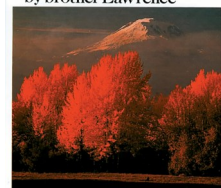
Mid-Week Service

Following the Wednesday 11:00am Eucharist Service Father David's Book Study will begin with a new book, **The Practice of the Presence of God**.

The current Pope, **Leo XIV**, highly recommends **The Practice of the Presence of God** by Brother Lawrence. In fact, he has identified it as one of the most influential texts in his life, placing it alongside the writings of Saint Augustine.

And also approved by Major L. Kight III, my BIL

the
practice
of the
presence
OF GOD
by brother Lawrence



*St. Stephen's ...
To Love and Serve
God and Neighbor*



2026-Betty Pratt, Juliana Walker, Karen Spiller
2027-Joyce Brock, Stephen Gaydosh, Jack Vonesh-Treasurer.
2028-Mary Roach, Helen Vogt, Mike Whitt, Jr Warden
Bookkeeper: Cathy Zielinski, Treasurer: Jack Vonesh,
Secretary: Karen Beasley, Office Secretary: Charlie Bradford

The Revolutionary Resurrection

A man once stood in an art gallery in Glasgow, watching a young boy quietly study a painting of the crucifixion. Curious, he placed a hand on the boy's shoulder and asked, "Son, what is that a picture of?"

The boy answered simply, "Sir, that's our Lord dying on a cross and bearing our sin."

The man thanked him and walked on. But a moment later, he felt a gentle tug at his sleeve. It was the same boy.

"Pardon me, sir," he said, "I forgot to tell you one thing—He's not dead anymore. He arose."

And that is the Gospel.

The resurrection is not merely a part of the Christian message—it is its very heart. Without it, the cross is only a story of suffering and loss, and faith becomes little more than wishful thinking. But because Christ rose from the dead, everything changes. Hope lives. Death is defeated. Life has eternal meaning.

It was this truth that transformed the first followers of Christ from fearful and scattered individuals into bold and unshakable witnesses. They faced persecution, suffering, and even death, yet they would not deny what they knew to be true: Jesus Christ had risen.

Through the centuries, that same truth has remained the cornerstone of the Christian faith. It is the foundation of hope and the promise of life to all who believe.

He is not dead. He is risen.

What If His People Prayed

What if the armies of the Lord
Picked up and dusted off their swords
Vowed to set the captives free
And not let Satan have one more

What if the church, for heaven's sake
Finally stepped up to the plate
Took a stand upon God's promise
And stormed hell's rusty gates

What if His people prayed
And those who bear His name
Would humbly seek His face
And turn from their own way

And what would happen if we prayed
For those raised up to lead the way
Then maybe kids in school could pray
And unborn children see light of day

What if the life that we pursue
Came from a hunger for the truth
What if the family turned to Jesus
Stopped asking Google what to do

He said that they would hear
His promise has been made
He'll answer loud and clear
If only we would pray



St. Stephen's T-Shirts

We are preparing to place another order for **St. Stephen's T-shirts** and would like to get an idea of the level of interest. To help with your decision, we got some samples of the shirts that we will be ordering so that you can see and feel them prior to ordering one.

A couple of things to keep in mind:

- Many people feel the shirts **run a bit small**, so you may want to consider **ordering one size up**.
- Some have expressed interest in **long-sleeve shirts**.
- Others have asked about the possibility of a **collared shirt option**.

Please let me know **if you are interested**, along with:

- The **type of shirt** (short sleeve, long sleeve, or collared), and size you want.

Once we see how many people are interested, we will move forward with the order. Thank you!



Welcome to our Church

April 12, 2026

Sanctuary	9:00am	46
Worship Center	11:00am	47
Total		93

Look for the bright yellow BUCK\$ 4 BUILDING envelopes to donate toward our out of budget building and grounds maintenance expenses.

If you are new to St. Stephen's or if you would like to have Fr. David contact you, please fill out a Newcomer Card and place it in the plate and we will see that you are contacted. God Bless.



Mark Your Calendar

- 04/21/26 Vestry Meeting 6:00pm
- 05/05/26 VBS Spaghetti Dinner 5-7pm
- 05/06/26 Morgan Goers Funeral 11:00am
- 05/08/26 Life Line Screening 8-4pm
- 05/10/26 Mother's Day Brunch Between each service
- 05/19/26 Vestry Meeting 6:00pm
- 05/21/26 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Location To Be Determined
- 05/24/26 Pentecost Sunday one Service 10:00am Sanctuary

Followed by our Chili Cook off!

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!
800-324-9458 and use code: HABC001



May 8th, 8-4

Verse of the Week: Psalm 116:10

How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me?

April Birthdays

- 1 Erica Long**
- 2 Marilyn Kempinski**
- 4 Jackie Monts de Oca**
- 6 Margaret Wallace**
- 13 Jami Beasley, Sally Flanagan**
- 16 Gail Green**
- 17 Maria Peoples**
- 18 Gail Wortman**
- 19 David Vadzemnieks**
- 22 Roger Statzer & Carl Lowry**
- 23 Juliana Walker**
- 24 Loreto Smalling**
- 25 Jenna Walker**
- 26 Carol Clark**
- 27 Lee Carter**
- 29 Bill Thompson**

April Anniversaries

- 4 Jim & Karen Beasley**
- Michael & Stacy Englert**
- 6 Ernest & Melissa Palmer**
- 25 Larry & Becky Schuster**

St. Stephen's Prayer List
(Parish Members are in Bold)

Prayer Needs: Amy (Fr. Scott's Daughter), Lou Alers, Kim Birmingham (from Scout Troop 106), Charlie Bibb (Season Barham Hodges' Father in Law) Shannon Black (from Kathy Leahy), Louis Bloodworth, Elizabeth Bradford (Charlie Bradford's sister), Bryan Biery (Judy Elam's Friend), Rachel Blackwell (Karen Spiller's daughter-in-law), Jim Bowen, Betty Calhoun, Stephen Calhoun, Italo & Janet Casini, Roz Coleman (Althea Nye's friend) Jim Cross, Annie Delling, Roger Doyle, Laurie Dresser (David Dresser's sister), Lily Dresser (David & Patricia Dresser's granddaughter, Stacy Englert, Laurens Flanagan (Sally Flanagan's Daughter in Law), Ricky Morrison, Becky Sue Morrison (Stacy & Michael Englert's Friends), Jeremey Gagne (Pat Dupont's nephew) Angela Grilli (Althea Nye's friend), Jim Heal, Bob & Kay Henry (friends of Betty Calhoun) Nicole Hernnkind (Karen Spiller's sister), Wendell & Donna Hunt, Kevin Jackimowicz, Ken & Clair Jones (Roger Doyle's friends), Kay Jordan (Judy Elam's friend), Father Robert Keller, (Kathy Leahy's friend) Karen Kent (David Dresser's Relative) Cynthia Krempel (Janice Olson's sister), Minnie Lewis (Sally Flanagan's Sister in Law) Trudi Lithgow, Mary & Adrian McAleer (Liz Barham's sister & Brother in Law), Donna McLemore, Raelyn (daughter of Sue DeMan's friend Stephanie), Al & Lucille Pfund, (Lula Peoples' co-worker), Janell Repsher, Roy Reynolds , Glen Richardi, Donna Roberts (David Dresser's sister) Art & Bonnie Rowbotham, Shirley Rumpel, Carla Sauve, Sheryl Short (Tropical Doll Club), Ed Silveira (David Dresser's Cousin), Karen Spiller, Lynn Staffier (from Kathy Leahy), Carol Starling, Marion Stewart, Helen Vogt, Dailia Walker, Meg & Rhys Wallace, Lindsay Zielinski.

Homebound or Skilled Nursing Facility: Tony Barfield, Susan Cardman, Rick Rahn, Jo Willey, Sandra Mewborn

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00am Sanctuary 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 11:00am Worship Center	8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	8am Online Morning Prayer 6pm Vestry Meeting in the Parish Hall7 8pm Online Compline	8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Communion Book Study at 12:00pm 8pm Online Compline	8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	Office Closed
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
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