



## *New Members: Information on Joining Saint Stephens & New Member Forms*

# SAINT STEPHENS

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## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

903 East 2nd Street | Merrill, Wisconsin | 54452  
715.536.7322 | [ststephensucc.net](http://ststephensucc.net)

Rev. 10/2019

## ***Are You New to Saint Stephens? Looking For More Information?***

Well, the first thing you need to know is that, as we say so often, **“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, You’re welcome here!”** ... And we mean that ... literally. So come on in! If it’s summer, the doors to the sanctuary stand wide open on Sunday mornings, ready to welcome in whoever wanders in, either deliberately or, by God’s grace, as the Spirit moves them.

The second thing you need to know is that we practice an “Open Table,” so when you worship with us, all ... and that includes YOU ... are welcome to join in and receive Communion at our table. Come forward and take Communion with everyone else. You’re invited.

Third, all of our programs and activities are available to you, whether you are or become a member ... or not. That means anything you read about within our website ... or in our newsletter ... if it is an activity, or a class, or an event or a volunteer opportunity, or whatever ... is something you are welcome and encouraged to join in, alongside of and with our members. Just fill out the necessary registration forms like everyone else and come and be a part of things here.

The form in your hands, as a part of this packet, is a **New Member Information Form** you are invited to complete, if and when you decide you’d like to become a formal member of Saint Stephens United Church of Christ. The reason for the form is so that we can get your contact information, vital statistics, and get to know you and your family a little better. That will enable us to enter you into our database and be able to better support you as a part of our community.

### **New Member Gatherings**

When we have a group of individuals interested in joining, we’ll schedule what we call “New Member Gatherings” which are, quite simply, a series of three gatherings, usually about a week or two apart, where you join us in a small social setting to get to know us and perhaps others in leadership roles in the church, some volunteers, and perhaps staff members, so you can begin to feel a part of things (and enjoy some great food and drink!).

It’s informal and fun. One of the gatherings follows a Wednesday evening worship service so you can try that service out to see if you like it and then afterward provides an opportunity for questions, a church tour, and other slightly more structured information, along with the opportunity to just hang out together. The Sunday after that is designated as “New Member Sunday” where those who choose to join are officially welcomed into the community of Saint Stephens as full members, which affords them the right to vote at Annual Meetings along with other members and designates them as “Active Members” of Saint Stephens.

If you have **Any Questions** about Saint Stephens or joining the church, please talk with the pastor or call the Church Office. We are happy to help and want you to be comfortable asking questions and getting to know the community of Saint Stephens a bit better.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE’S JOURNEY,  
YOU’RE WELCOME HERE!

The Consitution and By-Laws of Saint Stephens United Church of Christ as Revised in October 2018, states as follows regarding church membership:

*ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP*

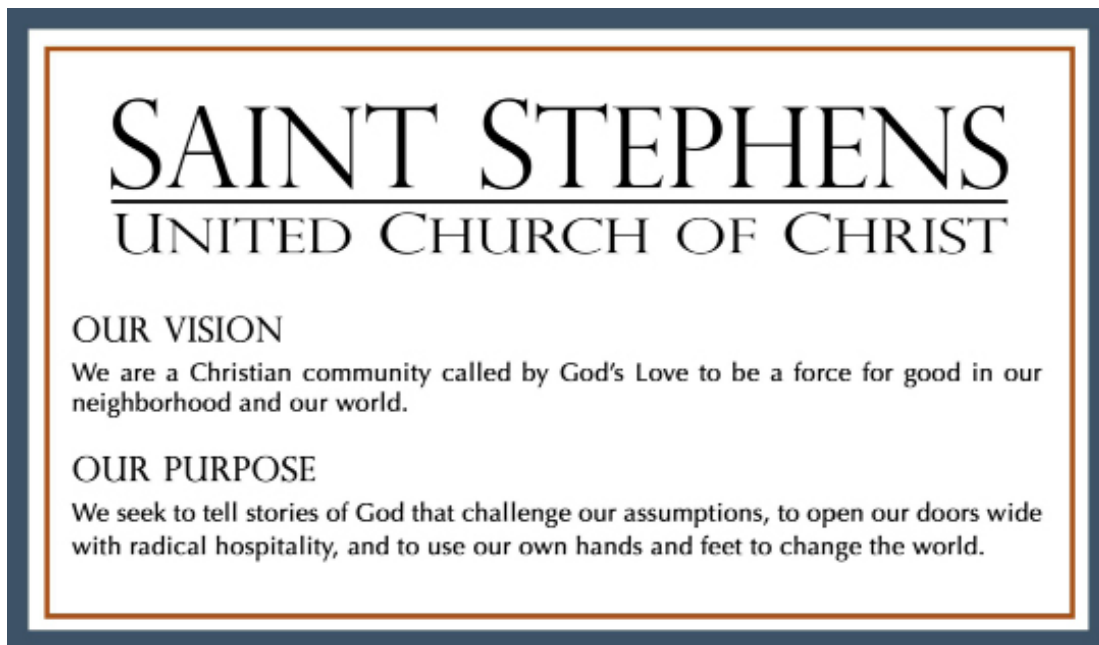
*Membership shall be open to all persons who desire to be in covenant with the congregation through the sharing of their presence and resources for the furtherance of our mission and ministry. Someone can become a member through baptism, confirmation, letter of transfer, profession of faith, or agreement to covenant.*

The By-Laws further state as follows:

*Section II - Members*

*Paragraph 1*

*The Church encourages active participation in the life of the Church. Any person wishing to become a member of the congregation shall register his/her interest to one of the pastors, the Church office, or a member of the Church. Membership classes, scheduled and taught by the pastors, shall be offered as needed.*



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## **The United Church of Christ, as a Body, Believes ...**

*We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.*

*We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.*

*We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.*

*We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.*

*We believe that all of the baptized "belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." No matter who -- no matter what -- no matter where we are on life's journey -- notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed -- we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized -- past, present and future -- are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of "love, support and care" for the baptized -- and we promise that we won't take it back -- no matter where your journey leads you.*

*We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a "cloud of witnesses" -- our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.*

*We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials--unity, in nonessentials--diversity, in all things--charity." These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overreaching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.*

*We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. "To believe is to care; to care is to do."*

*We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.*

*We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.*

*We are a people of responsibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking ...*

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### NEW MEMBER INFORMATION FORM

#### HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIAGE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIRMATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM DATE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### SPOUSE/PARTNER/SIGNIFICANT OTHER INFORMATION, WHEN APPLICABLE

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIAGE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIRMATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM DATE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT SAINT STEPHENS?

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#### WHAT ABOUT SAINT STEPHENS INFLUENCED YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER?

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# SAINT STEPHENS

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**WHAT SKILLS OR INTERESTS WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO USE FOR THE CHURCH?**

**SKILLS/INTERESTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLES= USHERING, CLEANING, GREETING, BAKING, SUNDAY SCHOOL, CHOIR, OFFICE VOLUNTEER

**IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH US ABOUT YOURSELF, SO WE CAN KNOW YOU BETTER?**

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**DO YOU HAVE FAMILY WHO ATTEND SAINT STEPHENS? PLEASE PROVIDE THEIR NAME AND RELATIONSHIP TO YOU**

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**WHO ELSE (BESIDES FAMILY) DO YOU KNOW AT SAINT STEPHENS?**

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### OTHER FAMILY MEMBER INFORMATION

#### OTHER ADULT/CHILD, IF APPLICABLE

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIAGE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIRMATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE IN SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM DATE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#### OTHER ADULT/CHILD, IF APPLICABLE

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIAGE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIRMATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE IN SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

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## CHILD, IF APPLICABLE

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIAGE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIRMATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE IN SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM DATE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILD, IF APPLICABLE

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_

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