

OUR STEPHEN MINISTERS

PAM COON Stephen Leader since 2019

"One reason I became Stephen Leader is because I am so appreciative of the Stephen Minister who helped me through the loss of a close friend. A challenging time in my life was when I was a single parent. I am thankful for that time spent with my four children. Recently, Tim and I welcomed Noodles, a mini bernedoodle, into our family."



ERIC ELSASS Stephen Minister since 2022, Leader since November 2023

"I became a Stephen Minister because I wanted to find a way to become active in the church again after many years of coaching CYO basketball. I know there are many people who don't have someone they can turn to during difficult times and I want to be there and listen. I collect St. Joseph sports and school memorabilia which consists of pictures, banners, varsity jackets, and other items."

BOB SCHERGER Stephen Minister since 2020

"My wife, Polly, was one of the original Stephen Leaders back in the 1990s. Upon her death in 2018, I could think of no better way to honor her memory or her legacy than by becoming a Stephen Minister in 2020. Life's journey can be difficult at times. Stephen Ministers are here to walk alongside."



BARB BRANDS Stephen Minister since 2005

"I became a Stephen Minister because I have always wanted to help people who were suffering. I am also a nurse. One challenging time for me was when my husband of 27 years died. I am now married to my high school sweetheart."

THERESE FAHNCKE Stephen Minister since 2024

"I discerned the call to become a Stephen Minister to walk with those seeking hope in times of despair and a newfound peace and joy following loss, change, betrayal or any number of hurts and disappointments in life. I myself had to come to grips with a major change in my life after my sons left for college and the house became very quiet, particularly without someone playing the piano at all hours of the day! Change can bring much joy, however, as my husband and I have been blessed as grandparents and are able to enjoy spending significant time with our twin granddaughters after raising two sons."



DAVE & RITA PLATFOOT Stephen Ministers since 2022

"Dave and I heard a Stephen Minister give a testimony at church. Dave heard the Holy Spirit say, 'This is what you and Rita can do to serve me!' We both have grown in our faith through the Stephen Ministry training. We use those skills as we listen and support others during difficult times; revealing Christ through our presence. What an awesome ministry to be a part of. We are truly blessed."

PEG BRUGGEMAN Stephen Minister since 2024

"I joined [Stephen Ministry] because I want to support, listen, and care for others who are struggling with life's ongoing challenges. As a nurse who has experienced many losses in my life, I know firsthand how emotional struggles can limit us in our daily life. A song that keeps me focused is 'Counting My Blessings' by Seph Schlueter. God is good."



TERESA POEPELMAN Stephen Minister since 2020

"I was invited to become a Stephen Minister in 2020 as I was planning what to do after retirement. I have always enjoyed working with people and this offered a way to do this in a helpful and positive way. I am now retired and am enjoying spending my extra time with family, friends, and my two dogs. I am so glad I accepted the invitation to become a Stephen Minister as it continues to be a truly rewarding experience."

ANITA BYRNE Stephen Minister since 2024

"I look forward to being a confidential support to someone who is challenged with a difficult season in their life. Drawing from personal experiences of infant loss, career loss, and elder care, I will be an advocate for someone who may be unable to express their feelings within their current support system. It is a privilege for me to combine my Catholic Faith with this caring ministry and to let God's healing hands guide me and work through me."



JANE MCNEAL Stephen Minister since 2024

"I am an extrovert and enjoy interacting with others. Before retirement, I was a teller at Minster Bank. I am a lay associate of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. My friends tell me I am a good listener. When I was approached about becoming a Stephen Minister, after prayerful consideration, I felt I was being called to help those who are experiencing a difficult time in their life by walking with them through this Christian caring ministry."

THOMAS JOHN ADAMOVICH Stephen Minister since 2024

"Having been away from the Church for many years, my return and defense of the Catholic faith, with a newfound connection to Christ, has been very fulfilling. Helping people, as part of my recovery from Alcohol Abuse Disorder, is very fulfilling. I now want to help those in need wherever possible."



JILL KEITH Stephen Minister since 2022

"Faith has always been a big part of my life. My faith has gotten me through a lot of things, including my recent issues with my pacemaker. Becoming a Stephen Minister has been a wonderful thing. It has enabled me to help others who may just need someone to share their thoughts and feelings with. I listen without judging. My care receiver is confident that I hold our conversations in strict confidence. In my spare time, I love to crochet, bake, and read."