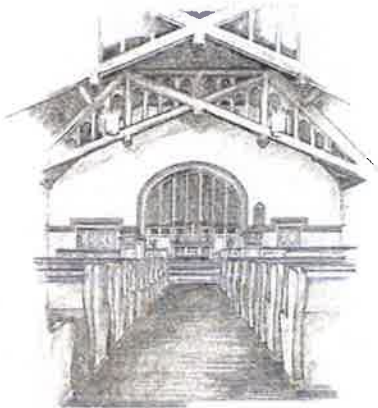


STONE CHURCH NEWS

APRIL 2020



From the Pastor's Desk

"The church is what's left..."

The church is what's left the day *after* the building burns down." I don't remember where I first heard this definition of the church, but it has certainly stuck with me. We find ourselves in a strange season. As you read this, we are three weeks into our suspension of gatherings here at Stone Church.

Our beautiful sanctuary with its proud beams and sparkling stained glass has felt empty. No meetings. No weddings or funerals. And yet *the church* remains strong.

These three weeks have been an opportunity for us to rediscover who we are, experiencing our faith without the sanctuary. Without the large group gatherings, our church family has cared for each other person-to-person. One phone call, one e-mail, one card at a time.

We've found new ways to be together - *physically* distant, but remaining socially and spiritually connected. It's been an opportunity to connect as a community in ways that we have never tried before, opening doors for future connection for those who are not physically able to be with us on a Sunday Morning. We have been forced to reinvent ourselves - even in an era where the American church as we have known it is in great need of reinvention.

Without the hustle and bustle of calendars packed to the brim week in and week out, we've been forced to step back, forced to rest, to "be still and know..."

What is the church? We are. You and I. We are the body of Christ. Broken and hurting and confused. And yet somehow an instrument of healing - an instrument of *grace* - to each other and to the world. It's fitting. Holy Week is coming, after all. Whether we will be gathered together on that day or not is still unknown as I write this, here in the middle of March. But what *is* known is that Stone Church - the real church, beyond this beautiful building we call home - will continue to *be* the body of Christ in this community and beyond. Here in this Easter Season, we will continue to proclaim Good News in word and deed: Good news of love that is stronger than fear, of hope beyond despair. Good news of life that triumphs over death... Whether we are physically together or not, we will live out the good news, continuing the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, and together.

#WeAreTheChurch
#BeyondTheSanctuary

There are great opportunities for connection during Holy Week 2020 - all online!



PALM SUNDAY!

David Radcliff of New Community Project will be joining us on Palm Sunday. He will share updates on his work during a special Sunday School Hour and then offer the Message during our worship time. We are excited to hear from him - all the way from Virginia!

Each Day of Holy Week

The church staff will be sending out a scripture, reflection, and response activity. These will be simple in nature, but meaningful. They can be done as individuals or as families. We hope you'll take some time to post pictures of your participation in these on our Facebook Page so that we can create shared experiences throughout the week.

Maundy Thursday

We will "gather" via Zoom for a Love Feast - unlike any we have ever experienced. The worship service will bring to the surface the essential meanings of the Love Feast in new ways. Love Feast is one of our holiest and most sacred times together. And it is perhaps most important in this period of physical distance. Whether you have attended in the past or not, we hope you will join us as we fellowship around a meal, remember the cleansing of our baptism, and celebrate communion.

***Special Notes on Preparing for the Love Feast Service:*

1. We will eat together as a community over Zoom. Therefore, you will need to make a meal! We suggest that you make some comfort foods for you and your family - favorite things you like to eat.
2. We will also take communion. We will be sending out a simple bread recipe if you would like to make communion bread, but any bread you bake or buy will do.
3. We will wash - not feet - but our own hands. (We have had lots of practice!) Make sure you have a basin or bowl with a towel available.

Good Friday

Stay tuned for information on the Forum of Churches service! Those plans are still in flux.



EASTER SUNDAY!

Easter Sunrise

We will have a Drive-Thru Easter Sunrise Service beginning at dawn on April 12. In the same way that Drive-Thru Nativities or Christmas Light displays work, we will have a reflective Drive-Thru experience on the Stone Church Property. You will never leave your car - you will slowly circle the block, following the instructions and prompts provided. We will also put the prompts on our Facebook Page for those who are unable to drive.

Easter Sunday Worship

We will gather for a celebration of resurrection at 10:45AM via Zoom and Facebook Live. We look forward to "seeing" you there!

Stone Church Leadership Team Meeting

“Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.”



When your Leadership Team gathered on March 11, it was a tumultuous time. Juniata had just announced moving to online classes, and the covid-19 virus was continuing its spread across the country and across the world. Appropriately, Mary opened with a reflection on choosing wisely. During this meeting, we knew we would be asked to make challenging decisions to help protect our congregation and the broader community.

As we moved through the regular work of the team, including updates and plans from the various teams, it was hard to imagine planning for the future, which seemed so uncertain. We quickly moved through this business to the urgent work of planning our response to the coronavirus.

During our conversation, I continually returned to Mary's reflection: choose wisely. How will our decision impact individuals? Our community? The health of those at risk? We were called to make decisions not from panic or personal fear, but instead to embrace our faith and values. How would Jesus call us to act? Together, we moved towards the conclusion that we needed to prioritize protecting the vulnerable and living responsibly in our community.

At the time, closing the church to all group events felt like a monumental decision. Now it seems obvious, as virtually all businesses are being asked to close. However, each and every one of us are now making those types of decisions daily: should I go out and see friends? Should I go to the store? Should my child have that playdate? We must each make these decision while remembering not just ourselves, but the broader risk to our community and the vulnerable within our community. We must try to choose wisely.

During our discussion, we focused not only on the negatives of what we can no longer do, but also on the positives of new opportunities, and the creative ways we can continue to care for each other. We asked ourselves: How will we stay connected? What needs will people have and how will we support them? How can we be together and distant at the same time? These are the same questions that we, as individuals, also need to be asking ourselves. How, then, will each of us spend this time of physical distancing? I have been asking myself, will I continue to choose to eat junk food and buy stuff online to drive away feelings of stress and loneliness? Or will I use letters, calls, FaceTime or other ways to connect with others?

At the end of the Leadership Team meeting, we were all struck with a sense of the enormity of the decisions we had made. Life as we knew it had changed, at least for the next several weeks. We were able to leave the meeting with the feeling that we had made the right decision. My hope is that, when we look back at this time, we can all remember it as a time when we were able to choose wisely.

—Submitted by Sharon Yohn, Vice-Chair

From Jeff Decker, Leadership Team Chair

Like most folks these days, I am working from home and taking the Coronavirus pandemic very seriously. But remembering the monthly Readers Digest entry "Laughter is the Best Medicine", I can't resist using a little whimsy to relate to the current situation. So, meaning no disrespect, I offer a poem that I hope ends on a positive note, especially having been part of our virtual worship service yesterday, proving that we WILL get through this "together", but in ways that are different from before.

God's Blessings,

Jeff

New Shoes Blues

A Poem by Jeff Decker



I'm puttin' on a pair of new shoes,
It doesn't mean I've got to sing the blues.
They may squeeze and pinch my toes a bit,
But just till they get broke in.

So I'm puttin' on a pair of new shoes,
And for a while I might sing them blues,
But it won't be long, that I sing that song,
And then I'll forget they hurt me so.

You see, I know I'll get through the pain,
Cause I have you, and you, and you,
Some mighty fine people, to help me see this through,
And soon, very soon, I'll be DANCIN' in those bright, shiny, NEW SHOES!

From Mary Garvey – our Minister in Training

I want to thank all of you who were part of my licensing service on February 23. It was a deeply moving experience for me and my entire family, and we are very grateful to all who made it possible. While I am extremely excited, I also realize that this is but another step in my journey forward that will most likely take me away from my beloved Stone Church community. No matter where I end up, however, I will always carry all of you in my heart! --Mary Garvey



Grocery Gift Cards—Every card helps our church!

Purchase a Stone Church Grocery Gift Card for your weekly grocery shopping and *Stone Church gets 5% of the total receipt purchase!*

During this time of social distancing – please contact the church office to arrange to have a card mailed to you. Or just send your check to the church office; we'll be happy to mail your grocery card to you!



Gene's Jottings

"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM"



On Easter Sunday, April 12 this year, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead after his crucifixion and burial. It is usually the most well attended Sunday church service of the year.

Luke 23:34 reports that Jesus, from his cross, uttered these words: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Many times, in the two thousand years since his crucifixion, those believing in Jesus have been persecuted. In AD 64, a terrible fire burned for a week in Rome, destroying 70 percent of that capital of the Roman Empire. Seeking to escape blame, Emperor Nero Claudius Caesar blamed the followers of Jesus for the crime.

Nero's persecution was vicious. Roman historian Tacitus wrote that "they were torn to death by dogs, others were crucified, others were set on fire to illuminate the night when daylight failed." After spending two years under guard, tradition has it that the Apostle Paul was first found innocent by Nero, but later condemned. Historian Eusebius reported Nero had Paul beheaded and crucified Peter.

The question has been raised about why the "immense multitude" of early Christians put up with such horrible persecution. "It can be only that they had strong evidence that Christianity was genuine, that Jesus had risen from the dead, and that he offered the hope of eternal life to those who endured in faith," Wayne Jackson wrote in "Nero Caesar and the Christian Faith."

Roy Lessin has written:

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.
If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us a economist.
If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.
But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour."

Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

—Eugene Goshorn—

News From **CAMP**

What's to Become of Camp?!!

Like many other organizations, activities, and passions in our lives, it's not clear what will and won't happen at Camp Blue Diamond in the coming months. The Camp staff and Board of Directors, myself included, are monitoring the news and changing guidelines, and making appropriate decisions when the time is right. As I compose this update, the best I can do is highlight the needs and events that are in front of us. They may very well change before the newsletter is printed. But, I'm compelled to give it a go anyway. If you desire more information, please feel free to reach out to me or the Camp office. You may also check the website at www.campbluediamond.org. --*Hopeful in Hollidaysburg, David Meadows*

CANCELED – Camp Blue Diamond Annual Dinners

Sadly, this year's dinners have been canceled due to concerns surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic. This presents a financial challenge for Camp as it means eliminating one of its largest fundraisers of the year. If you're inclined to step in and support the ministries at Camp Blue Diamond, please consider making a financial gift of any size.

Hiring Summer Staff--Apply Now!

Might you or someone you know be interested in joining the summer staff? Camp is hiring counselors, lifeguard, ropes/tower director, naturalist, crafts director, and maintenance workers. Program Staff must be at least 18 yrs. old, and maintenance workers must be at least 16. Staff members must be committed Christians, enjoy children and youth, and live in harmony with others. Besides being fun, being on camp staff is a great learning experience too. Staff members grow in faith as well as leadership and communication skills. Pay is based on experience and ranges from \$200-\$250/week + room and board. **Applications for 2020 summer positions are available at www.campbluediamond.org.**

Upcoming Events

Spring Cooking Camp for grades 7-8	April 3-5
Spring Work Day	April 4
Quilt & Craft Camp	April 17-19
Father/Son Retreat	May 1-2
Senior Adult Day	June 5
Hoss's Restaurant Fundraiser	June 14
Brethren Open Golf Tournament	August 11
Heritage Fair	September 19

Have questions?

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows, at 814-599-6017 or meadowd@juniata.edu.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Good Friday, April 10

2pm – 6pm

at Stone Church



The Red Cross has an **immediate & urgent need** for blood during this pandemic. They are taking precautions before allowing potential donors to enter the church, and precautions to protect the donors throughout the process. **Please consider giving during this time! 1-800-RED-CROSS**

We Remember.....



June Peters

June 24, 1940 – March 20, 2020



June was born in Oliver Township, Mifflin County, to George A. Gillam and F. Irene (Dunmire) Gillam. On June 19, 1965, she married William Lynn Peters at Spring Run Church of the Brethren, near McVeytown.

In addition to her husband Bill, she is survived by two sons: Michael Lynn Peters of Alexandria and Barry Scott Peters of Pennsylvania Furnace; one grandson, Evan Jon Peters, also of Pennsylvania Furnace; and three in-laws: Henry Wheeler of Lewistown, Rose (Gillam) Starnes of Rock Hill, S.C., and Janice Gillam of McVeytown.

June graduated from the former Rothrock High School in McVeytown in 1958. Following graduation, she enrolled in Brethren Volunteer Service for a year, serving as secretary for a new church start-up, Cherokee Hills Community Church of the Brethren in Overland Park, Kansas. She then attended Lock Haven University, graduating in 1965, and received a master's degree from Shippensburg University in 1968. She taught health and physical education a few years at Tyrone Area High School and Juniata Valley School District. Prior to college, secretarial work always intrigued her and she accepted a part-time position at Camp Blue Diamond near Petersburg. She then retired in 2010 from Middle Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren as administrative/ministry assistant, after 40 years of service.

She was a long-time member of Stone Church and, in earlier years, served on various committees, was a youth teacher and leader and sang in the choir. She and Bill also served as deacons, greeters and helped prepare the newsletter for mailing.

She enjoyed word puzzles, reading, knitting, jigsaw puzzles and swimming. But most of all, she liked spending time with family, friends and the Stone Church community.

“We want to join all those with tender memories of June Peters. It was great sitting in church, talking with June and Bill, who sat just behind us. June touched my life during the months I spent in physical therapy at Orbisonia, both visiting and writing. May God shed His Grace on June.”

-- Gene and Alberta Goshorn

A celebration of life service will be held at Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon at a later date.



Beau Timothy Buterbaugh

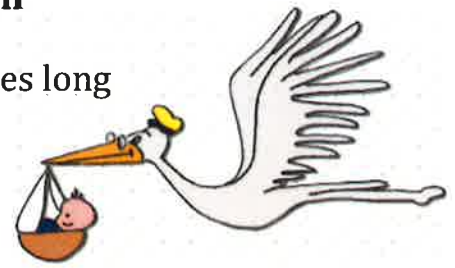
7 pounds 15 ounces, and 20.5 inches long

Born Saturday, March 14th

to

Cory and Jessica,

and Natalie (4//27/2018)



April Birthdays

1—Cory Buterbaugh
 5—Emma Janelle Musser
 6—Joanne Krugh
 7—James Ake
 7—Melissa McBrayer
 9—Robert Beck
 9—Amanda Helfrich
 11—Katie Dickey
 11—Mark Meckstroth

13—Brenda Furry
 13—Meghan Wright
 13—Olivia Ghaner
 14—Betty Ann Cherry
 14—Razinah Rahman
 14—Kim Roth
 16—Denny Rock
 19—Carolyn Lidston
 21—William Berrier

22—Samuel Closz
 22—Dean Wenger
 22—Sara White
 26—Martha Swigart
 27—Eddie Rice
 27—Natalie Buterbaugh
 30—John Keiper
 30—Seneca Miller

April Anniversaries

1—Joan & Stephen Engle
 5—Dottie & Ken Steele

16—Donna & Kenneth Evans
 22—Greg & Yvonne Stein

"With us in spirit..."

Below are members of our church family who, though they are not often physically able to join us in worship, remain with us in spirit. Remember them in your prayers, and with cards and visits! Please contact the church office (814-643-3390 or stonechurch@verizon.net) to add others you know.

DeLois Fluke
 11325 Raystown Rd.
 Huntingdon, PA 16652

Jean Prendergast
 Arista Care, Room 173
 1229 Warm Springs Ave
 Huntingdon, PA 16652

Thelma Wallace
 5754 Wallace Dr.
 Huntingdon, PA 16652

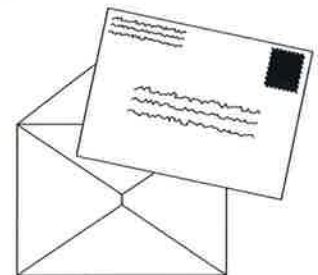
Gene & Alberta Goshorn
 14155 Hill Valley Rd.
 Mt. Union PA 17066

Lydia Price
 c/o Charla and Greg Chiapelli
 597 Sechler Rd.
 Somerset, Pa 15501

John Keiper
 PO Box 121
 Bedford, PA 15522
jdkjak@gmail.com

Dale McClure
The Village
at Morrison Cove
 Room 90
 429 South Market Street
 Martinsburg, PA 16662

Westminster Woods
 John Bowser
 Sue & Bill Martin (@the Oaks)
 Yvonne McKenzie (@the Oaks)
 Denny Rock



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STONE CHURCH NEWS

April 2020



Details inside!

HE IS RISEN
the Lord is risen indeed