

# STONE CHURCH NEWS

June/July 2021

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## From the Pastor's Desk

*"[God] has put a sense of past and future into [our] minds, yet [we] cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end." -Ecclesiastes 3:11b*

The church we were a part of before moving to Huntingdon called it the "20/20 Visioning Project". This was several years ago. They were looking ahead to the future - wondering what the church and the world might look like in 2020, and coming up with a strategic plan to get there. These sorts of discovery processes are really important in the life of a church. They help us step back from the day-to-day and dream about what is to come, about who God is calling us to *become* and how we might get there. I couldn't help but think over the past year how different the world - and the church - of 2020 looked from the one we had imagined...

Diana Butler Bass says she's learned two things about the future:

1. *No one knows what the future holds, not even the most intuitive historian, skilled trend spotter, or well-trained futurist.*
2. *Time is an odd thing. We experience it (mostly) in terms of change and chronology. But [from a] sacred perspective, time exists differently. Indeed, theologically there is no past, present, or future. God holds time without reference to what has been and what will be.*

I remember a wedding that Cindy officiated. During the ceremony she told the young couple that we don't know what the future holds. This is the reason we make promises. We commit to one another - not because we know what is going to happen - but precisely because *we do not know* what is coming. We make promises because *whatever may come* we know who we are and whose we want to be.

None of us could have predicted the life of this church in 2020. But I have been grateful for the way this church family has continued to live into its promises to one another, gathering in new ways and caring steadfastly for one another over the past 14 months. I am grateful for the ways we strive to live into our calling - to be the people we are called to be - whatever may come.

We don't know what the future holds. But we hope and plan to return to hybrid in-person worship on Sunday, July 18th. The Worship Team has been hard at work, making preparations so that when that day comes everyone present - either in-person or continuing to join over Zoom - will be able to fully participate in the life of our church family.

We remain committed to one another and to our life together whatever may come; because even in this time of physical and relational displacement, we know who - and whose we are. We are the body of Christ, resting in the hands of the One who holds the future. Thanks be to God.

## Update to the Congregation from COVID Response Team

Many of us have been struggling to understand what the recent CDC updates means for each of us, for our community, and for our congregation. Your COVID-19 Response Team has spent time both investigating the science and discerning how these new recommendations impact our congregational gathering.

Let's start first with understanding the recommendations. On an individual basis, if you are fully vaccinated, the CDC now states that it is safe to resume normal activities without masking. If you are not fully vaccinated, nothing has changed. Masking, distancing, and avoiding large groups are still highly recommended. We also need to consider that we are all emotionally in different places. Some vaccinated folks may be ready to throw away their masks and jump into crowded situations, while others still find the grocery store stressful. None of these feelings are wrong, and we need to be sensitive and understanding to the range of emotions.

In addition to considering each individual, decisions about our church community activities need to be based on local conditions, or the transmission rates in our area. The good news is that Huntingdon County's transmission rates are decreasing. However, we are still in the second highest (orange/substantial) category of transmission rates (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>).

So what does all this mean for the Stone Church family? First, it is important to remember that we will have unvaccinated individuals in our gatherings. Children under the age of 12 cannot be vaccinated yet, and others may not be able to for medical or other reasons. As a team, we decided that it is important that, at gatherings, we all follow appropriate unvaccinated protocols. Can you imagine gathering to play games on the lawn where kids need to wear masks, but most adults don't? Can you imagine a church service where there is a section for vaccinated people to sit closer, sing, and not wear masks, and another section for masked and distanced people (such as all our families with children or anyone who is immunocompromised)? This would be the opposite of welcoming. We also continue to strongly hold to "protecting the vulnerable as a community." This has guided us along the way. It will guide us as we proceed.

Based on that guiding policy, here are some changes taking place:

- The church office is now open! Our staff are fully vaccinated, but are masking in public (non-office) spaces. For the comfort and safety of all, please wear a mask within the church building.
- The pastors have been able to return to in-person visits with those in need
- Church activities can take place outdoors (and masked). The Hospitality Team is working on planning the first of these gatherings.
- Our first major use of the church building will be a return to our sanctuary for worship together on July 18th. We have decided not to move up our timing to return to the building. Cases are decreasing in the county and a little longer will make our return a lot safer. Additionally, preparing for hybrid worship (meaningful to those on Zoom and in person) is a formidable challenge.
- In worship we will still be following protocols for unvaccinated individuals. This will include masking and distancing, and will not include congregational singing at first. We will have music, though! And opportunities may come later for a "vaccinated choir" or instrumentalists, depending on case frequencies and updated recommendations.

Our team will continue to watch the transmission rates and recommendations by the CDC. As rates in the county decrease, we are looking forward to having more opportunities to interact.

This pandemic continues to offer opportunities for us to love each other well - for us to offer grace, compassion, and understanding in traumatic, chaotic, and uncertain times. The transitions we are making toward more in-person activities are no different. We have the opportunity to create safe, open, and welcoming space for one another - and for anyone who seeks out this community of faith. It is difficult work for all of us - but it is exceedingly faithful work and we are blessed to do it together.

Please reach out as you have questions or concerns.

Looking forward,

Sharon Yohn, Daisy Decker, Brooke Meadows, Luke Roth, Marty Keeney, and Pastor Cindy Lattimer



### **Male Counselors and Nurses Needed!**

If you love camp and enjoy kids, working at CBD is the greatest. **Male Counselors** are still needed. Other positions have been filled. Applicants must be at least 18, committed Christians, enjoy kids, and be able to live in harmony with others. Pay ranges from \$200-\$250/week. Room & board are

provided. Camp is from June 7 to July 31. Application forms and online application are available at <https://campbluediamond.org/summer-staff>.

**Volunteer Nurses (RN's, MD's & PA's)** are needed for each week of summer camp. Nurses are responsible for giving meds and treating injured or sick campers. Nurses live in the Ouch House and may bring their families. Nurses are still needed for June 5-6, July 11-16, and July 18-23. If you can come out for the whole camp, or just two or three days, please contact CBD at [campbluediamond@verizon.net](mailto:campbluediamond@verizon.net) or (814)667-2355.

### **UPDATE: Summer Camp 2021**

Yes, CBD is having summer camp! Since teens are just starting to get vaccinated, and those younger than 12 won't be vaccinated until later, there will be some Covid-related policies in effect at summer camp. All campers will be tested when they arrive (Abbott's BinaxNOW Antigen Self-Test), unless they bring along their completed vaccination card. Masks will be required at Camp for inside, close-quartered activities, and a few outside as well. To see how CDC requirements will affect Camp this summer, check out the complete article on page 2 of the May Newsletter under the Events/News tab at [www.campbluediamond.org](http://www.campbluediamond.org).

### **Annual Fundraising Dinners**

After canceling the Annual Dinners in spring '20 and '21 because of Covid, we're excited to be together again! Please join us outside for a Welcome Back to Camp Picnic on August 6 & 7. Dinner will be a Chicken BBQ with all the fixings, and entertainment will be our talented Middle PA friends: Brethren Brass, the Tim & Duane Show, and Gabe & Kendrick Imler. Tickets are \$50 and will be available from CBD or your church's waiter starting in early June. There will be a Silent Auction, featuring the artistic and culinary talents of our Camp friends. If you want to support the Dinner, but can't attend, there will be a To Go (carryout) option for the meal! A registration form will be available starting June 10th on the Retreats & Events page at [www.campbluediamond.org](http://www.campbluediamond.org).

### **RV Campground & Cabins**

Need a place for vacation this summer? CBD's family campground and the Lakeside and Rising Sun cabins are open. The campground has 44 RV sites, 2 tent sites, and a primitive cabin. Both Lakeside and Rising Sun have 3 bedrooms, a living/dining room, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, a loft, central AC and heat, and a TV/DVD. They are handicapped accessible. For more information, visit [www.campbluediamond.org](http://www.campbluediamond.org) or call 814-667-2355.

### **Upcoming Events**

Annual Dinners	6 & 7
Brethren Open Golf Tournament	August 10
Family Camp	August 20-22
Heritage Fair 2021	September 18

### **Have questions?**

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows.



## *Gene's Jottings*

### *"Father God"*

Mothers' Day is behind us now, and Fathers' Day is just around the corner. Lucky men and women have mothers and fathers who nurtured and loved them to adulthood. The Bible speaks of Joseph and Mary of the village of Bethlehem as Jesus's parents. Yet the Biblical reference to God is usually to "God the Father."

Perhaps an illustration is the Hebrew word "Echad," meaning the "unified oneness" of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each distinct, but all one. The Father is listed as the first person of the Trinity. The first book of the Bible, Genesis 1:26, says "let us make humans in our image, after our likeness."

All this Biblical talk about fathers leads me to talk about childhood neighbors in Mount Union who were like second parents to me. I lived on Vandevender Street on the section of town known as The Hill. Dewey and Ethel Chilcote were among leaders of a church in Cedar Crest. I often went with them to church. Ethel was a great baker of pies and cakes and she let me clean the bowls. I could look down my living room window to see Ethel in her kitchen. She also produced flanelgraph lessons for church, telling stories from the Bible. Besides church, Dewey and I gardened and watched fireworks in July overlooking the American Legion Country Club from across the Juniata River.

Dewey grew beautiful dahlias. My grandfather Charlie Jones, neighbor Roy Albright and Dewey worked in the silica brick kilns at Mount Union's Harbison Walker Brickyard. Dewey and my grandfather both died young of silicosis, contracted like many other who breathed silica dust. Silicosis was similar to tuberculosis. Granddad died in Mont Alto Sanitarium. I loved him very much. He used to whittle animals.

I am grateful for the spiritual "fathers and mothers" God has put in my life – even the ones I wasn't born to. They loved and cared for me too.

*"Under a tall tree I will lie, and let the clouds go sailing by."*

*-J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *Lord of the Rings**

Eugene R. Goshorn

## **June and July Birthdays**

4—Jack Hosler  
4—Max Moyer  
6—Cecilia Elder \*7  
8—Patti Paterson  
8—Tara Yorke  
15—Barb Parlett

4—Sandy Brechbiel  
7—Joe Krabill  
10—Ron Detwiler  
13—Ben Lattimer

**June**  
17—Taran Pelkey \*18  
19—Will Dickey  
21—Mary Garvey  
21—Chad Miller  
22—Becky Mitchell  
22—Cheryl Washburn

**July**  
14—Danny Uhrich  
15—Louise Smith  
16—Bill Fagan  
19—Sarah Strunk

24—Megan Boyer  
24—June Peters  
24—Maddix Uhrich \*7  
25—Andy Murray  
25—Dale Wampler  
28—Jeff Adams

21—Carol Fultz  
24—Belle Tuten  
24—Kieran Wright  
26—Bob McMinn  
31—Livi Hall \*2

## **June and July Anniversaries**

5—Dick & Myrna Landrum  
11—Bruce & Carolyn Lidston \*55  
11—Robert & Cheryl Washburn \*55  
13—Henry & Joanne Thurston-Griswold  
16—Terry & Carol Fultz  
18—Norm & Anne Siems \*55  
20—Chris & Chip Gibboney \*40

2—Greta & Tyler Hall \*5  
13—Robert & Sue Lamey \*20  
15—Otto & Joanne Krugh

### **June**

20—Jamie & Laura White  
22—Andy & Terry Murray  
26—Paul & Emily Elder  
28—Loren & Donna Rhodes  
28—Jeff & Daisy Decker  
29—Jay & Lisa Hosler \*25  
29—Don & Becky Mitchell  
30—Jack & Zilla Wagner

### **July**

19—Marty & Jill Keeney \*35  
26—Tim & Kristy Launtz  
31—Robert & Cheryl Ritchey

## **Grocery Gift Cards— Every card helps our church!** **(We get 5% to use in our ministries!)**

Buy your groceries at Weis or Giant using a grocery gift card purchased through Stone Church and Stone Church gets a donation of 5% back from the grocery store! To get your grocery gift cards, simply contact Cheryl Ritchey or contact the church office! Cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100.



## **Men's Breakfast via Zoom**

**June 19<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup> — 8:00 AM**

Enjoy fellowship, jokes, stories and a light reflection. Join the regular attendees, who look forward to seeing the gallery of faces and hearing the latest joke. If you are interested in attending, send your email address to Rick Laabs and he will send you an invitation. Watch the Friday Flash for information on where and how we will be meeting (virtually or in-person). If you have questions, call Rick.

## Prayer Shawls

The prayer shawl ministry provides comfort and love from the Stone Church congregation to those who experience challenging times. The shawls are tangible reminders of God's ever-present hope and peace freely given to us. Challenges may cloud our awareness of God's continual presence, but a shawl is a wonderful reminder. Placed around shoulders or across a lap, a prayer shawl provides a comforting touch. We are journeying through a most unusual year filled with social unrest, political stress, COVID and maybe stress that is unique to you. The prayer shawl ministry offers shawls to those who may be feeling additional stress, sadness, or loneliness this season. If you would like a shawl, please reach out to Pastor Cindy, Pastor Ben, or Donna Rhodes. We will arrange for a safe delivery to you.

## "With us in spirit..."

Below are members of our church family who, though they are not often 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](mailto:stonechurch@verizon.net)) to add others you know.

DeLois Fluke  
11325 Raystown Rd.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Thelma Wallace  
5754 Wallace Dr.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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

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

### Westminster Woods

John Bowser  
Sue Martin  
Denny Rock  
John Keiper



## A Sincere Thank You...

Carol Oldring would like to express her gratitude to Marty Keeney, Ben Lattimer, and all those in the community that have reached out through cards or otherwise. Carol and her family have felt loved and supported as they grieve the passing of her mother, Jean Prendergast. Specifically she is grateful for the touching memorial service that Ben and Marty organized and the kind words of support she has received in cards from many community members.



## It's a Small World Book Project

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, June 13 at 6pm**

**Presentation by Amy Nathan**

Amy is the award winning author of *Together* and *A Ride to Remember* - both books are on our *It's a Small World Book Project* wish list. This presentation will be family friendly - Amy will read *A Ride to Remember* to the kids. The session and some interactive activities should help us all learn and grow. Make plans now to join us on Zoom!

### Ongoing Initiatives

#### **Purchase Books for our Collections**

Stone Church received a grant from the Church of the Brethren to work on "healing racism." Part of that work is helping to diversify the book collections at the Huntingdon County Library, the Mount Union Library, the Stone Church library and beyond. Please see the information to the right if you would like to purchase books. And watch the Friday Flash for updated information!

### **HOW DO I PURCHASE BOOKS?**

You have two options when it comes to purchasing books. They are explained below, but if you have any questions just call the church office during office hours (814-643-3390).

1. Purchase books from our online wish list.
  - a. Go to the following link:  
<https://www.tinybooksonline.com/wishlist/123>
  - b. Add as many or as few books as you would like to your cart
  - c. At checkout enter your personal payment information, but allow the shipping information to auto-fill with Cindy's name and the church's address
2. Send a check to the church and Bekah will purchase books for you!
  - a. In the memo line of the check write "ISW **Book Purchase** Donation." *It is important that you designate you would like the money to be used to actively purchase books, not as a general donation to the ISW Project.*
  - b. If you would like to hand-select which books are purchased, please call or email Bekah to work out those details



## **Spotlight on Service**

### ***Finance Team: A Conversation with Bob McMinn, Team Chair***

#### **Q. What do you find most fulfilling about serving through this team?**

*A. The members of the Finance Team are wonderful to work with and bring a variety of perspectives to our discussions. The group believes that Finance does not function separate from the spiritual work of the church, but is an integral part of that work. The team maintains a joyful, and sometimes humorous, approach to the mission of stewardship of the congregation's fiscal well-being.*

*It is very fulfilling to help ensure that the other ministry teams of Stone Church can plan and dream without always worrying about how to fund what they decide needs to get done. It is not glamorous to double check the finances and make sure the bill paying and banking are done properly, but having them done correctly means that we all can confidently work on the many missions of the church.*

#### **Q. What are you most excited about in the life of this team and for this team's future?**

*A. We are excited and optimistic about our congregation's ability to support the existing and future mission of the church.*

#### **Q. Where could you use some additional help?**

*A. We have been somewhat challenged to identify members of the congregation to perform the annual audit. This assignment is easier for someone with some financial/accounting background. We could also use assistance in learning how to effectively use technology to manage our disbursements, perhaps avoiding the use of paper checks.*

#### **Q. If folks are interested in helping, whom should they contact and how?**

*A. Contact any Finance Team member. The current Team consists of Bob McMinn (Team Leader), Daisy Decker, Jeff Closz, Jamie White (Treasurer), and one of our pastors (who take turns depending on availability and topics). The team can always use additional members who have experience in finance, budgeting, and wish to consider rotating onto the committee.*

**Stone Church of the Brethren**  
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# STONE CHURCH NEWS

June/July 2021

**It's a Small World Book Grant**— Attend a virtual presentation from author Amy Nathan on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. And remember to purchase books!

**Return to In-Person Worship**— Read all about our plans for in-person worship starting July 18<sup>th</sup>. We are committed to still serving our Zoom community as well as remaining safe!

**The Office is Open**—Our staff are fully vaccinated, but are masking in public (non-office) spaces. For the comfort and safety of all, please wear a mask within the church building, but you are now welcome to visit during office hours (M 9-1, T-Th 9-3)