

# STONE CHURCH NEWS

MAY 2020



## From the Pastor's Desk

I really want to blame the kids. They have not been sleeping well, and the "listening ears" aren't always in peak condition. On more than one occasion, I have come downstairs to go to bed, only to find children awake, with lights on, quickly scampering to hide under covers and pretend to be asleep. This is happening 2 to 3 hours AFTER "lights out". They generally get along really well. But tiredness and cabin fever sometimes makes them a bit punchy. It is throwing off our whole routine.

THERE.IT.IS: "It's throwing off our whole routine."

It's not the kids' fault. Our whole routine is off. In fact, if I am honest, I am cranky, have cabin fever, am not sleeping well, and my "listening ears" aren't always functioning at their best either. My routine is off and that is incredibly difficult. I *like* my routine. I like my plans. My to-do lists. My color-coordinated calendar. I like knowing what most days will hold and how I will handle the things that are coming. And that is not the reality of our lives right now.

In fact, I have been surprised at how much I was relying on outside forces to set my routine - how much other people's schedules were helping keep me healthy and in balance. The school bus comes at a particular time which makes for a clear breakfast time window; Soccer practice has a particular time which means walks with the dog also have a clear window of opportunity. The staff at church does Bible study every day - so I have a clear time when my work day starts.

But without those structures in place, I am forced to create the structures myself. And this is both wonderfully liberating and crushingly overwhelming. What should my days look like? What should my kids' days look like? What really matters to me? What **MUST** be included?

As I wrestle with those questions, especially the last one, I keep returning to one of my favorite authors, Barbara Brown Taylor. In her book, *An Altar in the World*, she asks, "What is saving your life right now?"

I have at times, been wary of questions involving "saved" or "salvation." American Christianity, at this point in its history, seems to boil these beautifully complex ideas down to one clear answer: blood atonement, brought by Jesus' death, with our confession of faith, and viola! Eternity in heaven. But the witness of scripture is gorgeously (and thankfully) more complicated. In Romans 3 - 8, Paul lays out more than 8 images of salvation - neither claiming that any one of them is the whole truth of the matter nor that any should take precedence over the others. He basically lays them all out for our exploration and engagement, hoping we might find deep meaning.

That's our hope too as we begin our new worship series, *Images of Salvation* - drawing from the book of Romans. We won't look at all of them - but we will try to unpack three of Paul's ways of

experiencing the risen Christ and making sense of what that means in your life: grace, baptism to new life, and adoption. (If you want a more complete picture than we can give in worship, come to our new Bible Study!!) We hope these images help us wrap our heads around God's presence in our lives and make meaning of what's around us.

So in this time of no-routine - what is saving YOUR life right now? What is salvific for YOU? Reading poetry? Drinking tea? Yoga? Watching the sunrise? Planting a garden? And how are you making sure to work these things into your routine?

I have been making sure there are very clear times when I am working and when I am NOT working. I have been taking walks and trying to notice and watch the sunset. And I'm back to studying the Bible with the church staff! I'm also still searching for ways to structure this sort of life-giving stuff into my weeks. What about you? What rhythms are you putting in place in order to live?

Because your spiritual and emotional selves need some structures too. Not because I want to add one more 'to-do' to your plate or because I think we should all become better people in this time - but because I want us to survive and thrive. I want us to LIVE. I want us to be saved....

May it be so.

### Late April Bible Study!!



Paul's letter to the Romans is rich with image after image of salvation. As we explore these *Images of Salvation* together each week in worship, join us for a deeper dive each week into the Scripture. What does it mean to be saved? What are we saved from? What are we saved to?

See the **Friday Flash** for details on how to join us on Zoom via computer or phone. Unable to make it, but still want to listen in? Please contact the office for an audio recording.

**Your Christian Education Team** has tried to maintain some connections during this time of physical separation.

- The Shine curriculum, used for the younger classes and published by the Church of the Brethren, has been offering free online options for younger students, and we have been sharing those videos and lessons with parents each week.
- We have offered two adult sessions, one with David Radcliffe when he preached at Stone, and another Bible study with Pastor Ben beginning in late April; and the Sojourners class is exploring ways of continuing to meet virtually.
- We have also started an old-fashioned "pen-pal" program, setting up pairs of inter-generational writers who have been exchanging letters during our stay at home order – and perhaps beyond!

We look forward to the time when we can be safely together again face-to-face as we learn and grow in God's love.

## **Stone Church Leadership Team Meeting**

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



What's next? How do we move forward? These were the questions that were front and center of the April Leadership team meeting.

The last month has been one of the strangest in the modern life of this congregation. It has been a sprint for our amazing staff to figure out how to adapt to on-line services. Many of us have felt the same way. How do we move our classes on-line? How do we help our kids learn at home? How do we stay sane and safe at the same time?

Now, for many of us, the sprint has turned into a marathon. We've made the first big adaptations, figured out how to use Zoom and other technologies, and started to really understand both the challenges and the highlights. Personally, I miss seeing people, hearing the choir sing and rehearsing with the bell ringers, but I confess I do like going to church with a cup of coffee and not having my first class at 8 AM.

So what's next? How do we keep our spirits up when we can't even see the end of the marathon? How can we help others and help ourselves? Perhaps you have creative ideas that the church can easily facilitate. Could you host a Zoom session on birds, gardening, fishing, or any other topic to give people an opportunity to socialize (not the tech part – we can do that)? Could you call other members of our church family that struggle from loneliness? Buy grocery cards for the food bank? I encourage you to reach out to the church office with ideas on how you can help.

Now is also the time to ask how we can learn from the good parts of this experience. It is nice for people who are not local to be able to experience the Stone Church worship. It might even be nice to be able to tune in from home occasionally, even when we do live close. While part of us wishes to return to "life as normal," perhaps we can make a new normal that is even better.

Some of your church teams described themselves as in a "holding pattern". That pretty well reflects my life too. But there are times, times when I can think about the future optimistically and think about how this experience is changing my perceptions of what is possible in positive ways. That is our challenge now – to get out of our holding pattern and to move forward in creative and positive ways for both the short term and the long term. So while we must give ourselves the grace to have dark days and pessimistic days, I hope for all of us that we can start finding answers to "what's next?".

—Submitted by Sharon Yohn, Vice-Chair

**Your Finance Team** is thankful for the sustained financial support of this faith community. Although the way we worship together has changed; the work of the church and our commitment to our Pastors and staff continues. Thank You!

As we move into May, year-to-date giving is at \$84,586, which is below our budgeted amount by about \$10,000, based on an estimate of giving expected for the final Sunday in April. Expenses are at \$88,761, which is below budget as well by an estimated \$4,000. We budgeted giving for the year at \$288,000 and expenses of the same amount, so we have a balanced budget. But, in order to do that we lowered our Witness giving substantially. Our hope was that together our giving during the year would exceed budget and allow us to restore some of those reductions. Through April, our giving has not moved us toward that goal.

We are all experiencing pressures and challenges which we did not anticipate 2 months ago. May our shared faith journey provide comfort, solace and a source of strength. To the extent you are able, please remember to support the vision and mission of Stone Church through your giving. See our website: [www.huntingdonstonechurch.org](http://www.huntingdonstonechurch.org) for information on how to give online by credit card or online through your bank (under the *Ways of Giving* section under *Giving*).

For more information and detailed financial reports: <http://tinyurl.com/stonechurchleadership>.

The Finance Team welcomes questions, comments and suggestions.

Peacefully, Simply and Together (in spirit)

Jeff Closz, Daisy Decker, Bob McMinn, Jamie White, and John Wright

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### **From Your Leadership Team Chair**

Dear Members and Friends of the Stone Church of the Brethren,

I hope this COVID-19 update finds all of you and your loved ones in good health and spirits during this world pandemic crisis! As we struggle through this time of not being able to worship together physically, let us be ever mindful and prayerful for friends and neighbors who are suffering significant emotional and economic setbacks.

You are probably aware the Governor has extended his stay-at-home order to May 8<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, I share that Stone Church Leadership Team unanimously adopted the following plan of action at its March 26<sup>th</sup> virtual Team meeting:

Stone Church will remain virtual for Sunday morning services until such time that the leadership votes to reopen the physical space.

Until further notice, the church premises will be limited to employees of the church, as necessary, all other uses as approved. These limitations also apply to key holders of the church.

So as we watch and wait together but apart, please stay well.

Jeff Decker, Leadership Team Chair



## FIVE FOR FOOD

At our last Zmeeting of the Stone Church Witness team we had a long discussion regarding how best to respond to the needs of those who are really desperate during the COVID crisis. The needs are so great and so pervasive that it can be overwhelming to contemplate how best to use limited resources. We decided that we would encourage the congregation to focus first on those in our own community who are struggling with food security and domestic violence.

The first seems obvious, the second maybe not as much. The combination of job loss and confinement in limited space has created a nationwide spike in domestic violence. Stone Church has supported our community's Huntingdon House for years. Huntingdon House provides counseling and safe space for those entangled in domestic abuse. If you would like to add to this effort send a contribution to the church office and designate it for Huntingdon House.

The food bank is encouraging donations of grocery cards which they then distribute to those most in need. We feel like this is the best and most immediate way to respond to those without access to unemployment benefits or who are not in line for other federal relief. We have all seen the long lines at food distribution points in other communities. Grocery cards can be an even better way to help.

AND, if you buy your grocery cards through Stone Church, five percent of your gift goes to the church and 100 percent of your gift goes directly to help a family feed itself. Five for food and five percent for the church. That is gratifying math in these distressed days. The cards come in \$25.00 increments. Make a check for \$5, or \$10 or \$150, you get the idea, a number divisible by five, and send it to Stone Church marked "Food Bank." We will do the rest. AND, thank you.



## Food Pantry Update



As we live with the stay-at-home order, we find creative ways to continue our ministries. Since we aren't meeting to collect your food item donations, we are instead accepting donations to purchase grocery cards to mail to the Huntingdon Food Pantry. Simply mail your checks to the church office or go to the donation page on our website and indicate in the memo line or note what funds are to be used for this purpose!

**In March**, the item was Canned Fruit. We collected 41 cans of fruit, as well as 14 beans, 1 bread mix, 5 cake mixes, 1 jar pickles, 1 of olives, 3 of fruit spreads, 1 pizza sauce, 1 mushroom, and 14 cans of beans were donated to this local ministry during the third Sunday monthly offering.



## A message from Worship Team

Zoom, zoom. No, it's not a Mazda commercial. It's one of the new ways we "gather" each Sunday for "virtual" worship. Worship begins at 10:45am, but consider joining our pre-church social time via Zoom at 10am. Bring your coffee. Come in your pajamas! Zoom details are in each Friday Flash.



The pastors converted their Living Room into a makeshift Worship Center. Pastor Cindy gives us a sneak peek behind the scenes.



"Speaker View" allows you to see a larger image of the pastor or whoever is speaking or bringing us music from their home.



"Gallery View" allows you to see a "Brady Bunch" view. This is how we connect prior to Worship.

Worship attendance has actually **increased** during the quarantine. We have seen people who don't live here anymore such as the Rhodes, Grugan and Fultz offspring, and many more. We have seen Jim Bookhamer, the Witkovsky's, Chick & Carol Swigart, and others. College students and parents of members have regularly joined us from places such as Florida and Texas.

Two Juniata students were asked what virtual worship means to them. Kiera Lindner replied, "I have really appreciated being able to attend Stone Church via Zoom because, as a senior at Juniata who went back home to Florida for spring break and now can't get back to PA, this is the only way I can attend the church I love! It's been such a blessing to be able to remain a part of the Stone Church community despite being 1600 miles away." Madison Miller had this to say, "Pastors Ben and Cindy often remind us that the church is the people within the building, rather than the building itself. Stone Church of the Brethren provides me with a ton of support. I was initially unsure if I would feel the same love while at home on my laptop as I do when I am in the pew. I love that everyone is making such an effort to stay connected and engaged. When I pop into Zoom on Sunday mornings, Marty Keeney always messages something like "hey, glad to see you here" and those greetings provide some normalcy that I really appreciate."

If you haven't tried Zoom, download the Zoom app onto your smartphone or tablet. There are a few settings to know. Try facing a source of light so that others can see your face. Muting your audio and/or video makes it so others cannot hear or see you. Once Worship begins, muting audio helps to assure that we hear the featured speaker. In "Gallery View," you may need to scroll through multiple pages to see everyone. There is also a chat feature to submit prayer requests.

You may also view the service on Facebook (even if you do not have a Facebook account) with this link: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Stone-Church-of-the-Brethren-567198890319330/videos/>.

As we abide by social distancing guidelines, Stone Church remains strong through technology as we continue the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, and together. You may give online to help sustain our mission. Walk with us in this new normal and gain a little inspiration to get you through your week!



# TRAIL THOUGHTS

## TREKKING TOWARD GOD'S ADVENTUROUS FUTURE

A QUARTERLY PASTORAL LETTER FROM PAUL MUNDEY, MODERATOR, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**SPRING 2020**

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## UPHEAVAL

### GREETINGS IN THE STRONG NAME OF JESUS!

COVID-19. Unprecedented. Maddening. Extraordinary. Surreal.

But also: upheaval. It's as if everything has suddenly been disrupted, causing the "train of life" to careen, ready to derail.

If it's any consolation, this is not the first pandemic to threaten the trajectory of life. There was the 1918 influenza outbreak, the 2015/2016 Zika occurrence in Central/South America, the 2002/2003 SARS incident, and the 2014/2015 Ebola eruption in West Africa. In each instance, there were deadly results; but in time, healing returned.

Churches contributed to that outcome. For example, during the 1918 influenza outbreak, the Russell Street Church of Christ in Nashville approached the Red Cross, offering their building as a temporary hospital since city hospitals were filled.<sup>1</sup> So even though Sunday services were canceled, Russell Street saints didn't cancel service. In fact, they intensified service, and so must we. Whether through expanded virtual outreach (worship services, Bible study, devotionals, pastoral touchpoints, etc.), monetary support to COVID-19 hot spots, or securing groceries for needy neighbors or shut-ins, we're called to "be the church" despite disruption and upheaval.

Viktor Frankl's classic, *Man's Search for Meaning*, has been a frequent companion of mine during crisis. Frankl's book has multiple truths, including this gem: "So live as if you were living already for the second time and as if you had acted the first time as wrongly as you are about to act now!"<sup>2</sup> Overall, Frankl is addressing the way we often view upheaval and suffering—not as fodder for maturing life, but as a toxin tainting and spoiling life. However, we have a choice, as Frankl reflects: "Everything can be taken from a man [or woman] but one thing: the last of human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."<sup>3</sup> Face it: we cannot control the current pandemic; there are dynamics surging beyond our reach. But as Frankl reminds us, we can control our outlook and attitude. The Apostle Paul models such thought-discipline:

"...We are handicapped on all sides, but we are never frustrated; we are puzzled, but never in despair. We are persecuted, but we never have to stand it alone: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out! Every day we experience something of the death of the Lord Jesus, so that we may also know the power of the life of Jesus...We are always facing death, but this means that you know more and more of life..." (2 Corinthians 4:7-13 PHILLIPS)

Note Paul's realism—handicapped—puzzled—persecuted—knocked down—but catch his *conclusion*: not knocked out.

What are you concluding during this pandemic? Many surmise we're indeed knocked out—derailing and train wrecking. But, if we prioritize Bible headlines and not social media headlines, we come to a different conclusion.

"God, you're such a safe and powerful place to find refuge! You're a proven help in time of trouble—more than enough and always available whenever I need you. So, we will never fear *even* if every structure of

support were to crumble away...[So] surrender your anxiety! Be silent and stop your striving and you *will* see that I am God...I will be exalted throughout the whole earth." (Psalm 46:1-10 TPT, emphasis added)

Surrender anxiety. Silence striving. And see that I am God.

Needed, true, but so hard to live out. However, there's assistance. Recently Henry Cloud provided practical steps for realizing Godly hope in upheaval. In sum: keep connected, recreate structure, recraft equilibrium, regain control, stay productive.<sup>4</sup> In upheaval, connection, equilibrium, control, and productivity are all attacked, pulling us toward distress. But if distressed, it's hard to feel safe and secure in anything, including God. I was especially drawn to Cloud's counsel about regaining control: 1) list things within your control and list things out of your control; 2) practice healthy compartmentalizing—limit worry about things beyond your control to 5-10 minutes daily; 3) actively give energy to the things you do control; 4) get creative about the new discretionary time now available.

Wise counsel that, if heeded, will heighten awareness of the God who is "a safe and powerful place to find refuge" (Psalm 46:1 TPT). Once, Bruce Lawson helped a New York executive discover God's refuge and power. Walking in front of Rockefeller Center, they encountered a large statue of Atlas, straining under the weight of the world. Going to nearby St. Patrick's Cathedral, Larson took the executive behind the high altar to find a statue of the boy Jesus, also carrying the world, represented by a small orb in his hand. Unlike Atlas, Jesus is not straining; He's radiating peace. The choice became apparent for the executive: continue to carry the weight of the world and struggle like Atlas or give the world over to God and know peace like Jesus.

COVID-19 presents a similar choice: carry the weight of the world or give it over to Jesus. Give the weight of the world to Jesus, for, as Andrew Murray notes, "God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him." But yielding is not passive—we need to fully engage what we do control. We need to actively enter the renewed space "sheltering in place" provides, looking to God expectantly in that space, even though the structure of our support crumbles away. For God provides safety and power, nevertheless, more than enough, even in times of trouble.

With expectation,



Paul Munday, Moderator, Church of the Brethren

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### Discussion Starters / Questions

1. Moderator Paul mentions past pandemics, then comments: "there were deadly results; but in time, healing returned." Name a crisis in history or your own life that was dire, but then, in time, saw healing return. How does that fact give you hope during our current crisis?
2. Moderator Paul encourages us to "be the church" despite disruption and upheaval. Dream of creative, new ways we can "be the church" during our current crisis.
3. Reflect on Viktor Frankl's conviction: "Everything can be taken from a man [or woman] but one thing...to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." Name instances when you've either lived, or not lived, that truth.
4. Reflect on Henry Cloud's practical steps for realizing Godly hope in upheaval. What additional steps would you add?
5. Reflect on Andrew Murray's conviction: "God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him." What are healthy ways to live out that sentiment? What are unhealthy ways to implement Murray's teaching?

### To Dig Deeper

Viktor Frankl. *Man's Search for Meaning*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2006.

Henry Cloud. "Four Things You Can Do for Your Mental Health During the COVID-19 Crisis." <https://www.boundaries.me/blog/4-things-you-can-do-for-your-mental-health-during-the-covid-19-crisis>

N.T. Wright. "Christianity Offers No Answers About the Coronavirus. It's Not Supposed To." <https://time.com/5808495/coronavirus-christianity/>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://christianchronicle.org/how-churches-of-christ-responded-when-the-1918-spanish-flu-killed-millions/>

<sup>2</sup> Viktor Frankl. *Man's Search for Meaning*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2006, p. 109.

<sup>3</sup> Frankl, p. 65.

<sup>4</sup> [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_1ap--ZQ6Ra-a11hi-ukeCQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1ap--ZQ6Ra-a11hi-ukeCQ)



# News From CAMP

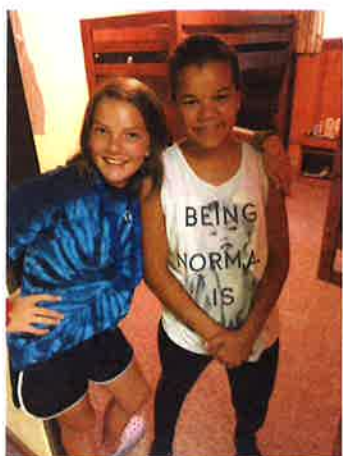
## What's to Become of Camp?!!

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. For now, spring events have been canceled and possibilities for summer camp are under review. If you desire more information at any point, please feel free to reach out to me or the Camp office. You may also check [www.campbluediamond.org](http://www.campbluediamond.org). --*Hopeful in Hollidaysburg, David Meadows*

## How Can You Help?

If you're in the position to do so, please consider making a donation in support of the continued ministries of Camp Blue Diamond. Your gift will bless the youth of our community and beyond, as the staff envisions creative new ways of doing camp. Checks may be made out to Camp Blue Diamond and mailed to P.O. Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669.



## Upcoming Events (pending)

Hoss's Restaurant Fundraiser  
Brethren Open Golf Tournament  
Heritage Fair  
Quilt & Craft Camp

June 14  
August 11  
September 19  
October 16-18

## Have questions?

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows, at 814-599-6017 or [meadowd@juniata.edu](mailto:meadowd@juniata.edu).

## Grocery Gift Cards—Every card helps our church!



What a new life we are all living. But one thing for sure, we are still eating (probably more now than ever - We are having family meals and lots and lots of snacks!) Let's think of staying positive and helping others when we can. We miss seeing you in the back of the church but are thankful for Debbie in the office, taking care of the card requests. Consider buying a card for the Food Bank, neighbor, friend or someone you know that is struggling. You can purchase \$25, \$50 and \$100 cards. Contact the church office to make arrangements, or just mail or drop off a check in the church mailbox and a card will be mailed to you, or directly to whomever you indicate.

We hope everyone is staying healthy and safe and can't wait to see everyone!! —Barb and Cheryl

*(When you use a Stone Church Grocery Gift Card to purchase groceries, the buyer gets 100% of the card amount, and Stone Church gets 5% of the receipt purchase!)*



## *Gene's Jottings*

*"Monday, May 25"*



**Memorial Day** was originally called "Decoration Day" when Gen. John A. Logan, head of the GAR, an organization for Union Civil War veterans, proclaimed May 30, 1868, as this nationwide day of remembrance. On the first Decoration Day, Gen. James Garfield, speaking at Arlington National Cemetery, led 5,000 participants as they decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union *and* Confederate soldiers buried there.

For 100 years, Decoration/Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30, the date General Logan selected. But, in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act to create three-day weekends for federal employees. This law made the last Monday in May Memorial Day. This year, Memorial Day will be May 25. Memorial Day is now celebrated as the first day of summer.

In the south, the town of Columbus, Mississippi served as a military hospital center for the wounded, particularly after the Battle of Shiloh in Pittsburg, Tennessee on April 6-7, 1862. More than 2,000 Confederate soldiers and forty to 150 Union soldiers were buried in Friendship Cemetery. In a massive clash of armies, Shiloh cost 3,482 dead, with 16,420 wounded and nearly 4,000 missing. Such massive losses cost Ulysses S. Grant command of Union forces, even though the Union forces were listed as the "winner" at Shiloh. There are no winners in such contests. Everyone loses.

On April 25, 1866, a large group of Columbus women, led by Martha Morton, sister of Confederate Lieutenant Whitfield Morton, decorated the graves of those soldiers, *both* Confederate and Union. Martha's brother died April 10, 1862 of wounds he suffered at Shiloh. He was 27 years old.

When someone pointed out the Yankee graves, one of the Columbus women responded: "We are sure there are mothers, sisters, wives, or sweethearts who are mourning these dead men, so we are going to honor them also." Anyone who dies in war is a loss to the family involved and to the nation.

War has a terrible cost, well beyond power, territory, death tolls, and politics. The costs of suffering, loss, and grief are incalculable. This Memorial Day, may we honor *all* those who have been lost - soldiers on all sides, and the countless men, women, and children caught in the middle - as *we* strive to be bringers of true peace.

—Eugene Goshorn—

## **May Birthdays**

1—Leah Lashlee  
1—Brooke Meadows  
3—Jill Keeney  
3—Landon Meadows  
5—Cathy Cloz  
5—Beth Williams

7—Ginny Sandifer  
10—Jeannie Lashlee  
10—Anne Siems  
12—Donald Mitchell  
13—Henrik Berger  
13—Jack Wagner

14—DeLois Fluke  
14—Pam Grugan  
16—Jason Boyer  
17—Melodee Wingate  
20—Joyce Keiper  
25—Rosemary Plane

## **May Anniversaries**

21—Peg Krolak & Todd Hammer

27—Brooke & David Meadows

## **"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](mailto: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

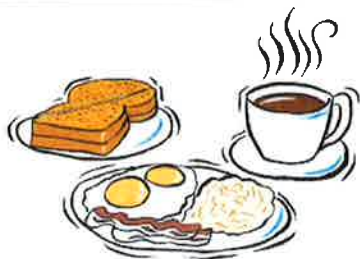
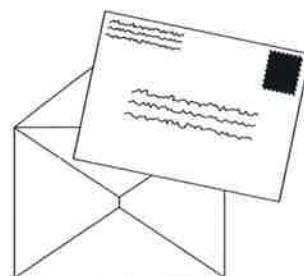
Thelma Wallace  
5754 Wallace Dr.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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](mailto:jdkjak@gmail.com)

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



## **Men's Breakfast**

May 9th - 8:05 AM

**Zoom Men's Breakfast Gathering**

Bring your own favorite breakfast dish and join other Stone Church men and boys for fellowship, jokes and a light reflection. Send your email address to Rick Laabs ([laabsra55@gmail.com](mailto:laabsra55@gmail.com)) if you are interested in attending and he will send you a Zoom invitation.

**Watch for details in the Friday Flash.**



# Thank You!!



**Jessie Dolores Snyder**

August 6, 1929 – March 27, 2020



**Thank you!** As many have noted, our current stay-at-home status has changed the way we interact and impacted our ability to process events in the 'normal' way. On March 27, I joined others in our congregation as they learned to grieve the loss of a loved one during this time of social distancing, and wait for a date-to-be-determined memorial service to 'complete' the grieving process. It has been a blessing that I've gotten to work with and know so many in the Stone Church community during these last few years. I found great solace the first few weeks following my mother's passing in gathering a handful of cards from my mailbox each day – cards from my church communities and from friends near and far. Sitting quietly each evening, reading these cards, brought a sense of peace and connection. Thank you all!

I also thought I'd share recent historical findings, discovered as I processed those boxes in the attic! I always thought my history was Amish/Mennonite/Presbyterian (my grandfather made the first transition in youth; my mother the last in marriage). But apparently my grandmother, Margaret Taylor Zook, had Brethren roots! And, according to a small blue book titled *My Covenant of Church Membership*, my mother was baptized at Stone Church of the Brethren by John C. Middlekauff on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord 1947. And, according to *The February 1948 Stone Church News*, the entire Zook family (father, son, and 3 daughters) was welcomed as new members by baptism. And so they worshiped, here at Stone Church, until 1953 when my mother, Jessie, married Jesse M. Snyder (Presbyterian), her high school sweetheart, when he was returned home to recover from his years as a Korean POW. They married that year on October 31<sup>st</sup> (Halloween) in Stone Church and left shortly after for Aberdeen Proving Grounds. I love this picture of my parents in front of the Stone Church altar, and want to thank this community for their role in my mother's strong faith, and for their prayers, thoughts, and cards during this time of loss.

Thank you, and God bless!  
— Deborah Snyder Barrette



## What have you been doing during the 'stay-at-home' order?!

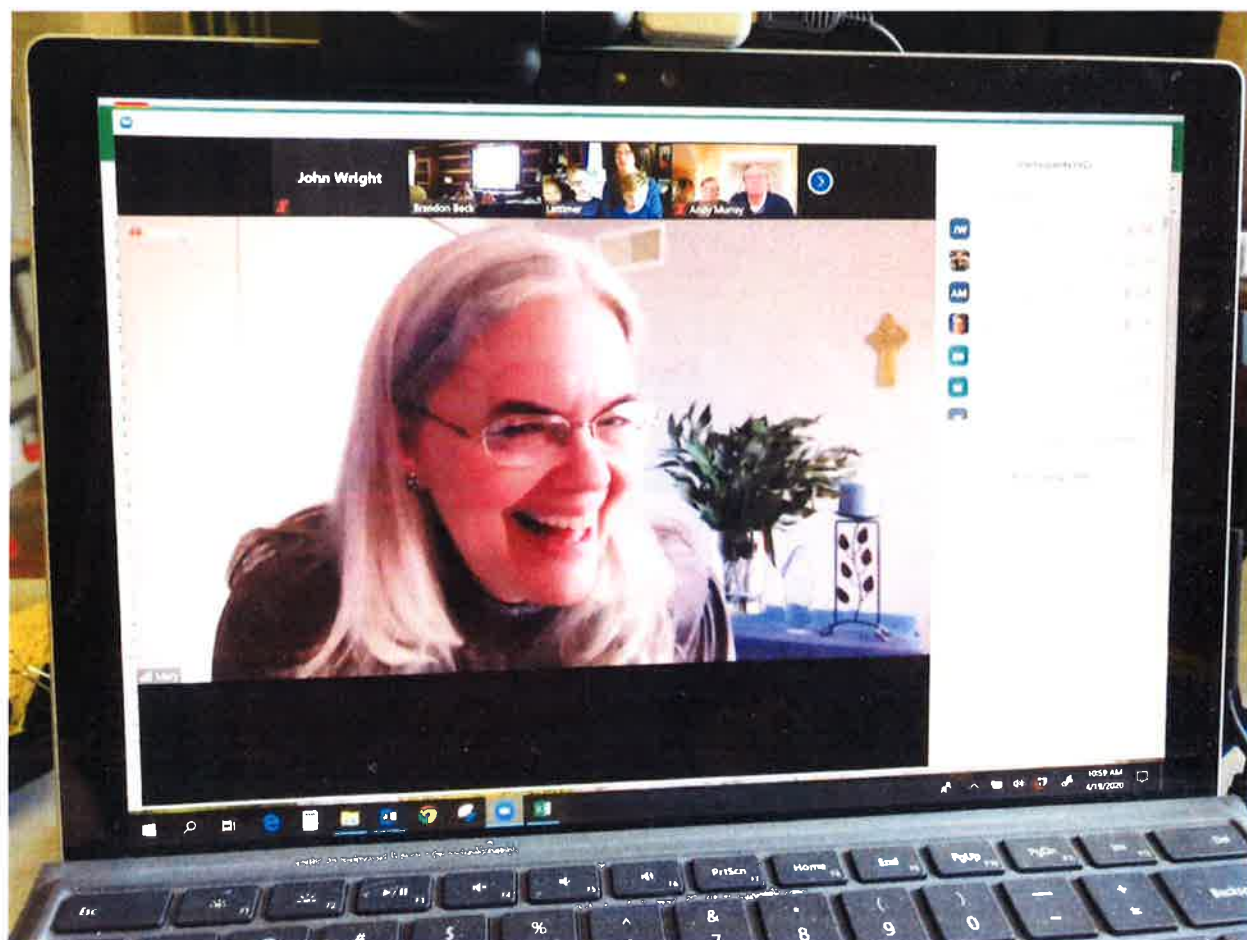
Razinah Rahman has been sewing and donating lots of face masks (as have Joanne Laabs and others in our community!!)



Sandy Loughlin, Janis Jones, Harriet Kaylor, Becky Mitchell, Betty Ann Cherry Bill Peters, Bruce Lidston, Anne Rice, Doris Comerford and Jim Ake are writing (and receiving) notes from our young people!



The Pastors have gone virtual for Sunday worship! Meeting you in your homes, and bringing your friends to you as the "Stone Church Gallery"!!!



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# STONE CHURCH NEWS

May 2020

**Virtual Church!**

*Let's Connect!!*

