

STONE CHURCH NEWS

November 2020

From the Pastor's Desk



Leaving my parents' home was hard. We had a wonderful visit a few weeks ago. There were hayrides and campfires, lovely leaves and good food to eat. It was a break from the pressures and worries that many of us are carrying in these unusual times. And when it was over, I was sad. I told Ben, "Now that this trip is over, I am not sure what I have to look forward to."

The first letter to the church in Thessalonica is written to people who are weighed down by their situation. They are being persecuted and it is beyond hard. Paul writes to encourage them and lift them up. We are going to spend several weeks in November reading and reflecting on his words in worship. We are not persecuted - not even close - but things *are* hard. There has been a dramatic increase of positive cases of COVID-19 in our community - which makes us more vulnerable, increases the odds of us having a close relationship with someone who gets sick or worse, and makes us have to wait even longer before gathering in person. Many are worried about the upcoming election - not simply the results but what may happen as a result of the results. We continue to wrestle with issues of racism, injustice, climate change, and the difficulties of tending our own souls in this time. And so we turn to Paul's words to the church - finding ourselves in the ongoing story of scripture, and as we hope for comfort, work for justice, and reach out in community.

A few days after we returned to Huntingdon from my parents' house, Ben and I took time to get clear on some ideas we had been tossing around with each other and with some of you for Advent. That's right - Advent begins at the end of November. I quickly realized that I have a LOT to look forward to - and so do you! Our Alternative Christmas Gifts Bazaar - an event I love and look forward to every year - begins in November and lasts a month! You can find the details if you keep reading further in the newsletter. And I am excited about some other activities and surprises we have in the works too.

Our Advent series for worship is called, "Those Who Dream." We are returning to the group "A Sanctified Art" for resources, art, poetry, and theming. Inspired by the first line of Psalm 126, "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream," this series is an invitation to dream alongside each other, the Biblical characters, and God. "The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers," the planning team reminds us. "They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality. This theme is for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time." We look forward to sharing with you in worship.

But that's not all! We know that this season will look different, but that with intention it can be incredibly meaningful. So we are putting together resources and activities to engage the sacred together. Each household will receive an Advent Box to help you engage the worship and the weeks of Advent more fully. If you are not local - be in touch so that we can figure out how to give you some of these supplies. But we still aren't done! We are still dreaming and planning into this season - so check out the included dates and put them on your calendar. These are just the beginning of all the new things I am now looking forward to - can't wait to share them with all of you!

Dates to Remember

- November 22 - Advent Box Pick-ups
- December 6 - Virtual Caroling
- December 13 - Caroling CDs and Cookie Delivery
- December 17 - Longest Night Service
- December 20 - Zoom Christmas Pageant
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Service
- PLUS - A weekly Advent Devotional time using Visio Divina

Stone Church Leadership Team Meeting

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

This month I've been thinking a lot about the power of the messages that we send through our actions. What messages are we sending as a nation? As an individual? Or as a congregation? This month I listened to the reports of the teams of Stone Church through this lens. If an outsider looked in – what would they learn about us from our actions?



The meeting started with a delightful treat – a visit from Mary Garvey and an update about her continued ministry training and practice. As reports were given from various teams, we heard how the Deacons continue to care and pray for those of us in need, as well as provide meals. The Witness team wrote 50 handwritten cards to college students to let them know they were supported and welcome. A group is working hard planning the virtual Alternative Gifts Bazaar in a way that is safe and still supports local and global organizations. The Worship Team is brainstorming on how to share our Christmas joy with our congregation and others through decorating the Moore Street side of the church, and considering fun ideas such as a virtual pageant. The Christian Education Team continues to support the gathering of small groups of people growing in faith and community with each other. And much more.

What, then, do our actions say about our congregation? I heard the message that we are a congregation that cares for each other, spiritually and physically. I heard the message that we are a congregation that cares about our town; that contributes time and money to local needs such as the Farmers' Market and the food bank. I also heard the message that we are a congregation that cares about people around the world.

As chair of our COVID-19 Response Team, I also think about the message that we are sending by choosing not to open our building, or to meet in our sanctuary. Are we sending the message that we are afraid? Unprepared? Unwilling to take a risk? I don't believe so. I believe we are sending a message of support to our town and community. That we prioritize the public health over our preferences, and that we can, and will, continue to support our own congregation and the wider community while minimizing the spread of the disease.

The Finance Team has also made me think about what message I send by how I choose to spend my wealth. What is my money story? What does it say about me, and what do I want it to say about the priorities of my family?

I confess that I am proud of the messages that Stone Church sends, and grateful to be a part of this amazing congregation. But the messages that we send are all due to the hard work and financial contributions of all of us – the Stone Church family. Let's keep having our congregation send a message that the world so desperately needs to hear – one of faith, hope, and love.

Sharon Yohn

Vice-chair of Leadership Team

Details from our Finance Team...

2020 Third Quarter Finances (As Of Sept. 30, 2020)

Income	Actual to 9/30	Budget	% of Budget
Pledged	\$172,679	\$245,000	70%
Not Pledged	\$14,018	\$23,000	61%
Good Faith	\$0	\$11,000	0%
Trust Income	\$5,324	\$6,800	78%
Dividends	\$300	\$1,200	25%
Interest	\$16		
Endowment	\$0	\$1,000	
Rental Income	\$50		
Total Income	\$192,387	\$288,000	67%

Expense	Actual to 9/30	Budget	% of Budget
Christian Ed.	\$448	\$4,325	10%
Property	\$29,861	\$39,200	76%
Hospitality	\$77	\$975	8%
Deacons	\$432	\$1,550	28%
P&A	\$142,382	\$196,330	73%
Witness	\$25,766	\$40,060	64%
Worship	\$2,338	\$5,560	42%
Total Expenses	\$201,304	\$288,000	70%

Income	Actual	Budget
Total Income	\$192,387	\$288,000
Total Expenses	\$201,304	\$288,000
Net Income	-8,917	\$0

Please seek out a member of the finance team if you have any questions: Bob McMinn, Daisy Decker, Jeff Cloz, Jamie White, John Wright

"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) to add others you know.

DeLois Fluke
11325 Raystown Rd.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Jean Prendergast
930 Mifflin Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Thelma Wallace
5754 Wallace Dr.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Gene & Alberta Goshorn
Aristacare Loyalsock
Room 114 (Gene)
1445 Sycamore Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

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

John Keiper
PO Box 121
Bedford, PA 15522

Westminster Woods
John Bowser
Sue Martin
Denny Rock





there I Am in the midst

Stone Church Fellowship Groups!

Are you enjoying Stone Church's 10-week program for small group fellowship and reflection? This Zoom-based program keeps us connected as a congregation and community during this time when we cannot physically be together. Groups consist of no more than 8 persons, with themed devotionals with related faith and Christian life exploratory questions. These groups have been meeting throughout the fall. The final week for this session will be the week of November 9th.

If you would like to know when the next round of groups start, contact Pastor Ben or leave a message on the church office phone.

Sojourners

Adults of all ages are invited to join Sojourners as they study the book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*, by Jemar Tisby. It's "an acclaimed, timely narrative of how people of faith have historically--up to the present day--worked against racial justice. And a call for urgent action by all Christians today in response." **The Sojourners class meets via Zoom at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday!** Contact Virginia Biber, Sojourners Coordinator to join us for this timely study!



Mid-Week Bible Study

WEDNESDAY nights @ 7pm*

(*except on the 2nd week, when we'll meet on Tuesday the 10th!)

Join us as we take a deeper dive into the scripture.

See the **Friday Flash** for details on how to join us on Zoom via computer or phone. And, if you're unable to make it, but still want to listen in, contact the office to have an audio recording sent to you!

From our Witness Team...

We are all aware of the extra burdens that the COVID era puts on retirement communities, assisted care facilities and nursing homes. In light of that, the Witness Team would like to ask Stone Church to respond to an appeal, from our own retirement community and nursing home, to extend a Christmas greeting and send a token of our thoughts and prayers.

The Village at Morrisons Cove is putting together a Christmas gift bag for each of its nursing home residents. Included in this bag is a large print crossword puzzle book. The Witness Team has committed to ask the Stone Church congregation to help with this item specifically.

We suggest you go to your favorite online bookseller. For example, you could visit Amazon and search for large print crossword books. Choose one or more of your favorites.

Order as many as you like and have them sent directly to:

Mike Lightner, Activities Director
The Village at Morrison's Cove
429 South Market Street
Martinsburg, PA 16662

We will prepare a little card, from Stone Church, for them to put in the book.

If you prefer, you could just drop off books at the church. You can place them in the labeled box to the right of the door near the mailbox. THANK YOU!



Alternative Christmas Gifts Bazaar
2020 Style



It's almost time!! That's right...starting on **Sunday, November 1, 2020**, and continuing for the months of November and December, you will be able to click your way through our first-ever virtual **Alternative Christmas Gifts Bazaar (ACGB)**. Things won't be quite the same without the fellowship we so enjoy on that first Saturday each December, but you will still get to make a difference in so many lives by giving the gift of giving...online!

You will have the ability to shop with and donate to many of your favorite ACGB local and global charitable organizations. However, you'll be doing so from the comfort of your own home, at your own pace, with many of the items you purchase being shipped directly to you. Some local organizations aren't able to provide shipping, so we've even worked that out.

We will provide a one-day, socially distant, curbside pickup service for items purchased through these local vendors. These items will be waiting for your arrival at Stone Church on Saturday, December 5, 2020, where a friendly masked elf will bring them right to your car. These vendors are clearly marked on our Virtual ACGB website, with instructions on scheduling a pickup time.

So, on November 1, 2020 follow the link below and get a jump on your Christmas shopping.

www.stoneacgb.com

Help Stone Church and the ACGB team in continuing our tradition of making a local and global impact.

Happy Holidays and Blessings to all!

The ACGB Team





Summer Camp 2021

It's never too early to start dreaming about summer camp! The 2021 Camp Blue Diamond summer schedule has been published and Early Online Pre-Registration will be open Nov. 9 – Dec. 31 (get a free t-shirt!). Families that transferred Summer Camp 2020 payments should have received a letter in

October with a reminder of the amount they can deduct for 2021. Summer brochures will be out in January. In the meantime, take a look at which camp will fit into your schedule best and think happy CBD thoughts. <>
More info at www.campbluediamond.org.

Date	Camp	Grade Finished ('20-'21 school year)
June 5 - 6	Kiddie Weekend	Age 5-7 + Adult
June 5 - 6	CIT Camp	Grades 9-11
June 8 - 10	Cooking Camp	Grades 5-6
June 13 - 18	Junior 1	Grades 3-5
June 13 - 18	Junior High 1	Grades 6-8
June 20 - 25	Creative Arts	Grades 5-8
June 20 - 25	Yough Adventure	Grades 7-9
June 27 - 30	Pioneer Camp	Grades 2-4
June 27 - 30	Caving Camp	Grades 5-7
July 1 - 2	Kiddie Camp	Age 5-7 + Adult
July 1 - 2	Tenderfoot Camp	Grades 1-2
July 11 - 16	Youth Camp	Grades 8-12
July 18 - 23	Junior 2	Grades 3-5
July 18 - 23	Advanced OLS	Grades 8-12
July 25 - 30	Junior High 2	Grades 6-8
July 25 - 30	Junior Adventure	Grades 4-5
August 20 - 22	Family Camp	All Ages

Upon This Firm Foundation

Construction has begun on the third project of CBD's capital campaign, a new washhouse for the Family Campground. Camp hopes to have the building completed before the 2021 RV Campground season in May.

Upcoming Events

Jr. High Retreat for grades 6-8	February 19-21
Junior Retreat for grades 3-5	March 5-6
Youth Retreat for grades 9-12	March 19-21
Quilt & Craft Camp	April 23-25
Annual Dinners	May 1 & 2
Father/Son Retreat for grades K-8	May 7-8
Senior Adult Day	June 4
Hoss's Fundraiser	June 13
Brethren Open Golf Tournament	August 10
Family Camp	August 20-22
Heritage Fair 2021	September 18

Have questions?

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows.



Hello from your new Administrative Assistant, Bekah Ford!

I wanted to take a moment to properly introduce myself. Given the current circumstances, we cannot meet face to face. So I thought this would be the next best thing. If my incoherent ramblings aren't enough and you want to hear more from me, feel free to email or call the church – I'd be happy to chat with you/get to know you virtually!

Let's start with the facts: My name is Rebekah Jeanette Ford, spelled the same way you find it in the Bible (so if you mess up the spelling I'll assume you've been skipping church). I am 24 years old, born January 12th, 1996 to Mike and Valerie Ford. I have an older brother named Jacob and two younger sisters, Emma and Nicole. My brother has a dear life partner, Catie, who is also part of the family. And finally we have our beloved dog Eli. As my siblings and I grow, our family becomes geographically spread out. Yet I am fortunate that despite the physical distance, we remain as close as ever.

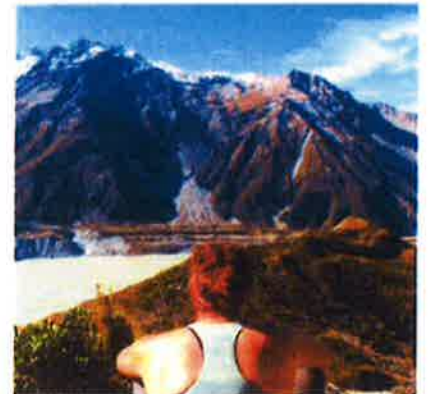


My childhood was split between two formative places. In my younger years I romped around Camp Hebron located in Halifax, PA. My father was the camp director and I fully embraced all the perks that came with being a camp kid. My mom worked as a stay-at-home mother and homeschooled all of us. I remain grateful that my mom taught me pivotal things like compassion, patience, and how to read. As I approached middle school my family moved to Souderton, PA where I grew into a young adult and eventually graduated high school. Instead of a camp director, my dad now served as a pastor and my mom as a high school teacher.



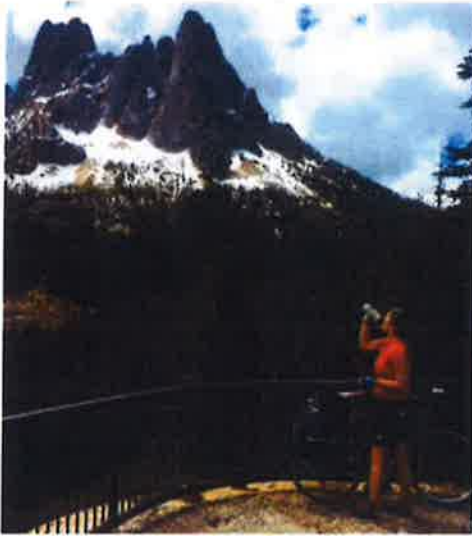
After graduation my adventurous spirit took over. I deferred my college enrollment for a year and hopped the next plane to Anchorage, Alaska. I spent half of the year working in downtown hotels, herding tourists between buses, planes, and cruise ships. The other half I spent accomplishing a dream of mine. Starting on March 1, 2015 I stepped onto the Appalachian Trail. 135 days later I took my last step, having walked all 2,189.2 miles of the trail.

About a month later I stepped onto Juniata's campus to start my freshman year. I quickly found my family at Juniata and jumped wholeheartedly into all the college has to offer. Between research, choir, campus clubs, a year of study abroad, and a social life I kept myself rather busy. Out of my four years at Juniata College came travel opportunities to nine different countries, close relationships with incredible mentors, friends that became family, valuable scholarship, and plenty of stories. I graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Biology and a less-than-set-in-stone direction for the future.



I worked for a year at a local clinical laboratory and gained valuable experience and insight into my strengths, weaknesses, and desires when it comes to the professional realm. As the end of my year-long contract approached I decided to not renew. It was during this time that I heard of the opportunity at Stone Church and grew very excited about the prospect of serving this community.

And so here I am! Excited to learn and grow alongside you. I appreciate your patience as I learn in these next months, but know that I am a hard worker. I'll leave you with a few fun facts (see next page) and a link to a piece I wrote during another one of my wild adventures. Hopefully all of these things together give you some glimpse of who I am as a person. Until we are able to shake hands, this can serve as a first impression... hopefully a good one.



Some fun facts about Bekah:

1. I saw a sea turtle while snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef
2. I played volleyball in high school, the shortest middle hitter you'll ever meet
3. I've recently gotten into rock climbing, mountain biking, and baking
4. Last summer I rode my bike from the coast of Washington state to Kansas. Suprisingly I only had one run in with a moose
5. I consider being a role model to my two sisters as one of my greatest responsibilities
6. I consider the chance that I could be a bad role model to my two sisters as one of my greatest fears
7. Until I turned 12 I had stick straight hair... but then things took a 180
8. I also work at Standing Stone Coffee Company, so come get a latte from me
9. I love to write, but lack the structure to write regularly... let me know if you have any tips
10. I absolutely love wildflowers; I pick and press them often

Link to a piece I wrote: <http://wildflwr.home.blog/2019/05/20/four-women/>



Gene's Jottings

"My Alberta"

For personal reasons this may be my last column, at least for a while. My beloved wife, Alberta Yvonne Haught Goshorn, has been hospitalized indefinitely.

We have been married only eleven years. Wed in the woods near Petersburg on a nice autumn day by Dale and Christy Dowdy. I am sad to say my Alberta has been ill for some time. She worked some 35 years as a librarian in Huntingdon and Altoona, and volunteered in the Huntingdon Co. Historical Society, where we met.

When young, she assisted her dad, the Reverend Albert Haught, Pastor with the Church of the Brethren.

I never knew a sweeter or shyer girl than my Alberta. All her life she loved cats and raised a litter of strays the last few years. She named them after New Testament personalities. She did have to rename Joseph, after he dropped a litter of seven.

The COVID-19 trouble is keeping Alberta and I apart for a time. But we won't be apart forever. Not a second longer than I need stay away. Since my back surgery in 2018, Alberta cared for me day and night without complaint 24/7. I should have married her 20 years earlier. Think of the children we could have had.

[Editor's Note: Since this writing, Gene has moved into the same skilled care facility with Alberta.]

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

- Eugene Goshorn -

November Birthdays

1—Grant Musser
2—Jeremy Uhrich
9—Cindy Lattimer
10—Loren Rhodes
10—Kenneth Steele
11—John Bowser
14—Elliott Wetzel *6
20—Margaret Krolak
21—Daisy Decker
21—Lisa Hosler
21—Jay Hosler
22—Sydney Grace Paterson *4
25—Jon Yon
26—Sue Lamey

November Anniversaries

4—Rob & Kelli Reitenbaugh
5—Bob & Carol Oldring *30
13—Jeff & Cathy Cloz *10
23—Joe & Terri Krabill
26—Brandon & Kathryn Beck *15
30—Dennis & Becky Plane

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 leave a message at the church office! Cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100.



Men's Breakfast via Zoom

November 14 — 8:00 AM

Prepare your favorite breakfast and join the gathering virtually by Zoom. 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 a Zoom invitation. If you have questions, call Rick.

Congregational Forum

November 15 at 8:30 AM

You're invited! Join Congregational Forum via Zoom. A link will be included in the Friday Flash prior to our meeting. Forward-thinking agenda items will include: a slate of those called to serve in leadership roles next year, financial updates as we prepare a budget for next year, and a recommendation to renew Mary Garvey's ministerial license for another year. Since we normally enjoy refreshments at forum, the hospitality team has suggested a BYOB event...So please do Bring Your Own BREAKFAST!

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STONE CHURCH NEWS

November 2020

Congregational Forum — Sunday November 15th at 8:30AM! Your participation is welcomed, join us on Zoom.

Virtual Worship Continues — see the Friday Flash for the Zoom link or catch us later that week on our Facebook page.