

# STONE CHURCH NEWS

April 2022

*Full to the Brim* – the Lenten Season 2022 is coming to an end– see inside for information on upcoming events!

**Easter Scavenger Hunt**– The Hospitality and Fellowship team is hosting an Easter-themed Scavenger Hunt. See inside for details on how you can participate!

# STONE CHURCH NEWS

April 2022

## From the Pastor's Desk



There are these stories we tell again and again, year after year, when my family gets together. Like the one about the time I wanted to ride my bike in the road, "like the big people do." Only my "bike" was a tricycle and I was only 3 years old. (A neighbor picked me up out of the *middle* of the street, and brought me home, kicking and screaming, before any cars came by.) Or we tell the story about the time when I was little and my older sister and my parents were up playing UNO after my bedtime. I emerged from my room wearing my pajamas and the saddest face and asked pitifully, "Are you guys playing 'Who-knows' without me?" I just *never wanted to miss out*.

Or we tell about the time Abigail Adams, a long time resident of the State psychiatric institution up the street rang the doorbell on Christmas morning. My mother, ever the welcoming hostess, invited him in and he sat down *and joined my extended family at the table* for Christmas dinner.

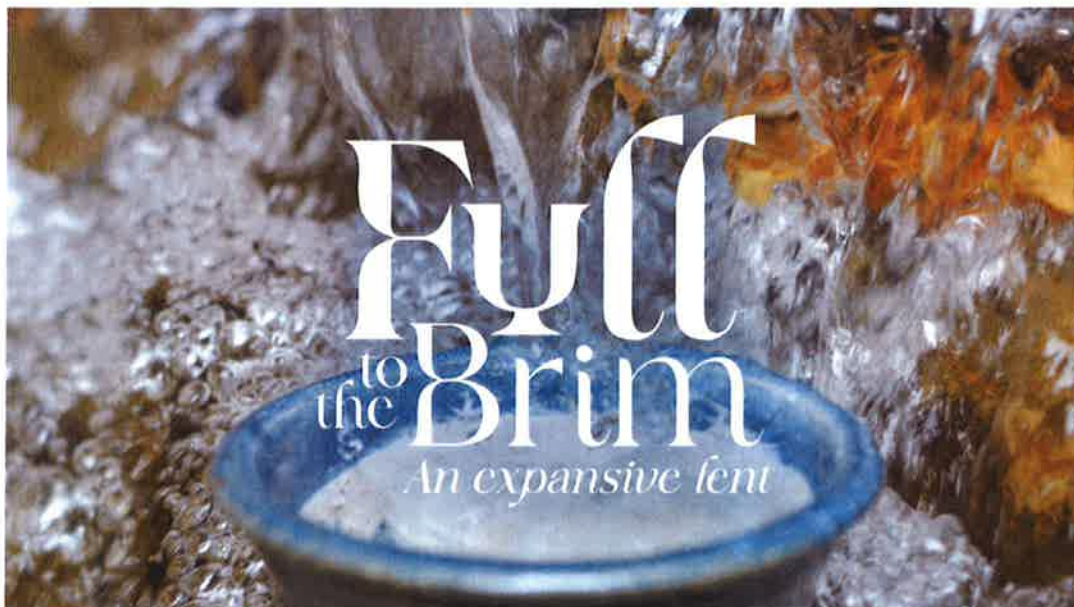
We tell these old yarns over and over, even though we know them by heart. We bring these memories out and polish them together, bringing a smile to our faces, before putting them away for a while, until the next gathering. These memories we share, these stories, help us remember who we are. They are *our* stories. They help bind us together...

Every year around this time, we bring out some of the same old stories - tales of hosannas and palm branches, of a last meal and washed feet. We tell the story of the cross, and of the empty tomb. We *re-live* these stories together throughout Holy Week.

- On **Palm Sunday**, April 10th, during worship we will tell the story of the king's entry into Jerusalem. We will celebrate, with a service of baptism and welcoming a dozen new members into our church family!
- On **Maundy Thursday**, April 14th, we will gather in the evening for Love Feast together, remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples even as we gather for a service of footwashing, fellowship, and communion together.
- On **Good Friday**, April 15th, together with congregations throughout our community, we will take part in the Forum of Churches' service, keeping vigil at the foot of the cross, as we remember Jesus' last words to us.
- On **Easter Sunday Morning**, April 17th, we make our way at sunrise up to the Peace Chapel, for an Easter Sunrise service together with those from other churches to marvel at the mystery of the empty tomb.
- And then, later that morning, we will join together in celebration for **Easter Sunday Worship**, proclaiming together the good news that Christ is risen through story and song - including the return of our Stone Church choir!<sup>1</sup>

*So, don't miss out. Come join us at the table. Be a part of re-telling these stories that help us remember who we are - the stories that bind us together.*

<sup>1</sup> All of the events at Stone Church - **Palm Sunday Worship**, **Love Feast**, and **Easter Sunday Worship** will be available for participation via Zoom as well, as we continue our commitment to make it possible for all to participate!



*The Lenten Season continues...*

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Visio Divina Art Devotionals** – Wednesdays at 7:00PM – Zoom Devotional continuing through the week after Easter Sunday
- **Palm Sunday Worship** - 10:45AM – Hybrid Service including Baptisms and New Memberships
- **Love Feast**, Maundy Thursday - 6:00PM – Hybrid Service including shared communion
- **Good Friday Service** – 12:00PM – 3:00PM – In-Person Service beginning at the Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ
- **Easter Sunrise** - 6:10AM In-Person Service held at the Peace Chapel
- **Easter Service** - 10:45AM – Hybrid Service

### **It's A Small World Book Project** **Checkout Challenge**



We hope you will get excited as we look toward the future and ramp up for our next ISW initiative: **The Checkout Challenge!** We've got the books – now let's *read* them! Dedicating ourselves to reading and engaging with these books is an important part of the ISW Book Project and we can't wait to start this work together! Remember that *all* of the books have something to teach us (that means that adults can learn a lot from the kids' books as well as those written for adults readers!).

The Checkout Challenge will begin in April, so stay tuned to the Friday Flash for specific timing and details. However, in the meantime you can get excited about the three reading challenges we have designed for you:

#### **Around the World Challenge**

Read all *52 books* in the collection over the course of the year!

#### **Know Your Neighbor Challenge**

Read *24 books* from the collection over the course of the year!

#### **Shalom Challenge**

Read *12 books* from the collection over the course of the year!

Think about which challenge is best for you and get your whole family excited to read together! Watch the Friday Flash and listen to the announcements for details on when and how the challenge will begin!

**Stone Church Leadership Team**  
**"Continuing the Work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together."**



I love Spring. I love the blooming trees; I love the birds singing; I love how the air feels different. I even love the smell of manure being spread across the fields. For me, Spring brings hope, excitement, and motivation. Spring truly is the start of new life, both literally and figuratively. So, it is only fitting that on March 20, the official first day of Spring, our congregation was able to come back to life and sing together for the first time in two years. Two years! It is hard to believe it has been two years since our voices echoed in the sanctuary and passersby could hear us rejoice as they walked along the sidewalks. The first day of Spring also brought a different kind of new life back to the church. Young children returned to the nursery, and we could see their smiling faces and hear their laughter. This day was especially meaningful for me because it was the first day that my family was able to return to the church as a family. This form of rebirth for our church is largely the result of the leadership of six individuals – Sharon Yohn, Daisy Decker, Brooke Meadows, Luke Roth, Marty Keeney, and Pastor Cindy Lattimer – also known as the COVID Team.

For two very long and arduous years, our COVID team has worked diligently to keep us all safe. This was not an easy task as new strains of the virus emerged, and the number of cases skyrocketed and then receded only to skyrocket once more. It also wasn't easy when other places of worship around our community and our country were reopening and continuing their typical practices. It wasn't easy to combat the COVID fatigue that most of us were experiencing as we longed for the way things used to be. When making decisions, the COVID Team put the safety and wellbeing of our congregation first. They did not allow for political interference, and they did not present an ultimatum of faith or science. Rather, they recognized that listening to what the data says was the best way to follow Jesus' number one rule – to love one another. With each difficult decision that was made, it was made from the love they have for Stone Church. Not the building, but the people. From the youngest child to the healthy twenty-something to the frailest among us. It was love that guided their deliberations; it was love that guided their decisions; and it is love that continues to guide them. I, for one, am grateful to belong to a community of people who put love first. Thank you to the COVID Team for everything you have done to keep us safe, but most of all, thank you for your love.

*~Jessica Buterbaugh~*

**"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 [stonechurchofthebrethren@gmail.com](mailto:stonechurchofthebrethren@gmail.com)) to add others you know.

DeLois Fluke  
11325 Raystown Rd.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Thelma Wallace  
5754 Wallace Dr.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Louise Smith  
11642 Station Road  
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







### **Hiring Summer Staff--Apply Now!**

Camp is hiring staff for Summer 2022: counselor, lifeguard, ropes/tower director, naturalist, crafts director, kitchen, and maintenance. Program Staff must be at least 18 yrs. old. Support Staff - kitchen and maintenance workers - must be at least 16. The Camp season will be from June 9 - July 30.

Program Staff pay ranges from \$200-\$250 per week, depending on experience. Support Staff ranges from \$180-\$250. Applications are available at [www.campbluediamond.org/summer-staff](http://www.campbluediamond.org/summer-staff).

### **Quilt and Craft Camp – April 29 - May 1**

This annual event is a spiritual retreat centered on our God-gifted creativity. This weekend is for crafters of all types! Bring your quilt work, cross stitch, knitting, scrapbooking, etc. and join the fun! Workshops will be available on Saturday to learn a new skill. The retreat will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday night and end at 1 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Cost is \$85 for the weekend (\$50 for Saturday only). For workshop titles, more info, and online registration, visit [www.campbluediamond.org/retreats-%26-events](http://www.campbluediamond.org/retreats-%26-events).

### **Breakfast With the Birds – May 7**

Join us at Camp and beyond as we spend the morning sighting and learning about many different local birds. Gabe Imler, Camp's new Program Director and Bird Enthusiast, will be our host for the day.

- Meet at Camp at 7:00 a.m.
- Spend time looking at the birds around Camp
- All ages and skill levels welcome! We will largely stay on the waling trails at Camp both down by the lake and up near the Lodge
- Travel to Shaver's Creek for more birding
- \$10 cost includes breakfast at Camp and transportation

For questions or to RSVP, contact the Camp office at 814-667-2355 or [campbluediamond@verizon.net](mailto:campbluediamond@verizon.net). Transportation will be provided once you arrive at Camp. RSVP by April 29.

### **Summer Camp 2022 – What's In A Name?**

Don't miss out on summer camp opportunities for children and youth ranging from 5 years-old to high school seniors, and families too! Registration is open through June 1. Families, check out the *Multiple Sibling* discount. Don't forget that Stone Church pays half of the registration fee for our children and youth. If finances stand in the way of a child going to camp, look for scholarship information in the brochure or contact the Camp office. Online registration is open at [www.campbluediamond.org](http://www.campbluediamond.org)!

### **Upcoming Events**

Outdoor School	March 28-May 6
Quilt & Craft Camp	April 29-May 1
Breakfast with the Birds	May 7
Annual Dinners	June 10 & 11
Brethren Open Golf Tournament	August 9
Heritage Fair	September 17

### **Have questions?**

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows.



## Gene's Jottings

### "Hidden Truth"

My wife, Alberta, liked to write poems. She wrote one about Johnny Appleseed and won a magazine entry that garnered her Fifteen Dollars...

*Our teachers speak of Washington, Sam Adams and the rest.  
I'll tell you of the patriot I like the best.*

*John was born two hundred years ago.  
He played among the apple trees that grew there, row on row.  
One day he said, "there's something I'd really like to do."  
I'd like to plant an apple tree for you and you and you.*

*In dumplings and in spicy cakes, the apple can't be beat.  
A wedge of fresh-baked crusty pies, a very special treat.  
An apple makes the finest sauce; besides it's good for you.*

*So let us praise John Chapman now.  
Let's honor him, indeed.  
And let us all remember him as "Johnny Appleseed."*

John was a plain and simple man who preached the gospel of Jesus Christ as he traveled, and during his travels he converted many Native Americans. The Indigenous People regarded him as someone who had been touched by the Great Spirit. During his later life, John was a vegetarian. He never married. He thought he would find his soulmate in heaven if she did not appear to him on Earth.

When we think of the great figures that have truly affected this world, we often consider figures such as Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Winston Churchill, Princess Diana, and Pope John Paul II. The list goes on and on. And usually in considering these people who have affected the world, we take into account the things they have done. Mother Teresa sought a culture dedicated to the sanctity of life, promoting the beauty and joy that was serving the poor in disease-ridden streets of India. Mahatma Gandhi fought for peace in his country that he firmly believed would lead to peace throughout the world. Winston Churchill was the face of the British government throughout the turmoil that was the Second World War. Princess Diana used her celebrity to bring attention to the AIDS crisis in Africa. Pope John Paul II was the face and fearless leader of the Roman Catholic Church for twenty-six years, bringing a message of peace, hope, and love.

While we can consider these people great figures, I would like to add two people to the list of wonderful folks who have affected the world. I am sure you thought of the first when I mentioned truly great figures. Another is someone you probably have not thought of since your Walt Disney days. At any rate, they can both be men who made the world better. The first is Jesus, God incarnate, Savior of the world. He influenced and saved the world, and he was the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises. He was perfection and the absolute example of priest, prophet, and king. He came into this world to shake the foundations on which it rested, hoping to bring truth and the wonder that is loving and serving God.

The second person is Johnny Appleseed. He was a young, rambunctious lad with a dream: bringing apples to the West. With nothing more than a Bible in his hand, apple seeds in his bag, and a pot on his head for cooking, Johnny set off across America to bring apples to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and West Virginia. He became quite popular, often attracting crowds of children who wanted to hear his stories of growing apple trees. Some claim this story is false—no sensible person would hike across America with a pot on his head. But I say to those nay-sayers, wasn't Jesus considered crazy by the Pharisees, the lawyers of the day? Didn't they say that his claim of raising the temple in three days and "I am the bread of life" were insane? Because of his preaching, they crucified him. Jesus sought truth, revealing to people that he was the Way, Truth, and Life. Johnny Appleseed sought to bring delicious treats in the form of apples, a source of way, truth, and life. Many thought this plain and simple way of sleeping in tree branches with a pot on his head were clear signs Johnny was off his rocker. Likewise, many in Jesus day and today believed his miraculous life to be irrational. All the same, through Jesus' life and teachings, his death and resurrection, we are saved. *Plain and simple.*

## Easter Scavenger Hunt

### Hosted by the Hospitality & Fellowship Team

Want to get outside this spring? Want to earn cool prizes? Then you should enter the Stone Church Easter Scavenger Hunt! The Hospitality & Fellowship Team is holding a Scavenger Hunt with a springtime/Easter theme. *The hunt began March 20<sup>th</sup> and entries are due Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.* To participate, entrants can snap photos and send them to Jeannie Lashlee (Co-Chair of the Hospitality Team). Participants are encouraged to team up so that this can be an intergenerational event. For example, those of us who are less tech-savvy can pair with someone who is more tech-savvy. Prizes will be awarded to those who find the most, the quickest! Prizes are gift cards to the following local businesses:

**1st Prize** – Gardner’s Candy

**2nd Prize** – Muddy Run Tavern

**3rd Prize** – Weaver the Florist

Detach the Scavenger Hunt list below so you can check off the items as you go - good luck and have fun!

---

### Scavenger Hunt List

- |                                                 |                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> purple crocus          | <input type="checkbox"/> bluebird or robin                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> live bunny             | <input type="checkbox"/> bird nest with eggs                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sunrise                | <input type="checkbox"/> rainbow                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> baby duck              | <input type="checkbox"/> marshmallow Peep                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rain puddle            | <input type="checkbox"/> red tulip                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chocolate bunny        | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter bonnet                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter basket          | <input type="checkbox"/> lamb                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flowering/budding tree | <input type="checkbox"/> daffodil                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clouds                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter grass                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter bunny           | <input type="checkbox"/> live chick                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cross                  | <input type="checkbox"/> word “April”                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter lily            | <input type="checkbox"/> egg-shaped chocolate                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rabbit or deer tracks  | <input type="checkbox"/> butterfly                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> jelly beans            | <input type="checkbox"/> opening to a cave                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hot cross bun          | <input type="checkbox"/> umbrella                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> palm fronds            | <input type="checkbox"/> real colored Easter egg *not plastic* |

## April Birthdays

1—Cory Buterbaugh  
5—Emma Musser  
7—Melissa McBrayer  
9—Robert Beck \*9  
9—Amanda Helfrich  
11—Katie Dickey  
11—Mark Meckstroth  
13—Brenda Furry

13—Olivia Ghaner \*15  
13—Meghan Wright  
14—Betty Ann Cherry  
14—Razinah Rahman  
14—Kim Roth  
16—Denny Rock  
19—Carolyn Lidston  
22—Samuel Cloz \*8

22—Dean Wenger  
22—Sara White  
26—Martha Swigart  
27—Natalie Buterbaugh \*4  
27—Eddie Rice  
30—John Keiper  
30—Seneca Miller \*9

## April Anniversaries

1—Joan & Stephen Engle  
5—Dottie & Ken Steele  
15—Sylvia & Thomas McDowell

16—Donna & Kenney Evans  
22—Greg & Yvonne Stein \*55

## 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

April 30<sup>th</sup> — 8:00 AM

Join us for some great fellowship, a few corny jokes and a light reflection. If you are interested in attending, send your email address to Rick Laabs and he will send you an invitation. As things warm up again, we are excited to be gathering again in person, but you can also join us over Zoom. Watch the Friday Flash for updates! 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.