

STONE CHURCH NEWS

AUGUST 2020



From the Pastor's Desk

It's been a strange summer. Summer makes me think of vacations and cookouts with friends. T-ball and swimming - at the community pool and up at the lake. Baseball games and visits from family. Even the big church family reunion that is Annual Conference. Of course, most all of that went out the window thanks to COVID-19. It's been a strange summer. Filled with smaller - but equally wonderful blessings. Helping the boys dig for worms or catch crayfish in the little stream at the park. Reading the Berenstain Bears books so many times that the twins now sometimes read them back to me instead. Watching the boys ride like the wind on their bikes all over the "streets" of the empty Juniata College quad.

It's been a strange summer - a strange *season* - in the life of the church too. We haven't gathered in person since March. And yet even this season in the life of the church has been filled with its own wonderful blessings. Sunday morning worship joined from the sacredness of gardens and trees, joined by friends and family near and far, uniting the Stone Church diaspora each week. Mid-week Bible Studies with folks that genuinely care for one another and for this community. Sunday morning fellowship times, Stories and music for the kids in the afternoons, thanks to Becky, Henry, and Kate. Virtual church game night...

The upheaval of our normal life has opened possibilities for *new* life and connection into the future. I'm excited about the work the Christian Ed team has been doing, imagining a new way of doing small groups, beginning at the end of this month. Or the way the Worship Team has been working on ways to maintain this broad sense of community we've enjoyed with Stone Church family from around the country and around the world - even *after* the time comes when we can be safely together again in person. The upheaval of our normal life has opened possibilities for *new* life together.

That's been true for our society as well in this strange summer of 2020. The upheaval sparked by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others has opened new possibilities as our society has begun wrestling openly with the realities of continuing racism, both personal and systemic. As COVID-19 has upended our normal ways of being, we've started to ask questions about the pace and patterns of life we had taken for granted, forced to imagine new ways of being together.

Most of the New Testament was written to the early church. A minority group that was often persecuted. Much of it was written to give courage and hope to a group that usually found itself on the margins. For most of us in the 21st century American Church though, we struggle with a different reality. As members of the American democratic experiment, we have much more influence over the way we shape our broader society. So, this August we are going back to the Old Testament - to the *Minor Prophets*. These oracles to the Israelite Kingdoms are incredibly timely. Their cries against widespread and systemic injustice speak to our day and age every bit as much as they did to the kingdoms and powers of their day. Because they longed for justice, the prophets also challenged the people to imagine new ways of being together.

We look forward to learning from these scriptures alongside you, even as we continue discovering new life and connection throughout this strange season.



there I Am in the midst

Stone Church Small Group Fellowship Program

Beginning late August, Stone Church will launch a 10-week program for small group fellowship and reflection. This Zoom-based program will serve to help keep us connected as a congregation and deepen our sense of community during this time when we cannot physically be together. The gatherings will center around themed devotionals and related faith and Christian life exploratory questions. Groups will include eight persons or less to facilitate a space that allows for speaking and listening from the heart and fosters the deepening of our knowing and understanding of each other. Groups will meet weekly or biweekly, depending on the desires of the particular group. Watch for sign-ups for this program in August. We hope that you will be able to participate in this new aspect of our congregational life.

Sojourners

Adults of all ages are welcome to join Sojourners this fall for a study of the book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*, by Jemar Tisby. It is described as, "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 will meet via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays beginning August 31**. Please contact Virginia Biber, Sojourners Coordinator, at vbiber@comcast.net or 814-560-9200 if you wish to join us for this timely study.



Mid-Week Bible Study WEDNESDAY nights @ 7pm

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!

Stone Church Leadership Team Meeting
“Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.”



Have you ever thought about why you go to church? It may be a deep and abiding faith, a habit that provides comfort and security, a connection with a loving community, a weekly reminder of the person you want to be, or a myriad of other reasons.

The various teams within Stone Church have been asking similar questions over the past several months. At first, it was difficult to move beyond just trying to replicate events that we used to do pre-coronavirus. Rather than questioning why, the question was how – how can we replicate what we have done in the past in these difficult times?

But attempting to replicate handshakes, hugs, the singing of the choir and other activities that just can't happen right now risks creating what is but a pale shadow of previous events. Instead, we are now asking ourselves different questions. What are the most important things about the church? What are the most important things about worship? About Christian Education?

Simply asking these questions results in a valuable analysis and meaningful conversation. It allows each team to then focus creatively on how to offer those important things during this challenging time. It also helps us understand which events may not be meaningful due to coronavirus based restrictions, and where we can better focus our energies.

I'd invite you to take a few minutes and think about why Stone Church is important to you. What are the ways that this congregation touched your life before the coronavirus? What was most important? How does it touch your life now? What is different? What is the same? What's missing? What's better now? If you'd like, you can send these thoughts to the church office (stonechurch@verizon.net) to share with the Leadership Team.

I look forward to the development of a vaccine, of being back in our lovely sanctuary, to hearing the voices of the choir. Until that time, I'll think about not just what we have lost during this time, but what we have gained. And I believe that, in the end, we will be a stronger and better church for having asked these questions, and for thinking about what is most important.

Submitted by Sharon Yohn
Leadership Team vice-chair

2020 Second Quarter Finances (As Of June 30, 2020)

Income	Actual to 6/30	Budget	% of Budget
Pledged	\$127,508	\$245,000	52%
Not Pledged	\$8,332	\$23,000	36%
Good Faith	\$0	\$11,000	0%
Trust Income	\$3,311	\$6,800	49%
Dividends	\$300	\$1,200	25%
Interest	\$14		
Endowment	\$0	\$1,000	
Rental Income	\$150		
Total Income	\$139,615	\$288,000	48%

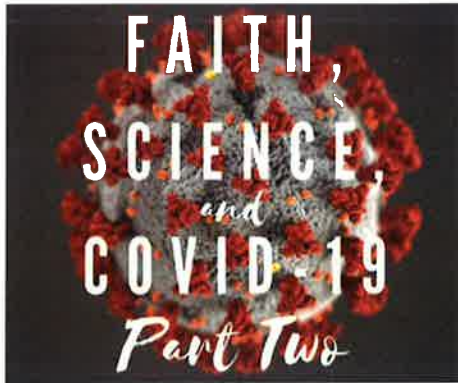
Expense	Actual to 6/30	Budget	% of Budget
Christian Ed.	\$392	\$4,325	9%
Property	\$15,623	\$39,200	40%
Hospitality	\$54	\$975	5%
Deacons	\$232	\$1,550	15%
P&A	\$96,313	\$196,330	49%
Witness	\$17,905	\$40,060	45%
Worship	\$1,629	\$5,560	29%
Total Expenses	\$132,148	\$288,000	46%

Income	Actual	Budget
Total Income	\$139,615	\$288,000
Total Expenses	\$132,148	\$288,000
Net Income	\$7,467	\$0

Giving Beyond the Budget	Actual
Food Bank	\$5,547
Salvation Army - Fire Victims	\$4,471
Emergency Funds	\$500
Total	\$10,518

For detailed financial reports, see the June 2020 folder at <http://tinyurl.com/stonechurchleadership>

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



Annual Conference
Church of the Brethren



Moderator's Town Hall

Faith, Science, and COVID-19, Part Two
Thursday, August 13th
7 p.m. Eastern

Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday is excited to announce another Moderator's Town Hall - Thursday, August 13th at 7pm. The topic will be "Faith, Science, and COVID-19, Part Two."

A special focus will be the current reality of the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the reopening of churches.

Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen, Professor in the Department of Global and Community Health at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, will once again be joining Paul to continue answering your questions and bring us the latest information about the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Jacobsen is a specialist in infectious disease epidemiology and global health who has consulted with a number of organizations during this pandemic. She is also a member of the Oakton Church of the Brethren, Oakton, Virginia, valuing her connection to faith and the Church of the Brethren.

To register for the town hall, please visit: tinyurl.com/modtownhallaug2020

You are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.

You can email questions about registering for this event to cobmoderatoretownhall@gmail.com. Questions related to COVID-19, etc., are to be submitted the night of the event.

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

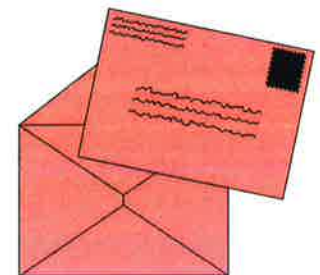
Thelma Wallace
5754 Wallace Dr.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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

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





Gene's Jottings

"The Buck Stops Here!"



Anyone who's seen "The Ten Commandments" starring Charlton Heston knows that while Moses was in the mountains getting the commandments, bad guy Edward G. Robinson had the Israelites build a golden idol as their God.

This was one of some ten times Scripture reports the Israelites having trouble obeying God in Egypt and while traveling to the Promised Land.

Believe it or not, this story has a point.

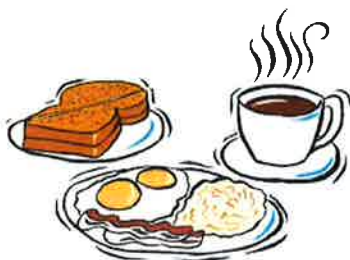
Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of President Harry Truman, is heading a campaign to raise the funds to renovate the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. He writes of his grandfather's story that, "Only in America could a farm boy from Missouri, with no college degree or wealth...rebuild Europe, found NATO, and stand firm against the growing Communist threat." Truman's slogan heads this column.

But, Daniel writes, "[If we do not] emphasize teaching history and civics in our schools, [we lose] touch with our roots... This should trouble all of us. When a nation doesn't learn from its past, it is doomed to stumble blindly into the future."

We need to remember our history. All of it. To celebrate the good parts, and to be honest about the bad parts.

The Israelites kept forgetting God - even though they had seen incredible wonders just a short time before. And it led to years of stumbling blindly in the wilderness. It's why their children and grand-children decided to tell their story - all of it - the good and the bad, so that they could learn from their past, and find their way to the Promised Land.

—Eugene Goshorn—



Men's Breakfast via Zoom

August 15th — 8:05 AM

Prepare your favorite breakfast and join the gathering virtually by Zoom. Enjoy fellowship, jokes, stories and a light reflection. Please join the regular attendees, who look forward to seeing the gallery of faces and to hear the latest joke. Send your email address to Rick Laabs (laabsra55@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending and he will send you a Zoom invitation. . If you have questions, you can call Rich at 814-599-8762.

News From **CAMP**

Virtual Heritage Fair

Sadly, Heritage Fair will not take place at Camp Blue Diamond this September. After a lengthy discussion concerning the health risks related to large gatherings

and the state's limit on crowds of over 250, the Heritage Fair Planning Committee concluded that it was best to make alternative plans for 2020.



Between now and October 15, Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District are sponsoring a [Virtual Heritage Fair](#). Churches and individuals are being encouraged to raise funds by participating in the Dunk the Dunkard [Water Bucket Challenge](#), a [Hike/Run/Walk-a-thon](#), selling their Heritage Fair specialties to their neighbors, or any other creative way they can.



Churches can advertise what they are doing through a Heritage Fair Classified Ad on Camp's Facebook page, website or newsletter. To place an ad, visit the [Heritage Fair Classified webpage](#) and email your information. If your congregation is known for its Heritage Favorite (beef & noodles, fudge, apple cider, apple butter, apple butter pies, gob cake, ox roast, BBQ chicken, ham & bean soup, hot sausages, homemade pies), please consider preparing these delicacies and selling them from your church parking lot! We'll help you advertise in the classifieds.

Dunk-the-Dunkard Water Bucket Challenge – The dunking tank is not a possibility this year, but imagine the fun of choosing someone in your congregation to dunk and raising money to make it happen. Or perhaps have a contest between several people to see who raises the most and gets dunked.

Hike/Walk/Run-a-Thon – Maybe someone (or a group) in your congregation would like to do a Hike/Walk/Run-a-Thon, feel free to use the sponsor sign-up sheet available.

For more information and to figure out what your church can do, check out the Virtual Heritage Fair site at <https://campbluediamond.org/virtual-heritage-fair>.

Upcoming Events

Family Camp	August 7-9 & 21-23
Brethren Open Golf Tournament	August 11
Virtual Heritage Fair	Now through October 15
Quilt & Craft Camp	October 16-18

Have questions?

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



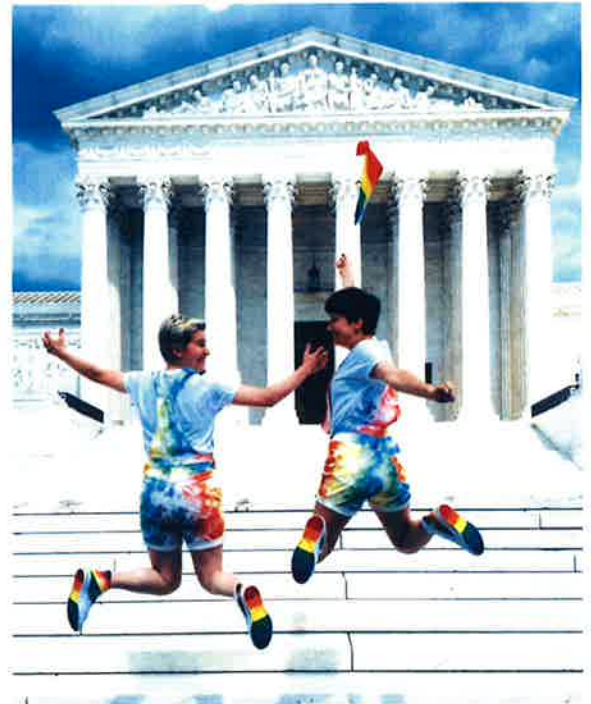
Cecilia Grugan, Pam Grugan's daughter, and her partner, Maya Ariel were married Friday, June 26th 2020.

They wanted to share the sentiment about the significance in the date they

chose: Just a short time ago, being married was not a legal option for people like Maya and me. However, today we have the privilege to unite in marriage because on June 26, 2015 - exactly five years ago - the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all state bans on same-sex marriage, legalizing it in all fifty states in the case *Obergefell v. Hodges*. See an attached picture of us literally jumping for joy in front of the U.S. Supreme Court!

Despite COVID-19's disruption to our original plans, we so enjoyed hosting a self-officiated wedding online via Zoom. With our immediate family members as witnesses, we exchanged vows, rings, and signed our District of Columbia marriage license.

With joy and gratitude,
Cecilia



Congratulations also to Ashlee Fultz and Michael Biglin who were married on Saturday, June 27th.



August Birthdays and Anniversaries



August Birthdays

1—Terry Fultz	13—Fiona McBrayer	24—Jordan Soliday
1—Brett Miller	15—Jean Kifer *80	25—Jim Bookhamer III
1—Luke Roth	15—Roxann Yon	25—Morgan Knepp
2—Sharon Yohn	16—Anna Lisa Gross	26—Emily Yohn
2—Lori Schoupp-Wright	17—Robert Ghaner	26—Sheila McMeen
5—Finley Uhrich	20—Dick Landrum	28—David Meadows
5—Clay Pheasant	22—Otto Krugh	29—Todd Hammer
5—Jeremy Santos	23—Anne Swigart	30—Everett Lattimer
8—Nina Meadows	24—Dale Dowdy	31—Bob Wagoner *90
8—Owen Wetzel		

August Anniversaries

1—Ryan & Katelyn Oser *1	15—Maylin & Bill Musser
2—Peggy & Randy Yoder	16—Alberta & Gene Goshorn
4—Laura & Bob McMinn	16—Kim & Luke Roth
7—Judy & Clayton Pheasant	23—Celia & Dan Cook-Huffman
8—Fiona & Antonio Philippe-Grugan *5	24—Mark & Meta Meckstroth
9—Sue & Bill Martin	27—Anita & Doug Soliday
10—Christy & Dale Dowdy	31—Ben Steines & Stacia-Fe Gillen *1
11—Jerri & Dean Wenger	

Grocery Gift Cards—

Every card helps our church!

Do you ever buy groceries at Weis or Giant? Purchase a grocery gift card through Stone Church and you can shop as normal and Stone Church gets a donation of 5% back from the grocery store!

Grocery gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100. You can purchase these by contacting the church office; we'll be happy to get them to you.



Food Pantry Sunday—August 16

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 and cash donations, we are instead accepting donations to purchase grocery cards to mail to the Huntingdon

Food Pantry and send cash donations toward **Farmer's Market Bonus Bucks**, which are Market Bucks for those otherwise unable to afford shopping at the Farmer's Market. Simply mail your checks to the church office or go to the donation page on our website and indicate in the memo or note line where the funds are to be used.

Stone Church of the Brethren
1623 Moore Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652
www.huntingdonstonechurch.org
814-643-3390 • stonechurch@verizon.net

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STONE CHURCH NEWS

August 2020



Summer worship continues
on Zoom
at 10:45 am

Small groups begin August 31!