

STONE CHURCH NEWS

January 2022

Youth Retreat – See inside to register for the Camp Blue Diamond Youth Retreat!

COVID Response Team Update– Read inside for more information on how we continue to keep each other safe during the pandemic.

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From the Pastor's Desk

I remember the last Calvin and Hobbes comic strip. The titular boy and his tiger find themselves outside after a night of snowfall has left the world bathed in white. They marvel at how "the world looks brand-new!" Calvin says, "[It's] a new year... A fresh, clean start!"

After the joyous hustle and bustle of the holiday season, I always look forward to January - the new year with a chance to step back, catch my breath, take stock, and reflect. Maybe a fresh, clean start.

I had a conversation not so long ago with someone who was reflecting on the challenges of the past year in their own life. They said that it had them thinking - as the New Year approached - thinking about New Year's resolutions, and what choices they hoped to make for the coming year. They found themselves in *1 Corinthians 13* - the chapter about what love looks like... With all the ups and downs of the past year, with all of their health challenges and life challenges, the things they'd been coming back to - the resolutions that mattered to them most - weren't about financial savings or diet and exercise plans. In the middle of this broken crazy world, what mattered most was the kind of person they wanted to be.

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy or boast. Love is not proud or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs... Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres..."

What are your New Year's resolutions this year? Where do you find yourself in need of a new year and a "fresh clean start..."? Who do you want to be - who do we want to be together as a church family - in the year ahead?

As we catch our breath and reflect, we'll be reading together in worship each week stories from Jesus' early life and ministry - discovering who he was alongside those who first encountered him.

The New Year is full of promise and opportunity. I can't wait to see where God leads us. That Calvin and Hobbes comic ends with Hobbes reflecting that the world covered in new-fallen snow is "like having a big, white sheet of paper to draw on!" "A day full of possibilities!" Calvin replies. "It's a magical world, Hobbes, ol' buddy... Let's go exploring!"

"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

Thelma Wallace
5754 Wallace Dr.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

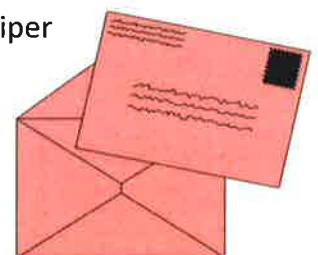
Louise Smith
11642 Station Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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





Summer Camp 2022

Online registration is open at www.campbluediamond.org! In January, brochures will be mailed to past campers and Brethren churches. If you would like a summer camp brochure mailed to you, please contact Camp by email at campbluediamond@verizon.net or call 814-667-2355. Take

advantage of the early-bird registration fee before March 1.

2022 Summer Camp Schedule

Cooking Camp (Grades 5 – 6) May 20 - 22
Kiddie Weekend (Ages 5 – 7, Adult) June 4 - 5
CIT Training (Grades 9 – 11) June 4 - 5
Kiddie Camp (Ages 5 – 7, Adult) June 16 - 17
Tenderfoot Camp (Grades 1 – 2) June 16 - 17
Junior 1 (Grades 3 – 5) June 19 - 24
Jr. High 1 (Grades 6 – 8) June 19 - 24
Creative Arts (Grades 5 – 8) June 24 - July 1
Yough Adventure (Grades 7 – 9) June 24 - July 1

Pioneer Camp (Grades 2 – 4) July 5 - 8
Caving Camp (Grades 5 – 7) July 5 - 8
Youth Camp (Grades 8 – 12) July 10 - 15
Junior 2 (Grades 3 – 5) July 17 - 22
Outdoor Living Skills (Grades 8 – 12) July 17 - 22
Jr. High 2 (Grades 6 – 8) July 24 - 29
Jr. Adventure (Grades 4 – 5) July 24 - 29
Family Camp (All Ages) Aug. 19 - 21

Hiring Summer Staff--Apply Now!

If you (or someone you know) love Camp and enjoy working with kids, nothing is better than working at Camp and getting paid too. Camp is hiring staff for Summer 2022: counselors, 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. All staff members must be committed Christians, enjoy children and youth, and have to be able to live in harmony with others.

Aside from being fun, working at camp is a great learning experience too. Staff members grow in faith as well as leadership and communication skills. For those interested in education, ministry, social work, or just being a parent, it's terrific on the job training! The Camp season for 2022 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.

District Youth Retreat – I've Been Meaning to Ask...

January 28, 7:00 p.m. – January 30, 1:00 p.m.

Join Middle PA District and Camp Blue Diamond for the District Youth Retreat! ***Our very own Pastor Ben*** will be leading the retreat on the theme "I've Been Meaning to Ask..." a series of questions and activities designed to foster curiosity, courage, and connection. All youth in grades 9-12 are invited. Come out to enjoy time in nature, engage in conversation, and reconnect with friends old and new! Cost is \$70, ***but Stone Church is paying the entire cost for any Stone youth that attend!!*** For more info and online registration, visit www.campbluediamond.org/retreats-%26-events.

Upcoming Events

Youth Retreat	January 28-30
Junior High Retreat	February 11-13
Junior Retreat	March 4-5

Have questions?

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows.

COVID update

From the Stone Church COVID Response Team

You may have been hearing about the new Omicron variant of COVID and be wondering what this means for you personally and for the church. We've compiled some information that may be helpful.

How is the Omicron variant different than Delta?

- Evidence suggests that the Omicron variant spreads even more easily than the Delta variant.
- It is unclear at this time if symptoms are milder or the same as the Delta variant (as of 12/22). Both variants can be deadly.
- Breakthrough cases (vaccinated individuals getting COVID) are more likely with the Omicron variant.
- The vaccine is still very helpful against preventing serious illness and death, but does not protect as well against the Omicron variant.
- The third, or "booster" shot for the vaccine is critical for protection against the Omicron variant.
- Masking and distancing remain important ways to reduce your risk from both Delta and Omicron variants

What should I be doing to stay safe?

Mental and physical health are both important. We long for life to get back to normal, and it is important not to remain isolated. However, the risk from COVID is increasing again. We each need to decide what risks are worth it for us personally, but here are some things to consider:

- Make sure that you and your loved ones are vaccinated, including the booster shot.
- Even if vaccinated, wear your mask in indoor public places.
- The chance of infection is dependent on your exposure to the virus. Exposure increases with: 1) greater numbers of people, 2) smaller spaces, and 3) longer periods of time. Ask about the COVID protocol and consider the risks before you decide whether to attend an event
- While good hygiene is still important, we know now that touching surfaces is a less common way to be exposed to the virus. Continue to wash and sanitize your hands, but don't stress about touching your mail, groceries, or packages.

What does this mean for the church?

Your COVID Response Team continues to monitor the national and local situation. As of now, we feel that our current protocols are protecting the health of our church family. It is your behavior, as a congregation, that has allowed us to continue to meet physically. Thank you for your willingness to mask and distance in the church.

- Right now, we plan to continue the hybrid worship model. This may change based on CDC recommendations, or if the many volunteers that make the service possible don't feel safe in person.
- We will continue our current safety precautions: masking, distancing, shorter service times, and avoiding indoor congregational singing.
- Please don't attend physically church if you have any symptoms of COVID or a known COVID exposure. Do join us online!
- Please inform the church office if you attended a church event while having COVID so we can contact trace.

The emergence of the Omicron variant feels discouraging – like we are taking a step backward in our path to recovery. Like many of us, I'm tired of masking and worrying. This is, unfortunately, a time for renewed care as this new variant sweeps across the country. We'll continue to do our best to make sure you have safe and meaningful opportunities to worship and interact at Stone Church – whether in person or online.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns!

Warm regards,

COVID Response Team: Sharon Yohn, Daisy Decker, Brooke Meadows, Luke Roth, Marty Keeney, and Pastor Cindy Lattimer

January Birthdays

3—Emma Santos
4—Jeff Decker
6—Sandy Loughlin
9—Stacia-Fe Gillen
9—Chick Swigart
11—Bob Biber
12—Bekah Ford

12—Katherine Swigart
13—Sabin Fisher
18—Robin Paterson
20—Guen Porcelli
21—Cindy Clarke
22—Ryan Wetzel

23—Celia Cook-Huffman
25—Robert Lamey
25—Will Thurston-Griswold *25
27—Cecilia Grugan
30—Jean Corbin
31—Tinka Berger

January Anniversaries

11—Belle & James Tuten *30

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

January 15th — 8:00 AM

Fix your favorite breakfast and brew up some coffee, then settle in for some great fellowship, a few corny jokes and a light reflection. Join the regular attendees, who look forward to seeing the gallery of faces and hearing the latest joke. If you are interested in attending, send your email address to Rick Laabs and he will send you an invitation. Due to the colder weather, this event will be held virtually over Zoom. 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.

District Youth Retreat

I've Been Meaning to Ask...



Join the Middle PA District and Camp Blue Diamond as we gather together for a wonderful weekend of fellowship and conversation with Pastor Ben Lattimer! Ben is a co-pastor at Stone Church of the Brethren, and will lead us in the theme "I've Been Meaning to Ask," a series of questions and activities designed to foster curiosity, courage, and connection!

Come out to enjoy time in nature, engaging conversation and reconnect with friends old and new!

<p>Who: All Youth in Grades 9-12</p> <p>When: January 28-30, 2022 Registration begins 7 p.m. Friday Retreat ends 1 p.m. Sunday</p> <p>Where: Camp Blue Diamond</p> <p>What to bring: sleeping bag and pillow, Bible, flashlight, face mask, warm clothing for playing outside (we will sled if there's snow!)</p>	<p>Cost: \$80</p> <p>Early Bird Discount: Pay only \$70 if you register by January 15!</p>
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Please complete the form below and send it, along with payment, to:
Camp Blue Diamond, P.O. Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669

Make checks payable to: **Camp Blue Diamond** Questions: call (814) 667-2355 or email: campbluediamond@verizon.net

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Name: _____ Gender: M / F Grade: _____

Street: _____ Phone: _____ Congregation: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Youth Retreat

Parents: I give my child permission to attend the **Sr. High Retreat at CBD on January 28-30**. I authorize the leaders to act in any emergency and give permission to the physician selected to hospitalize or secure treatment as needed. Should it become necessary for my child to return home for any reason prior to closing, I will abide by the decision and provide transportation. I give permission to use pictures of my child in District and CBD brochures & publicity.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Medications: Bring in Original Bottle w/ Instructions: _____

Allergies or dietary restrictions: _____ Is Child covered by Medical/Hospital Insurance?: Y/ N

Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy # : _____ Insurance Phone # _____

Check Card Number ____/____/____/____ Exp. Date: ____/____ Security # ____ Name _____

