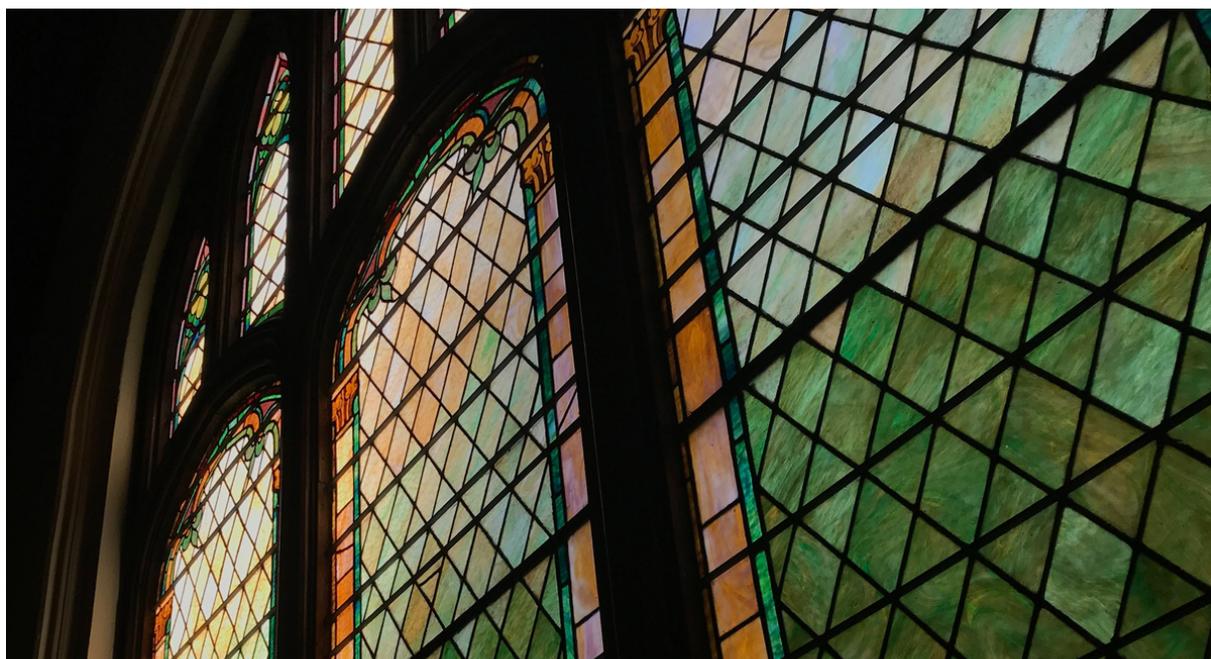


JUNE/JULY 2022

The Stone Church Newsletter

The monthly publication of the Stone Church of the Brethren



Our Welcome Statement

ADOPTED BY OUR CONGREGATION JANUARY 2012

Stone Church of the Brethren is a Christ-centered community, which celebrates every individual as a unique and beloved child of God.

We welcome all regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, economic circumstance, or current relationship with God.

We invite your active participation in the life of this congregation, as together we continue to grow in grace and seek justice for God's creation.

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From the Pastor's Desk

WRITTEN BY BEN LATTIMER

Life is a blur these days. Wake up. Feed the dog. Get ready for work. Get the boys ready for school. Drop them off at the bus. Head to the church. A flurry of meetings, phone calls, and e-mails. Pick up the boys. Snack. Baseball practice. Make and eat supper. Homework. Walk the dog. Maybe an evening meeting. Do the dishes. Showers and brushing teeth. Put the kids to bed. Talk through our next day's schedule and catch up on work. Play a game or watch a show, then go to bed ourselves. Wake up the next morning and do it all again. With all that activity, how is it that when I get to the end of the week and look back, I can hardly remember a thing that happened? Life is a blur these days.

Our brains have a way of going on autopilot when one day starts to look like the next. Days just get filed away with all the others that were mostly the same. That's even true when our routines are full of good things - like all of the fullness of life raising three growing boys. When we fall into repeated routines - when we get stuck in a rut - our brains stop recording memories in quite the same way.

That's why I look forward to summer. When, for just a couple of months, we break out of our regular patterns of life and have new adventures together. Did you ever look back on a week's vacation - full of vivid memories - and wonder how you did so much? Maybe our brains get excited - and start paying attention more. Maybe we're just more intentional about noticing the precious details when things feel new and different. Whatever it is, there's something about these summer adventures that is good for us - that makes both the summer time, and the eventual return to "regular life," so much more rich.

This summer we have a chance as a church family to break out of our regular patterns of worship and life together and move into some new adventures. We'll switch to our **summer hours**, gathering earlier - **at 10am** - for worship each Sunday. And over the summer we will get to hear new voices in worship - with guest preachers like **Mike Ford, Cecilia Grugan, Darlene Chivers**, and **Will Robbins** proclaiming the word on Sunday mornings. We'll even have a **Hymn Sing**, led by **Jim Tuten**.

We'll attend a **Baseball Game** on June 18th. There's **Annual Conference** in Omaha, Nebraska in July - with beautiful worship services that you can stream on-line, even if you're not able to attend in person. We'll have a **picnic** together as a Stone Church family on July 17th out at the lake. We're sending a delegation to **Guatemala**. And we've got a group of 8 teenagers from our church headed out to Colorado for our **National Youth Conference**, in conjunction with another youth from the Spring Run Church of the Brethren!

This summer promises to be full of new adventures that - we hope - will be good for us as a church family, making our eventual return to "regular life" in the Fall so much more rich.

Upcoming Events

Camp Blue Diamond Annual Dinners

Friday and Saturday, June 10th and 11th, 5:00 PM

Enjoy an outdoor meal, fellowship, and entertainment by *Route 869* in God's beautiful creation! Contact David Meadows or the church office for tickets. Your \$50 donation supports the mission of CBD.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, June 18th and July 16th, 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. We are excited to be gathering again in person at *Donna's Restaurant*. Watch the Friday Flash for updates! If you have questions, call Rick.

Altoona Curve Baseball Game

Saturday, June 18th at 6:00PM

Enjoy a night of baseball when the Altoona Curve plays the Erie Seawolves. The game will be followed by a fireworks show! Tickets are \$13 and if we have a group of 20 or more, the price will be reduced to \$9. Please RSVP to the church office or to Jeannie Lashlee by *June 2*. Any questions, please contact Jeannie Lashlee.

Church Potluck at the Lake

Sunday, July 17th, 5:00 PM

Mark your calendars because on Sunday, July 17 there will be a potluck at Raystown Lake's Dogwood Shelter at 5 pm. The shelter has been reserved all day, so feel free to come out earlier and enjoy God's nature. This will be a time for fellowship and to hear a recap of COB Annual Conference. Child care will be provided following the meal. Please bring your own place settings. Beverages will be provided.

Lisa Lunches Return

Sunday, August 28th, after worship

Lisa Lunches are back! On August 28, after worship, there will be a Lisa Lunch to welcome back Juniata College students and to wish them well along with the faculty and staff that make things possible. Watch the Friday Flash for more details closer to the date.

Announcements

Nametag Updates

We will be reprinting some name tags this summer and want to offer you the option of including your pronouns on your name tag. Using a person's correct pronouns is a way of showing respect and love - and helps us live more fully into our welcome statement.

If you would like your pronouns on your name tag, please email that information to Bekah in the church office at: StoneChurchoftheBrethren@gmail.com. We invite all of you to take part in showing welcome in this way!

Grocery Gift Cards

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

An Update from the Leadership Team

WRITTEN BY JESSICA BUTERBAUGH, LEADERSHIP TEAM VICE CHAIR

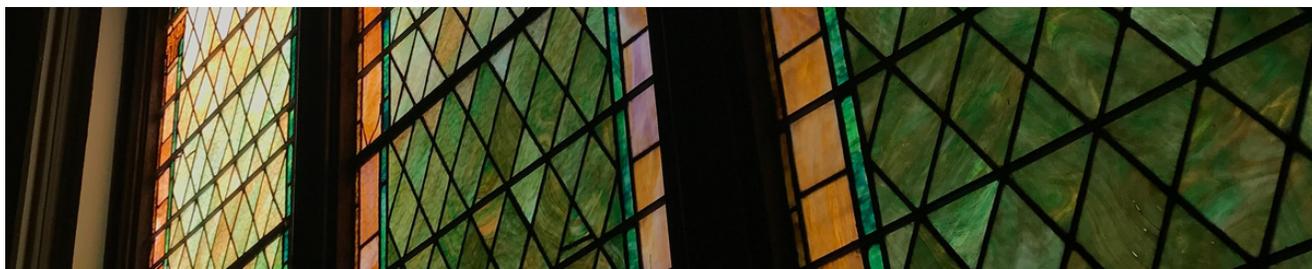
For those of us who have been attending Stone Church for a while, we know how involved our pastors are. They work tirelessly each week to prepare Sunday worship services and sermons that not only teach us about God, but also make us reflect on our own lives. They serve as Chaplains for Juniata College and do everything they can to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff. They attend most of the Team meetings, run classes and small groups, and have the difficult task of keeping Marty in check. Even more difficult than that is raising three boys...during a pandemic...away from family...while running a church...while serving a community...while serving a denomination...while serving God. As a parent, I know how difficult it is to balance everything that is on my plate, and I just can't imagine how Pastors Ben and Cindy do it. I imagine they must have a hidden liquor cabinet somewhere in the house!

Luckily, Stone Church is a community of people that are not afraid to lend a hand to help when life's stresses overwhelm us. This includes helping our pastors and we will be doing just that this summer.

The summer is a busy one for the Lattimer family. One of the boys is awaiting surgery, while another has some ongoing medical appointments that will require their parents to be just that - their mom and dad. Pastors Cindy and Ben also have obligations to the denomination that will take them away from their typical Stone Church roles. Because of this, the summer schedule looks slightly different than in years past. But, thanks to the Stone Church community, we will have a slate of guest speakers and special worship services scheduled throughout the summer. While some dates and plans are still being finalized, below is a tentative schedule for summer worship.

- June 12 - Mike Ford, guest preacher
- June 26 - Cecilia Grugan, guest preacher
- July 3 - Darlene Chivers, guest preacher
- July 10 - Hymn Sing with Jim Tuten
- July 24 - Will Robbins, guest preacher

One final note: be sure to adjust your calendars as Stone Church will return to a summer start time. Effective Sunday, June 5 worship services will begin at 10 a.m.



News from Camp

WRITTEN BY DAVID MEADOWS

Annual Dinners – June 10 & 11

Come out for a wonderful evening of entertainment by *Route 869*, enjoy a delicious country rib dinner, and take in God's beautiful creation! Your \$50 donation will go toward renovations for the kitchen. See Jeannie Lashlee, Amanda Helfrich, David Meadows, or the church office for tickets.

Prayers for Chloe

Stone Church's own Chloe Soliday was recently featured on Camp Blue Diamond's social media channels because she will serve on Camp staff this summer. Please include her (and our Stone Church campers!) in your prayers for a great summer at CBD.

Meet the staff: today we meet Chloe Soliday! Chloe grew up coming to camp as a camper and served as a counselor-in-training. She just graduated from Berea College with a degree in Peace and Social Justice Studies. She also served a year with Brethren Volunteer Service! This will be Chloe's first year on staff and she will be the Naturalist!

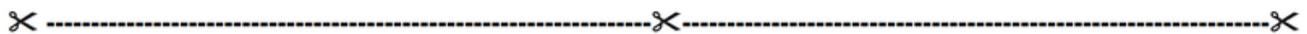


RV Campground & Cabins

Need a place for vacation this summer? CBD's family campground and the Lakeside and Rising Sun cabins are open. The campground has 44 RV sites, 2 tent sites, and a primitive cabin. Both Lakeside and Rising Sun have 3 bedrooms, a living/dining room, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, a loft, central AC and heat, and a TV/DVD. They are handicapped accessible. For more information, visit www.campbluediamond.org or call 814-667-2355.

Upcoming Events

- Summer Staff Orientation - June 9-15
- Annual Dinners - June 10 & 11
- Brethren Open Golf Tournament - August 9
- Family Camp - August 19-21
- Hoss's Fundraiser - August 21
- Heritage Fair & District Conference - September 17



Dear Friend of Camp Blue Diamond:

We are excited to team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location(s) listed below on 8/21/2022 to aid us in raising money to benefit Camp Blue Diamond.

Present this paper on **8/21/2022** at Hoss's in **Duncansville, Huntingdon, Lewistown, Bedford** Hoss's will then donate 20%* or 25%** of your total check paid to **Camp Blue Diamond**

*To qualify for the 20% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$300.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

**To qualify for the 25% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$1,200.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

This applies to a one-day, single location, pre-scheduled event. The purchase of gift cards is not included as part of your organization's community fundraising totals.

DISTRIBUTING INVITATIONS ON HOSS'S PROPERTY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL DISQUALIFY OUR ORGANIZATION! Thank you for your cooperation!

Group #127347



Please print and present this paper when ordering.



Gideon

WRITTEN BY GENE GOSHORN

Anyone who has spent a night in a motel or hotel is familiar with The Gideon Bible. A group of business and professional men and women met in Wisconsin in 1907 to create an organization dedicated to spreading the gospel of Jesus. Soon Bibles were being placed in motel and hotel rooms everywhere.

I had no knowledge about "The Gideons" until reading about them recently in "The Gideons International" Bible and the 2022 "Got Questions Mini-Series." The Old Testament Book of Judges tells how God put Gideon in charge of only 300 Israelites who were charged with facing a large army of Midianites who had been terrorizing the Israelites for seven years. The Israelites cried to God for help.

For his own reasons, God picked mild-mannered Gideon to lead his small army of only 300 men to eject a large Midianite force. The story of Gideon can teach us much about obeying God, even when we doubt.

When we first see Gideon, he's threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress – a small area not the usual place to thresh wheat. You normally would thresh wheat out in a field. But Gideon feared the turmoil caused by the Midianites. Some might call Gideon timid.

Rumors were passed among the Midianites that the Israelites were coming. Spies were sent among the Midianites to listen to what was being said. The spies reported the Midianites spoke of a dream that God had given victory to Gideon and the Israelites. The Israelites hadn't begun to fight yet, and they were already having the beginnings of a victory. Gideon heard this and praised God. He reportedly led his men on a charge around the Midianite camp, shouting and blowing rams' horns.

According to the write-up I found, the Midianites scrambled in panic, never recovering from this embarrassing defeat. and there was peace in Israel for the remainder of Gideon's lifetime, about 40 years. Praise for Gideon and others is mentioned briefly in Verse 32 of Chapter 11 of Hebrews.

Gideon asked God numerous times for signs that he was really God. Gideon was looking for evidence it was really God telling him what to do; and if he would live through the experience.

This is the experience I think we all may have. Sometimes we need confirmation that it's God's voice we're hearing. Other voices can get stuck in our heads, such as our own deceptive longings and wants. But when we *are* called, may we too find the courage to face the world's overwhelming forces, trusting in God who can do all things.

"Concrete"

WRITTEN BY MARIO GRUGAN, PENNSYLVANIA'S 2022 POETRY
OUTLOUD CHAMPION, 2022 POETRY OURSELVES RUNNER-UP

*Wir haben dem getötet*¹

A memory:

A senseless ransom paid
Like an alchemist turning gold to dirt.

That's what memories are.
A recession of life, like blood changing to mercury.
Poison.

I have no memories of my father,
None of his life.
Only fabrications.

But my life has become a living memory constructed from his death.
From his absence.
That is how we all exist.
Like hollow vessels being filled with concrete.
Solidified into our religious, moral selves.
Unaware of our synthetic foundations.

When did his breath
Become air?

When did his hair
Fall off into the earth?

When did his mirth
Rejoin the laughing beasts below?

Was it gradual or all at once?
Did his decomposition begin when his heart stopped?
Or was it a gradual process as he transformed the flora around his body into
thriving
foliage?

In my memory he is still mirthful.



In my memory his head of hair flows like a river.
In my memory he still breathes.
But what use are these lies?
What use are these stories I was told of a stranger?
Can he live on in these stories?

Folly.

He is dead.
Regardless of memory.
Regardless of thought.

He is dead.

He remains dead. ²
And I have killed him.

No pictures with him on my first day of school.
No catch in the park on a spring afternoon.
No one to fill the empty seat of his recliner.

He remains dead.

And memory?
Memory ebbs.
Memory dies.
And with it, the pain ebbs.

When memory goes, so does his absence.
And when I go, my memories will follow.

1. This German line saying "We have killed him" originates in the 'Parable of the Madman,' by philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. He outlines his famous indictment of the Age of Enlightenment arguing that 'pure reason' has done away with the West's foundations of symbols and myths harkening in an age of postmodern chaos. [Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science* (1882, 1887) para. 125; Walter Kaufmann ed. (New York: Vintage, 1974), pp.181-82.]

2. This is an adaptation of Nietzsche's words, "God is dead, God remains dead and we have killed him." In this adaptation, the words are changed to "he" referring to my father (in a sense, the creator of myself and therefore a god) and "I" referring to myself. [Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science* (1882, 1887) para. 125; Walter Kaufmann ed. (New York: Vintage, 1974), pp.181-82.]

Staying in Community

FIND WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BELOW!

June Birthdays

4th - Jack Hosler ***20**
4th - Max Moyer
6th - Cecilia Elder ***8**
8th - Patti Paterson
8th - Dottie Steele
8th - Tara Yorke
15th - Barb Parlett
17th - Taran Pelkey ***19**
19th - Will Dickey
21st - Mary Garvey
22nd - Becky Mitchell
22nd - Wesley Newman ***21**
22nd - Cheryl Washburn
24th - Megan Boyer
24th - Maddix Uhrich ***8**
25th - Andy Murray
25th - Dale Wampler
28th - Jeff Adams

July Birthdays

4th - Sandy Brechbiel
5th - Fiona Phillippe-Grugan
7th - Joe Krabill
10th - Ron Detwiler
12th - Beverly Milenbachs
13th - Ben Lattimer
14th - Danny Uhrich
15th - Louise Smith
16th - Bill Fagan
16th - Carol Swigart
19th - Sarah Strunk
21st - Carol Fultz
22nd - Dave Witkovsky
24th - John Shetron
24th - Belle Tuten
25th - Steve Kemp
26th - Bob McMinn
31st - Livi Hall ***3**

June Anniversaries

1st - Carol & Charles Swigart
3rd - David & Kim Witkovksy
5th - Dick & Myrna Landrum
11th - Bruce & Carolyn Lidston
11th - Cheryl & Robert Washburn
13th - Joanne & Henry Thurston-Griswold ***35**
16th - Carol & Terry Fultz
18th - Anne & Norm Siems
20th - Chip & Chris Gibboney
20th - Jamie & Laura White ***35**
22nd - Andy & Terry Murray
26th - Emily & Paul Elder
26th - Cecilia Grugan & Maya Ariel
26th - Donna & Loren Rhodes ***40**
28th - Daisy & Jeff Decker
29th - Jay & Lisa Hosler
29th - Becky & Don Mitchell
30th - Jack & Zilla Wagner ***60**

July Anniversaries

2nd - Greta & Tyler Hall
7th - Olivia Grugan & Will Robbins
13th - Robert & Sue Lamey
19th - Jill & Marty Keeney
26th - Kristy & Tim Launtz
31st - El & Sheila McMeen
31st - Cheryl & Robert Ritchey

