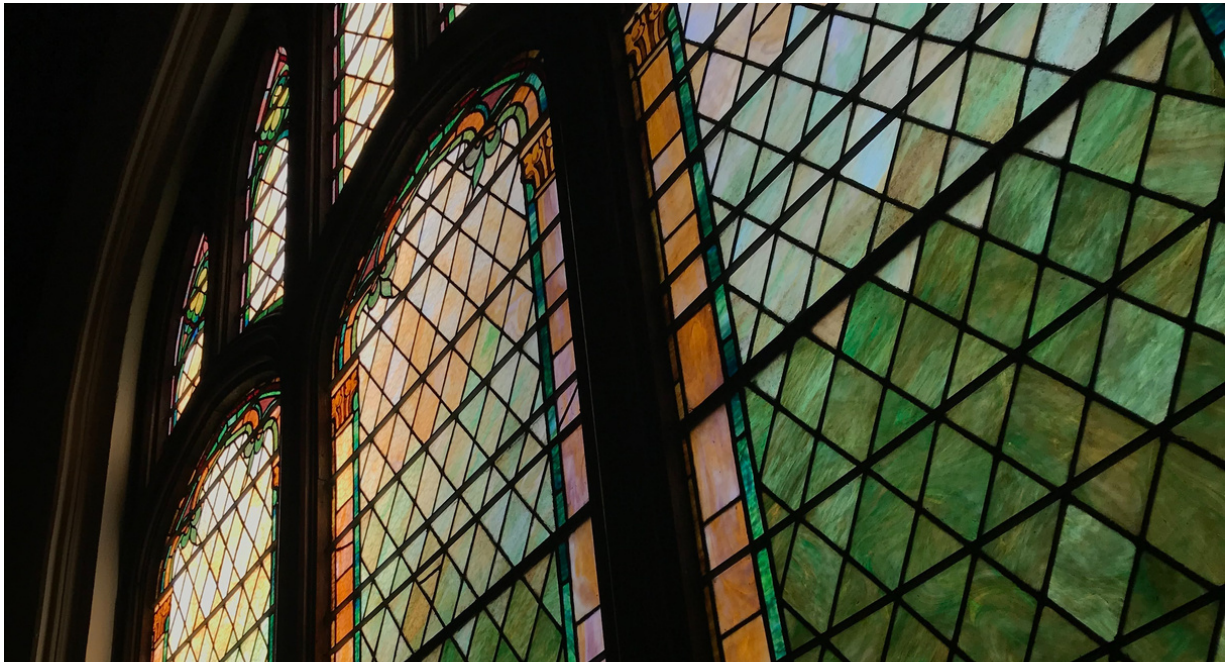


JUNE/JULY 2023

# *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 Pastors' Desk

By the time you read this it will already have begun. The children have been keeping the countdown for a few weeks, One and a half more days of school. And then summer begins!

There is a lot to look forward to this summer - some trips to see family, Annual Conference where we will reunite with old friends, National Junior High Conference right here at Juniata College. The kids are going to Camp Blue Diamond. We will likely swim and go to Shaver's Creek and play in the yard. Likely some craft project like tie-dye will find its way in. I hope we spend a couple nights under the stars, stay up way past bedtime catching fireflies, and maybe even enjoy a campfire or two. The rhythm will be different.

I know it won't all be so idyllic. More time together will lead to more squabbles between the boys. Juggling work and childcare will mean the schedule will be upended. But I look forward to this break. It forces me to do life differently than I usually would. I can fight against that or I can embrace it. I hope and pray I am able to choose the latter most days.

Even if your life is not as driven by the school calendar as mine, maybe the summer months can invite you into a time of renewal and rest as well. A sort of "sabbath season," where you take some time to simply BE. Eugene Peterson writes, "Sabbath is not primarily about us or how it benefits us; it is about God, and how God forms us. It is not, in the first place, about what we do or don't do; .....But it does mean stopping and being quiet long enough to see - open-mouthed - with wonder..."

How might you cultivate wonder during this season? Are there places for you to slow down in your daily rhythms? Times when you might engage your senses? Feel your feet in the grass, notice the colors of the sunset, relish the taste of sweet corn or a homegrown tomato, listen to the rain, enjoy the smell of a campfire or supper grilling? Can you find time to connect with those around you? Or daily spend a few moments paying attention to your breathing?

I suspect that trying to see this season as sabbath won't be idyllic all the time. But I am quite sure that each moment of it counts - each effort made in the direction of wonder, matters - and will do us all good.

Mindful by Mary Oliver

Everyday  
I see or hear  
something  
that more or less  
kills me  
with delight,  
that leaves me  
like a needle  
in the haystack  
of light.  
It was what I was born for —  
to look, to listen,  
to lose myself  
inside this soft world —

to instruct myself  
over and over  
in joy,  
and acclamation.  
Nor am I talking  
about the exceptional,  
the fearful, the dreadful,  
the very extravagant —  
but of the ordinary,  
the common, the very drab,  
the daily presentations.  
Oh, good scholar,  
I say to myself,  
how can you help

but grow wise  
with such teachings  
as these —  
the untrimmable light  
of the world,  
the ocean's shine,  
the prayers that are made  
out of grass?



## Reminders

### **Summer Worship Hours & Sunday School on Break!**

Beginning on Sunday, May 28th we will be switching to our Summer Worship hours. There won't be any Sunday School classes during the summer months. Instead, our regular worship service will begin at 10am. See you there!

### **Huntingdon Farmers' Market**

**May through October, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

The Huntingdon Farmers' Market has begun their season! The market will run from May through October and is located in Portstown Park pavilion (across from Laney's; 842 Penn St). [Check out the flier here!](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **Ladies' Prayer Breakfast!**

***Saturday, June 3rd, 8 am at Rockhill Church of the Brethren***

The next Mount Union Area Ladies' Prayer Breakfast will take place on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 8am at the Rockhill Church of the Brethren. The speaker will be Brianna Sheeder. Contact Pam Grugan if you have any questions.

### **Mulch Party!**

***Saturday, June 3rd, 9 am at Stone Church of the Brethren***

Summer is here and soon the mulch will be too. Calling on all members, families, and friends to come by and help mulch the gardens around Stone Church. We will meet outside Stone Church on Saturday, June 3rd at 9 am. Any help or wheelbarrows would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, contact the church office.

### **Sounds of Blackness Music Celebration**

***Sunday, June 11, 2 pm in the Sanctuary***

The afternoon program will include organ and piano instrumentals, as well as music from soloists, duos, trios and choirs from Huntingdon, Mt. Union, and Pittsburgh performing an assortment of music and spoken word from different genres.

Everything performed is composed and/or arranged by Black people.

Program coordinators are Anthony Bullett of Payne Church and Marty Keeney.

Admission is free. Donations will be accepted to support Hometown Hearts, Inc.

# Upcoming Events

## **Older Adult Luncheon**

***Wednesday, June 14, 11 am in the Fellowship Hall  
& Wednesday, July 11th, 12 pm at Donna's Restaurant***

The Older Adult Luncheon is back for the year! This senior gathering will be held on the second Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall or Donna's Restaurant, so make sure to check the calendar! If money is a challenge - just come! We value this time of fellowship together with great food, lots of conversations, laughter, and fun!

## **JUNETEENTH Celebration**

***Saturday, June 17th, 12 pm at Portstown Park***

The Huntingdon Juneteenth Celebration Committee invites you to participate in the 14th Annual Huntingdon County Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 17, from Noon - 6pm at Portstown Park in Huntingdon. As in past years, we anticipate an afternoon filled with entertainment and vendors of all sorts for people to enjoy. We are anxious to see people once again to celebrate Juneteenth which is now a federal and state holiday. Thank you so much for your interest. We look forward to seeing you on June 17th.

## **Altoona Curve Baseball Game**

***Friday, June 23rd, 6 pm at the Altoona Curve Stadium***

Enjoy a night of baseball when the Altoona Curve plays the Bowie Baysox. The game will be followed by a fireworks show! Tickets are \$9. Please RSVP with payment to the church office by June 5th.

## **Lemonade on the Lawn**

***Sunday, June 25th, after worship on the lawn***

Join us out on the lawn for some lemonade and cookies, spending a few extra minutes after church getting to know those around you!



# Proposed Changes to Stone Church Leadership

WRITTEN BY SHARON YOHN

*The world is ever changing! Stone Church's Leadership Team has been talking over the past year about ways we can adapt our structure to best meet the realities of life in the 21st century as we seek to continue living into our mission and vision as a church family. Out of those conversations, the team has proposed a new model for leadership...*

## **Why change?**

It has become more and more challenging to find people willing to act as chairs of Ministry Teams. One goal of this change is to reduce the workload on team chairs to hopefully make it easier for people to serve.

## **What's different?**

Chairs of ministry teams would no longer serve on Leadership Team which reduces the workload. Leadership Team will still include the church officers, and will add a member at large. Additionally, the Vice-Chair of Leadership Team would now chair the Personnel Committee instead of the Moderator. (This helps more clearly define the roles and balances out the workload.) Representatives of Ministry Teams, members of Leadership Team, and anyone else interested would meet 2-3 times a year for half day retreats for planning, learning, and fellowship.

## **What's the same?**

Almost everything! Ministry Teams would continue to function in the same way: making decisions in their own area of expertise, signing vouchers and proposing their own budgets. Leadership Team would continue to carry out many of its current roles, but planning and coordination among Ministry Teams would occur largely outside of monthly Leadership meetings.

## **What's the timeline? How will this happen?**

A congregational information session will be held June 4 at 9 AM, followed by a Congregational Forum on June 25 at 9 AM. We'll discuss the necessary shifts in the bylaws needed to make this happen. The plan is to try out this new model for a year - and then see how it's working before making any permanent changes.

## **Advantages and Disadvantages...**

As with any change, we anticipate some advantages and disadvantages. Leadership Team is able to think more globally about the mission of the church, while Ministry Team chairs have more time to focus on the work of their teams. It does, however, require a bit more intentionality for teams to communicate and work together. A smaller Leadership Team can be more nimble and efficient in discussions and decisions - but takes a little more effort to bring in voices from across the congregation and to live into our goals of transparency in communicating with the church family.

## **What do you think?**

This new plan represents a long series of conversations by the Working Group, Ministry and Leadership Teams. Let us know what you think - either by reaching out to Leadership Team Chair Sharon Yohn or one of the pastors - and showing up to the upcoming informational session and Forum to share your voice and hear from others!

Thank you for doing your part in ensuring that the mission and ministry of this Stone Church family continues to thrive for years to come!

Questions? Contact Sharon or the church office.



# News From **CAMP**

WRITTEN BY DAVID MEADOWS

## **Senior Adult Day – Friday, June 2**

You are invited to join us from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a day of fellowship, inspiration, adventure, and fun as we gather to see and hear about the amazing adventures of Denny Shoemaker. Denny has traveled the world over photographing the beauty that is God's amazing creation. He promotes traveling with an experienced photo guide to maximize any trip and you'll see why. Denny will share photos and stories from recent trips to Wyoming, Alaska, Arizona, and California, where he was able to photograph grizzly bears, bald eagles, Native Americans, and more. You will be sure to see the beauty of the earth in Denny's amazing pictures and stories! Cost for the day is \$20, which includes a morning snack, programming, and lunch. For more info and online registration, visit [www.campbluediamond.org/retreats-%26-events](http://www.campbluediamond.org/retreats-%26-events).

## **Brethren Open Golf Tournament – August 8**

Bring your friends and enjoy a great day of golf while helping to raise funds for Middle PA District and Camp Blue Diamond. Sign-in at Iron Masters Country Club is from 11:30am – 12:30pm for a 1:00pm start. Cost is \$90 per golfer, which includes 18 holes, cart, and dinner. New this year, there will be an optional bag lunch (2 hot dogs, chips, drink) for \$5 from 11:30-12:30. Please indicate on the registration below so we can have an accurate count. Registration deadline is August 1. More info at [www.campbluediamond.org](http://www.campbluediamond.org).

## **Family Camp 2023 – August 18-20**

Family Camp is a special opportunity for families of all types to reconnect while being in a Christ-centered community, surrounded by God's creation and like minded believers. Experience all that Family Camp has to offer: swimming/canoeing, campfires/outdoor worship, Bible time with Pastor Debbie Eisenbise, great food, gaga ball, soap hockey, crafts, homemade ice cream, polar bear swimming, coffee house with Joe Hinish, music/singing, family time, and friends old and new!

Family units will be lodged in the summer camp cabins, Main Lodge, and Hemlock. Meals will be in the Main Lodge Dining Hall. Most activities will be done as families, with some separate programming available for adults, youth, and children. Family Camp begins Friday evening at 7 p.m. and ends Sunday after morning worship around 11 a.m. Cost is \$80 for Adults and \$55 for Children ages 3 – 11. For more information and registration, visit [www.campbluediamond.org](http://www.campbluediamond.org).

## **FruitFULL Faith: A Spirit-Filled Life**

The theme for Summer Camp 2023 will be FruitFULL Faith: A Spirit-Filled Life. Have you ever seen God at work and wondered why the moment was so clear? Have you wondered what you could do to try and connect with those moments and feelings? Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia will come alive this summer as we explore the fruit of the Spirit. Seeing this fruit all around assures us we have encountered God. We will see how these same fruit flow freely from us when we walk in the Spirit. Scripture is honest about how complicated life can be. The fruit of the Spirit show us we are on the right track as we observe, receive, and embody these virtues.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Senior Adult Day - June 2
- Brethren Open Golf Tournament - August 8
- Family Camp - August 18 - 20
- Heritage Fair - September 16

## **Have questions?**

Contact your Camp Representative,  
David Meadows.

# Gene's Jottings

WRITTEN BY GENE GOSHORN

## Of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

June, this year, is favored by 5 events while July is favored by but one major one, the 4th of July. June offers flag day (14th), Fathers' Day (18th), Juneteenth (19th), the beginning of summer (21st), and Arbor Day (24th).

On July 2, 1776, the United States came into existence via the Declaration of Independence - as opposed to July 4 as most think. It was on the second that Thomas Jefferson penned the first draft of the declaration and presented it to the Second Continental congress. The document was unanimously approved by the congress on July 4 and received the famous signature of John Hancock, the president of the congress, later that morning.

Many events led to the creation of the Declaration of Independence. The congress met only weeks after the battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775. The pamphlet, "Common Sense" by Thomas Payne, was widely read by the Colonists. It was full of religious imagery and allusions. That pamphlet was followed soon after by the congress of North Carolina voting for its representatives to the Continental Congress to vote for independence. This made North Carolina the first colony to vote for independence. Finally, on June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, a Virginian, proposed a resolution for independence which the Congress debated for several weeks.

Thomas Jefferson, also of Virginia, was chosen to draft the document with the Committee of Five, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. You may remember these characters from the movie and musical "1776." Jefferson took inspiration from philosophers including John Locke and George Mason. Locke believed that all men have the right to pursue life, liberty, and property. Mason's draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights furthered Jefferson's assertion that all men are created equal. This would appear to be a very moral standpoint with the religious language that he used while drafting the Declaration.

But, of course, Jefferson's views excluded women and people of color from that declaration of inalienable rights and equality. These exclusions continue to leave their stain even now - nearly 250 years later - as we celebrate the country's birthday. Indeed, the world-wide church and our nation continue to work to navigate helping to integrate the wisdom and writing of the founders with the wisdom of the present.

# Staying in Community

FIND WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BELOW!

## June Birthdays

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

## July Birthdays

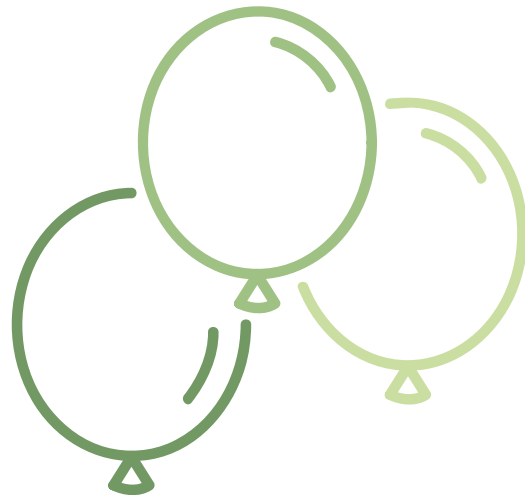
4th - Sandy Brechbiel  
5th - Fiona Phillippe-Grugan  
7th - Joe Krabill  
10th - Ron Detwiler  
12th - Beverly Milenbachs  
13th - Ben Lattimer  
14th - Danny Young-Uhrich  
15th - Louise Smith  
16th - Bill Fagan  
16th - Carol Swigart  
19th - Sarah Strunk  
21st - Carol Fultz  
22nd - Dave Witkovsky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

## June Anniversaries

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

## 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



## Homebound Members

USE THE ADDRESSES BELOW TO REACH OUT TO THOSE IN OUR  
COMMUNITY THAT ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US IN-PERSON

DeLois Fluke  
11325 Raystown Rd.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Gene Goshorn  
14155 Hill Valley Rd.  
Mt. Union PA 17066

Westminster Woods  
Sue Martin  
John Keiper

Louise Smith  
11642 Station Road  
Huntingdon, PA 16652