

STONE CHURCH NEWS

MARCH 2017



To mark the beginning of the season of Lent... **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday, March 1st—6:30 pm

All are invited to Stone Church Sanctuary

This is a joint service of Stone Church with Juniata College Ministry Office. This service is one of preparation and reflection. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshippers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. This ritual is offered during this service to those who wish to participate.

Holy Ground

Our 2017 Lenten Theme



Holy ground is the **stable place of clarity and confidence** in a turbulent human landscape of shifting values, crumbling hope, frayed trusts, and uncertain commitments.

Holy ground is the place of **life-giving rootedness** in something larger than our own lives, something deep enough and enduring enough to keep us anchored and oriented in the storm.

Holy ground is the place at once attractive and fearsome, **where God speaks and we listen**, the place of empowerment, transformation, and sending forth.... **The place where faith can move mountains.** (Matt. 17:20)

- John S. Mogabgab, Weavings, Sept/Oct '92

We root into holy ground, grow from holy ground, and bear fruit from holy ground. This Lent we deepen our relationship with God and one another as we explore our mission and vision together. The sermon series will begin with the first Sunday of Lent, March 5, and end as we celebrate Easter Sunday, April 16.

We root into the Lent theme of Holy Ground as we hear from different members of the community each Sunday, sharing about a time in their lives when holy ground (a place, a person, or something else) gave them calm in a storm, purpose amidst worries, or comfort in turmoil.

CHECK out the Stone Mission and Vision: Swing by the office or go to the website to get a “visual” copy.

From Pastor Christy:

On Saturday, February 11, most of you received a letter from me announcing my decision to conclude my pastorate with you at Stone Church, effective August 27, 2017. I have been deeply touched and moved by your responses to me. I feel your great love and support, in the midst of the reality that I will no longer serve as your pastor. Certainly this time of transition is filled with emotions, but I have been moved by your support and joy for Dale and myself.

This last weekend Dale and I were privileged to attend the Middle PA District Pastors retreat, with the theme, "Noticing God's Nudges in our Lives," led by Nancy Bieber. It was a wonderful time of sharing with fellow pastors and their spouses, as we explored the work of discernment in the context of our work of ministry. I must say that this time affirmed my decision and I trust my discernment through these last two years have led me to a decision which will encourage Stone Church to move into another chapter of meaningful ministry, and I, too, look forward to what God is encouraging me to pursue.

Sometimes the "unknowing" of what is next is challenging. We fear what "might" happen or how unstable life might feel. Yet the gifts of this time are many, and I trust we will each value this time of transition and continue to notice "God's nudgings" to know what precious gifts will be offered. I am deeply grateful for your expressions of gratitude and love and I treasure the memories and friendships which will always be true.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Christy



Lent movies

This Lent we focus on deepening relationships and connections throughout the Stone community with movie discussion nights!



Chocolat: Friday, March 17, 7pm

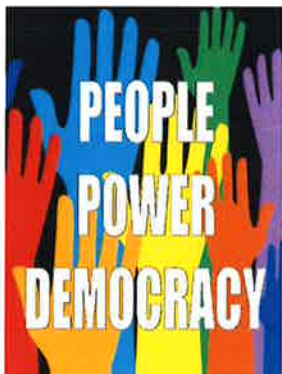
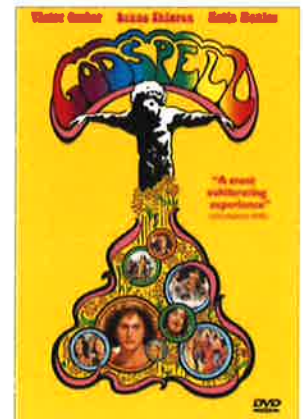
Chocolat is sensual, spiritual and sweet – an excellent way to root into Lent! Unless you, like these French villagers, are trying to give up chocolate.... What is the deal with giving joys up for Lent? Have you done it? If so, did it heighten your spiritual experience?

Read more about this [PG-13] movie online (see link in Friday Flash). Bring a decadent chocolate dessert if you wish – popcorns and truffles provided.

Godspell: Friday, April 14, 7pm (Good Friday)

This classic never goes out of style. Experience the gospel story afresh and a-funny through the clowns of *Godspell*. Your favorite parables and Beatitudes come to life in psychedelic color in this 1973 G movie.

The music will stick with you “day by day” and this film offers a charming and poignant way to live among the 12 for an evening. With popcorn.



Engaging democracy

You know that separation between church and state? What does it mean for Stone Church? Crucially, churches are not supposed to endorse specific political candidates. But advocating on specific issues – even legislation – is absolutely legal in the US.

And hundreds – yes HUNDREDS – of letters have been written inside Stone Church to congress-people! What are your specific passions and priorities? Gather in your church community to make your voice heard.

Juniata students have organized three events so far at Stone Church, and plan on seven more. Stay tuned.

Citizens Climate Lobby, a national organization, has a brand-new Huntingdon chapter. We’ve met twice at Stone Church (Feb 8 and 22) and sent dozens of letters to PA congress-people about climate change. Did you know some Republican congress-people are promoting a carbon fee and dividend? Learn more and share your opinion at the next CCL event!



Faith Against Fracking

Pipelines aren’t just in the Dakotas! Pennsylvanians are affected by pipelines too. Hear from Ellen Gerhart of Huntingdon County about the pipeline she was forced to host at her home. Discussion comes with popcorn and a movie! St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 805 13th St., Altoona – Sunday, March 5 at 3pm.

SUNDAY EVENINGS
MARCH 19
APRIL 9
6:00 PM
Stone Church Sanctuary

Taizé Worship



"Be still, and know that I am God." ~Psalm 46:10

For those who enjoy quiet and meditative worship,
Stone Church offers Taize worship services.

This is a style of worship using scripture, silence, prayer, and repeated phrases of simple, beautiful music to create a transcendent and peaceful worship experience. Many in the Huntingdon community have been joining the Stone Church community to enjoy this growing gathering of contemplative worshippers.

All are welcome!

Workcamp Fundraiser

Come for Brunch!
March 19th
following worship

sayhello
2017 Brethren Workcamps

Chloe Soliday, along with help from the Stone youth, will be preparing a wholesome (and delicious!) meal for everyone to enjoy after worship on March 19th. Funds raised will go towards her June 21-27 workcamp expenses. Chloe will be joining a group of Sr. High youth this summer in Lybrook, New Mexico, as part of the 2017 Brethren workcamps. This workcamp will serve Navajo families through Lybrook Community Ministries, a current Brethren Volunteer Service project site and a mission originally formed by the General Board of the Church of the Brethren in 1952. Lybrook Community Ministries is now an independent non-profit organization called to revitalize the Lybrook Mission within the Navajo community, striving to create positive relationships and support the Navajo people. Please attend and support Chloe as she plans to "Say Hello" this summer!

A new Adult Lenten Study

.... Beginning Sunday, March 5, 9:30 am
Meeting in Room 102



Wind in the Wilderness

– A Lenten Study from the Prophets
Living into God's vision of justice

Are you thinking about challenging yourself this Lenten season to dig a bit deeper? Perhaps you've gotten "out of the habit" of exploring scripture or doing a study with others? (or you've been "thinking" about attending a Sunday School class, but wasn't sure which to attend?) This is a 7 week series, focused upon the book available for all participants, authored by a Methodist pastor, DJ del Rosario. Feel free to come for one or any of the sessions. Christy Dowdy and Anita Soliday will co-lead this series.

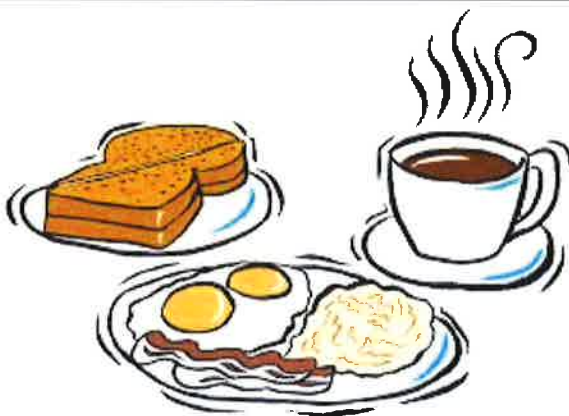
The author writes: Though we cannot see the wind, we know it by its effects and interpret it by its results. The same can be said for the work of the Hebrew prophets, who communicated God's vision of justice and faithfulness throughout the history of God's people. This study focuses on the Hebrew prophets and their message. Each chapter explores a different prophet or prophets, highlighting how God's word through them challenged the Israelite people – and us – to live out God's vision of justice. **Come to discover, to learn to know one another better, and to explore the scriptures together.**

Older Adult Lunch

The Older Adult Lunch gathering will meet
Tuesday, **March 21 at 12 noon** in room 102.

Lunch.
Feed your curiosity™

If you know someone within Stone Church or a neighbor or friend who might enjoy this time of gathering, invite them!! Reservations are requested in the church office (643-3390 or stonechurch@verizon.net) by Sunday, March 19.
.....**See you on March 21!**



Men's Breakfast

March Saturday,
18th
8am

Donna's Restaurant
(Back room)

Camp Blue Diamond Annual Dinners

Celebrating the World

Come Support Camp Blue Diamond

Enjoy a Delicious Meal, Great Entertainment and the Fellowship of
Camp Friends

Friday, March 24th – Appetizers 6:00; Dinner 6:30

Saturday, March 25th – Appetizers 5:00; Dinner 5:30

Menu: Garden Salad, Baked Chicken, Vegetable Blend, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Cranberry Salad, Bread and Butter, Applesauce & Ice Cream At this year's Dinners, our entertainment will be husband and wife Brian Kruschwitz and LuAnne Harley. Brian and Luanne have traveled extensively around the world, experiencing many different peoples and cultures. Their program provides connections for those of all ages to a variety of world cultures through stories, music and dance. Brian is a multi-instrumentalist, and LuAnne accompanies him in story, song and dance. Brian and LuAnne have served as featured Honeywell Artists in Residence, as well as performers at the Brethren Song & Story Fest and Annual Conference. Tickets are \$50, and will be available from your Brethren Church, Camp Blue Diamond or your waiters: Dave Meadows and Eddie and Anne Rice. Proceeds from this year's dinners will go toward new Lodge furniture and basketball backboards.

Waiters will have tickets for sale very soon! Come and enjoy a fantastic meal, great entertainment, and find out what's happening at CBD! Mark the date and tell your friends. Each year over 250 guests come out for these dinners, raising about \$20,000 for CBD projects!



The Village at Morrisons Cove Auxiliary is beginning their annual Membership Drive - ends April 1st.

**Are you interested in becoming a member of
the Village at Morrisons Cove Auxiliary?**

- or -

Renewing your current membership?

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!



The Village
AT MORRISONS COVE

Auxiliary Members are involved in all aspects of daily life at The Village. They volunteer in the gift shop, help coordinate special fundraising events, fund special resident events and much, much more! The Membership Drive allows the Auxiliary to continue their vital outreach to older adults in the community along with giving individuals an opportunity to participate in Auxiliary Events.

Contact:

**Judy Pheasant
401 Main Street
Alexandria, PA 16611
(669-9003)**

Or leave payment at Stone Church

Auxiliary Membership costs are as follows:

\$4 – Individual Membership

\$6 – Family Membership

\$100 – Lifetime Membership

Volleyball

Volleyball practice continues Saturdays from 6:30-8:30pm at HAMS gym – in the Middle School this week! The Middle PA District youth volleyball tournament is March 11 at Juniata – Stone Church hopes to have a team!

Chloe's musical

Though most of us are in Huntingdon, we support youth like Chloe Soliday in other school districts – so let's go cheer her on in her spring musical! Carpool from church on Friday, March 3rd at 6:20 pm.

Movie night

Youth movie night after volleyball practice on Saturday, March 4! Come over after volleyball (by 8:45) or come at 8pm to watch Anna Lisa pop popcorn and help set up the couches. See facebook to vote for a movie!

Community youth event

March 18 we'll join youth from other local churches for a community youth event at the Oasis of Love Church in McConnelstown at 6pm. Carpool from church at 5:30 pm.

Eddie Rice is going to the Middle PA District Youth Soup Kitchen trip March 29-April 1 – anyone else want to go?!!

Chloe is going to Christian Citizenship Seminar in NYC and DC April 22-27 – anyone else want to go?!! This year's topic is Native American Rights: Food Security.

Thanks to Emily Elder, David Meadows, Chris Gibboney, Maylin Musser, Brooke Meadows and Chuck Yohn for leading youth Sunday school, and a loud, long round of applause goes to Anne Rice and Emily Elder for leading volleyball!

Calendar:

Saturday, March 4th – 6:30pm, HAMS Gym – Volleyball practice/finalizing teams.

Saturday, March 11th – 8:15am – Arrive at Juniata College, Kennedy Sports & Recreation Center for Middle PA District Volleyball Tournament.

Saturday, March 18th – 5:30pm – Meet at Stone Church to carpool to the community youth event.

News From CAMP

Summer Camp 2017 – Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ

Regular registration is open through June 1, and *early bird savings* are available until March 1. Families should 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 and consider applying. **Brochures are available at the back of the Sanctuary and/or in the Conference Room.**

Camp Blue Diamond Annual Dinners

Celebrating the World

Come Support Camp Blue Diamond

Enjoy a Delicious Meal, Great Entertainment and Fellowship with Friends

Friday, March 24th – Appetizers 6:00; Dinner 6:30

Saturday, March 25th – Appetizers 5:00; Dinner 5:30



Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased from our Stone Church waiters: David Meadows (Friday) or Eddie & Anne Rice (Saturday). Payment can also be made in the Stone Church Office. Proceeds from this year's dinners will go toward new Lodge furniture and basketball backboards.

At this year's Dinners, our entertainment will be husband and wife Brian Kruschwitz and LuAnne Harley. Brian and Luanne have traveled extensively around the world, experiencing many different peoples and cultures. Their program provides connections for those of all ages to a variety of world cultures through stories, music and dance. Brian is a multi-instrumentalist, and LuAnne accompanies him in story, song, and dance. Brian and LuAnne have served as featured Honeywell Artists in Residence, as well as performers at the Brethren Song & Story Fest and Annual Conference.

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Upcoming Events

Annual Dinners	March 24 & 25
Camp Work Day	April 22
Quilt & Craft Camp	April 28 – 30
Father/Son Retreat	May 5 – 6
Bird Watching	May 27
Senior Adult Day	June 2
Summer Staff Orientation	June 8 – 14
Hoss's Fundraiser	June 11
Annual Golf Tournament	August 8
Family Camp	August 18 – 20
Heritage Fair	September 23

Have questions?

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

THANK YOU, BARB!!

Thank You!

Barb Hawn has served as the Stone Church custodian for the past 5 years. She has submitted her resignation, due to health concerns, effective February 28. We have greatly appreciated her work at the church, and especially valued her flexibility and willingness to adapt to many needs. She was eager to please and answered to "many bosses" (team chairs, Stone Church members and staff) who gave her direction and suggestions. We will miss you, Barb, and offer our deep thanksgiving for your faithful service to Stone Church!

Building Co-chairs Jim Bookhamer and Bruce Lidston are meeting to update the job description and prepare to hire for this approximate 10 hour per week position. If you know of someone who might be interested, they could contact the church office.



Stone Church ~

Thank you so much for the communion set and for your continued support for my ordination and call to ministry. I am always grateful for this community and think of you all fondly from Maine. Thank you for being a significant part of my faith journey!

Peace, Lauren S. Cohen

*thank
you*

Food Pantry Sunday—March 19th



We will ask the children to collect your items as they come for the children's circle time. The March item of the month for the Huntingdon Food Pantry is **CANNED FRUIT**, but any items may be brought for the cause of helping alleviate hunger in our community. Donations at other times may be placed in the wagon outside the sanctuary doors by the organ.

IN February, the item was Beans. We collected 94 cans of beans as well as 1 coffee, 2 sauces, 11 fruits, 4 Peanut Butters, 4 juice, 11 cans of vegetables, 3 pastas, 1 pasta sauce, and 2 multipacks of Mac & cheese. This offering, plus \$96.00 is cash, was donated during the third Sunday monthly offering to this local ministry.



“Memories are made of this,” sang Dean Martin and others. Then there is a well-known hymn called “Precious Memories.” Each of us has memories, some precious, some sad. But regardless of the sort of memory, each is important for it reminds us of our lives and those who have lived them with us. Do you have a favorite memory?

Many of mine come from childhood, which seems a long time ago right now! Those who know me will not be surprised to hear that a lot of those deal with cats. Growing up on a farm presents many occasions for cats to enter your life, believe me! We had a barn that was complete with a bull and a cow or two, surrounded by stored hay and other items to which mice were wont to gravitate. And where there were mice, there was always a cat (or two) standing by to guard against any planned invasion.

Of these hard-working felines, the females usually did the bulk of this guarding when they were not nursing and bathing their kittens. Oh we had kittens galore in those days! It was a grand place for a little kitten-loving girl to grow up. I clothed the growing kittens in old doll clothes and pushed them around in my doll’s carriage until they were old enough to complain with their sharp claws. You’ve heard the phrase “sharper than a serpent’s tooth”? That describes an angry kitten’s claws. What on earth did those kittens have to complain about? They usually had a nice warm spot to sleep and plenty of milk to drink. I’m still wondering about that.

All joking aside, there are so many people throughout our world today who do not have a warm place to sleep or the food they need to survive. If you have been reading the recent articles in *Messenger*, you certainly do know this. Are you still borrowing a friend’s copy? Why not subscribe to our denomination’s magazine yourself? See Debbie at our church office. She will help you.

---Alberta H. Goshorn---
March 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Holy Week ---- April 9 - 16, 2017

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 9th

10:45 am – Worship in Stone Church Sanctuary

12:00 pm – Pancake Brunch, following worship

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 13th

6:30 pm – Love Feast in Stone Church Fellowship Hall

Good Friday – Friday, April 14th

12:00-3:00 pm – Huntingdon Area Forum of Churches Good Friday procession of services.

7:00 pm – Godspell movie, discussion, and popcorn in the gathering area.

Easter Sunday – April 16th

6:30 am – Sunrise Service at the Peace Chapel

10:45 am – Worship in Stone Church Sanctuary



Annual Conference 2017

June 28 – July 2

Grand Rapids, MI

DeVos Convention Center

General registration:

March 1 through June 5 at www.brethren.org/ac

!Coming: Fried Chicken Dinner – April 9th



Reservations due: March 26

Cost: \$10 per adult

\$5 for children 5-12; Under 5 – free

These costs supplement the actual cost of \$13 per meal, which will be covered by the Stone Church budget and “grocery card monies”.



Heritage Fair Fundraiser

Souper Bowl Report

Thank you to ALL who offered donations of money, food, and "elbow grease" for last week's fundraiser for Heritage Fair/Camp Blue Diamond. \$863.00 was given!!

Thank you for your generosity!



Grocery Gift Cards—Every card helps our church!

Purchase a Stone Church Grocery Gift Card on Sundays at the back of the sanctuary or in the church office. Coordinators are Barb Purdy and Cheryl Ritchey.

2017 CHURCH DIRECTORY!

The new church directory is available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

March Birthdays

2—Matt Witkovsky	15—Seppi Grugan	26—Carol Oldring
2—Chuck Yohn	16—Sarah Worley	26—Kate Thurston-Griswold
5—Billy Smith, Jr.	17—Tim Launtz	26—Kim Witkovsky
6—Paul Elder	19—Tom Kepple	27—Chris Gibboney
7—Lydia Price	23—Dan Cook-Huffman	29—Maryln Ignath
8—Caroline Christopher	23—Lori Fagan	30—Anita Soliday
12—Oscar Tuten	25—Joel Rhodes	31—Quincy Bumgardner
14—Barb Zanylo		

March Anniversaries

17—Evelyn & Raymond Pembroke	24—Patti & Phil Paterson
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March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:30p Ash Wednesday Service-Sanctuary 7:30 Discovery Team	2 5:30p BBBS/ S.M.A.R.T. 7:16p Choir	3 6:20p Carpool to Chloe's musical	4 Marty off 6:30p Youth Volleyball-HAMS gym 8:45p Youth Movie
5 Marty off 4p Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts—FH	6 Marty off	7 Marty off 12p Hospitality Team 5p Gifts Discernment Team	8 Marty off	9 Marty off 11a OAM Team	10 Marty off 2p-Farmer's Mkt Vendors-Rm 201	11 Marty off 8:15a Youth District Volleyball Tournament-JC
12 Marty off 4p Cub Scouts 7p Bells	13	14 5:15p Worship Team	15 6:30p Leadership Team-Rm 201	16 <i>Debbie off</i> 5:30 C.E. Team-Rm 201 5:30p BBBS/ S.M.A.R.T. 7:16p Choir	17 <i>Debbie off</i> 12-6p-Black Excellence Dinner/JC - kitchen 5p Local Food Association Board-Rm 201 7p Lent Movie-Gathering Space	18 8a Men's Breakfast—Donna's Restaurant
19 Noon-fundraiser luncheon following worship (Cloe-workcamp) 1-5p Cub Scout - Pinewood Derby-FH 4-5:30— Boy Scouts	20 <i>Christy off</i> <i>Debbie off</i>	21 <i>Christy off</i> <i>Debbie off</i> 12 Older Adult Lunch -Rm 102	22 <i>Christy off</i> <i>Debbie off</i> 5:30p JC Pasta Dinner	23 <i>Christy off</i> <i>Debbie off</i> 5:30p BBBS/ S.M.A.R.T. 7:16p Choir	24 <i>Christy off</i> Newsletter Deadline CBD Annual Dinner	25 <i>Christy off</i> CBD Annual Dinner
26 <i>Christy leading retreat/Iowa</i> 4p Cub Scouts 4-5:30— Boy Scouts 7p Bells	27 <i>Christy leading retreat/Iowa</i>	28 <i>Christy leading retreat/Iowa</i>	29 <i>Christy off</i>	30 District Soup Kitchen trip 5:30p BBBS/ S.M.A.R.T.	31 District Soup Kitchen trip	

Stone Church of the Brethren
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STONE CHURCH NEWS

March 2017

Lenten Movie & Discussion Nights

*Friday, March 17 – 7pm

Chocolat

*Friday, April 14 – 7pm

Godspell

(Details inside!)

