

STONE CHURCH NEWS

May 2022

Jesus Stories – Participate in our new sermon series by sharing with us the stories about Jesus that have been impactful to you.

Guatemala Sewing Project– Help send our Guatemala Delegations off well by sewing some glasses cases to provide for Guatemalans.

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From the Pastor's Desk

"During the 50 days of Easter, the story would've spread like wildfire. And not everyone would've told it the same way. Someone would have told a story of one formerly outcast woman going to the tomb by herself, determined to complete the burial rites and then if necessary, to carry his body away all by herself and re-bury him someplace safe. Another story would have had a group of the women who were his disciples coming together to do right by the one they love for his sake and for the sake of his mother. And then there would be the men who say that they were there first and nobody saw them because they ran to tell their brothers. There would be so many stories but they would all agree on this point: He lives!" ~ Wilda C. Gafney

Stories spreading like wildfire. That's the power of a good story - it can consume, overtake, shape, change, destroy, feed, compel, re-start, renew, warm - any and all who come into contact with it. The stories of Jesus that we find in the New Testament vary - on perspective, location, intent - and yet they all point us to a living Christ whom we are invited (compelled? overtaken? shaped? renewed?) to follow.

In this season after Easter - stretching throughout the summer - we want to hear from you about the stories of Jesus that spread through your life like a wildfire. What are the stories about Jesus that compel you to follow? That hold your curiosity for years at a time? That move you - to anger or compassion or fear? What stories in the gospels do you keep returning to again and again because the well of learning or hope or discussion never seems to run dry?

We truly want you to share them with us - because we want to preach on them - and have Bible Study together with you on them! What might we discover about each other if we tell each other these stories? If we learn why they are important and life changing for those around us? What might we learn about ourselves if we intentionally tell stories?

At the start of "The Storytellers Bible," there is a section called, "Learning to tell Bible Stories." It encourages readers to read aloud - more than once! To close your eyes and imagine the story. To re-tell it in your own words and your own way. And it says, "One more thing: You don't have to be able to explain the meaning of a story to tell it. In fact, those of the most enduring interest have an element of mystery about them."

Tell us the stories that make you a disciple of Jesus - with all the mystery, emotion, side-notes, contradictions, and hope that entails. You can email or call the office - we'll start preaching on them in June, so the sooner the better!

We won't all tell the same stories in the same way - but that will be part of the beauty of this exercise! There will be so many stories, but they will all agree on one point: Christ is alive and at work in and among us!

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



I recently read an article detailing the decline in church attendance and membership in the United States. According to a Gallup survey released in March, only 47 percent of U.S. adults belong to a church, synagogue, or mosque. In 1999, that number was 70 percent. Why such a drastic decline? According to the survey, more Americans identify as having “no religious preference.”

Churches around the country are experiencing the effects of this decline firsthand. We’ve even seen it in our own community as churches make the difficult decision to close their buildings. An estimated 6,000 to 10,000 churches close each year in part because of decreased membership and attendance. These are scary numbers. We truly are in the midst of a cultural shift in the ways in which spirituality and religion are practiced. But, in the wake of all these societal and religious changes, Stone Church is growing.

On Palm Sunday, we welcomed 12 new members to our church family. We watched as Samantha Shoemaker and Robert Beck were baptized and witnessed the miracle of them accepting Jesus as their Savior. Samantha’s son Kade also was dedicated and as a congregation, we promised to support his parents as they raise their son in Christ’s name.

We also saw ten others transfer their membership to Stone Church. They are: Bob and Ruth McDowell; Steve Kemp; Karin Tome; Rebecca, Bob, and Catherine Weld; Shelby Anders; and Eddie Crader. Darlene Chivers also transferred her membership to Stone Church prior to Palm Sunday.

We know we are not immune to the decline in religious affiliation happening across our country. It is another pandemic we are working diligently to mitigate. But in a world full of uncertainty, we are grateful to have the opportunity to open our doors to those seeking a religious family, and we are thankful they have chosen to continue their journey of faith with Stone Church.

~Jessica Buterbaugh~



Summer Camp 2022 – What's In A Name?

Don't miss out on summer camp opportunities for children and youth ranging from 5 years-old to high school seniors, and families too! Registration is open through June 1. Families, 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 or contact the Camp office. Online registration is open at www.campbluediamond.org!

Breakfast With the Birds – May 7

Join us at Camp and beyond as we spend the morning sighting and learning about many different local birds. Gabe Imler, Camp's new Program Director and Bird Enthusiast, will be our host for the day.

- Meet at Camp at 7:00 a.m.
- Spend time looking at the birds around Camp
- All ages and skill levels welcome! We will largely stay on the walking trails at Camp both down by the lake and up near the Lodge
- Travel to Shaver's Creek for more birding
- \$10 cost includes breakfast at Camp and transportation

For questions or to RSVP, contact the Camp office at 814-667-2355 or campbluediamond@verizon.net. Transportation will be provided once you arrive at Camp. RSVP by April 29.

Annual Dinners – June 10 & 11

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

Family Camp 2022 – August 19-21

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 CBD 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 Hinich, 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 \$82 for Adults and \$58 for Children ages 3 – 11. For more information and registration, visit www.campbluediamond.org.

Upcoming Events

Outdoor School	March 28-May 6
Breakfast with the Birds	May 7
Annual Dinners	June 10 & 11
Brethren Open Golf Tournament	August 9
Heritage Fair	September 17

Have questions?

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows.



Camp Blue Diamond's Annual Dinner



June 10th & 11th at 5:00 pm

After the huge success of last year's outdoor Annual Dinner, we are continuing this arrangement for 2022! We will once again meet outside in God's beautiful creation to celebrate Camp Blue Diamond!

Unique this year, our summer staff will be on hand! So don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet the remarkable young adults that are responsible for the care and well-being of our campers.

Your \$50 donation goes a long way in continuing to help Camp Blue Diamond maintain the affordable Summer Camp prices for all campers, as well as further the mission of Camp Blue Diamond!



Annual Dinner Menu:

Appetizers
Fresh Garden Salad
Country Style Braised Ribs, Roasted
Herbed Potatoes, Sauteed Green Beans,
Scalloped Apples, Oven Fresh Dinner Roll
Strawberry Shortcake

✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

Name(s) _____

Phone # _____

Address _____

of Guests _____

Attending: Friday Saturday

Waiter Preference: _____ No Preference Vegetarian Dinner Requested:

Enclosed is a check or use my credit/debit card information \$ _____

Card # _____

Exp.: ____/____

Security # _____

Name on Card _____

I (We) will pay at the dinner I (We) cannot attend but would like to make a donation \$ _____

(Donations are tax deductible gifts. A receipt will be mailed to those not attending, or those buying tickets and giving an extra donation. Tickets may be used as receipts.)



Gene's Jottings

"Where Is New Life and Hope in Ukraine?"

Within a week of Easter when we worship Jesus' resurrection and our eternal life, nine thousand civilians (men, women and children) of Mariupol, Ukraine, were put to death by soldiers under orders from Russian strong man, Vladimir Putin. He ordered his army to invade his neighbor, Ukraine. The mayor of Mariupol said he felt his heart was torn out after he learned of the deaths of so many of his townspeople. Many of us find our own hearts broken at the news in the paper day after day. It has certainly been hard for me to listen to the horror on the news each evening. I find myself asking, "Where is God in all this?"

Christians teach each other that God loved the world and gave Jesus to establish Peace, Justice, and Truth. John 3:16 speaks to that love. And yet, many Christians - in Ukraine and elsewhere have suffered and died. A few verses later, John 3:19 says that "...Light has come into the world, but some loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil..." Even in the face of such darkness we are called to remember that God is present with all and at all times.

I wonder what the people thought, who watched Jesus suffer and die on the cross all those years ago. Maybe *that* is a sign that God is with us. Where is God in all this suffering? Right there in the middle of it - with us. And the empty tomb holds the promise that darkness is not the end - that God's presence brings new life and hope, even in Ukraine today.

May we hold on to that hope and belief that God is with the murdered and endangered of Ukraine. And may we work together bravely as the body of Christ to break the cycles of violence, working to establish Peace, Justice, and Truth.

Sewing Project for Guatemala Medical Delegation

¡Se buscan costureras! Are you a skilled (or at least willing and somewhat able) sewer/seamstress? The Guatemala medical delegation will be conducting vision screenings at our Guatemalan partner school and taking down approximately 300 pairs of reading glasses, and we need 300 glasses cases to help recipients protect them. On the following page is a simple pattern that can be used to sew the cases, which should be made in neutral fabrics, some of which might be considered masculine and some feminine.

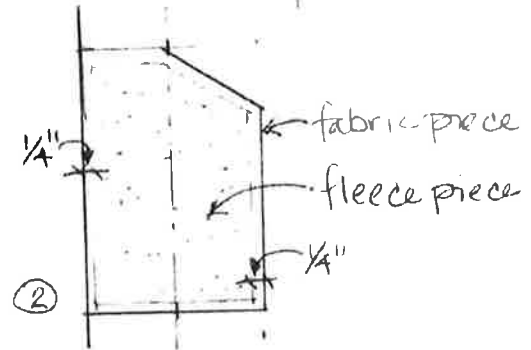
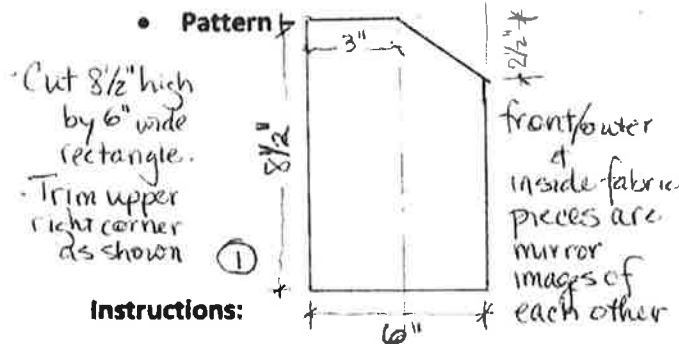
If you are willing and able to use your sewing skills for our cause, please email or call Henry Thurston-Griswold to let him know how many cases you will be able to make. We will need the cases by Monday, June 20th, and there will be a drop-off box for them placed outside the church office. If you have any questions about the patterns or the glasses cases themselves, you can text or call Bonnie DeBold.

Muchísimas gracias for considering this request to support this summer's Guatemala delegations!

Simple, self-closing Eyeglasses Case

Materials needed:

- (2) Complementary fabrics – 6" x 8.5" each (I used 100% cotton quilting fabric) –
(1) front/outer fabric of case & (1) inside fabric which shows at top angle of case.
These can also be pieced from scrap fabrics.
- (1) Piece Fusible Fleece or similar weight, or low loft batting like Warm & Natural.
(I think OeSD Fuse n Fleece is a little thin to protect the glasses & give the case form)

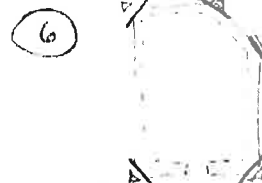
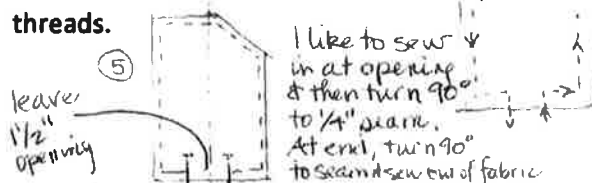


Instructions:

1. Cut out pairs of fabrics in pattern shape with **wrong sides together**. They need to be mirror images of each other.
2. Cut piece of fleece 1/4" smaller than fabric all around. This will keep bulk out of your seam and make piece easier to turn.
3. Fuse fleece to front fabric or baste low loft batting to front fabric your favorite way (pin, spray, baste, etc). It's small enough to just align them if you are comfortable with that.
4. (or 7.) Quilting - This step is your choice --
 - a. Add quilting stitches to front fabric and fleece sandwich to secure fleece.
 - b. Wait until after the next step to add quilting. You will then have attached front, fleece & inside fabrics together.

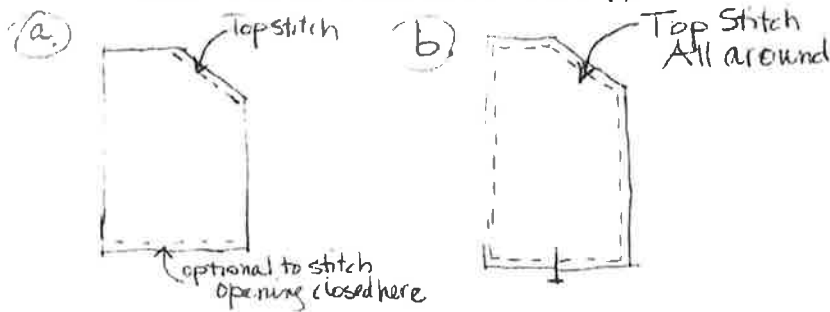
You can use parallel lines about 1" apart or any decorative stitches in rows or columns. If you love quilting stitches use your favorite style.

5. Align front fabric (with fleece) & inside fabric **right sides together**. Pin, if necessary, leaving about 1 1/2" opening at center of bottom.
6. Sew 1/4" seam starting at one side of opening and stitching around the case piece until you return to the other side of the opening at the bottom. Trim threads. Trim away any fleece that's in the seam allowance. Clip corners close to stitching. Don't cut the seam threads.

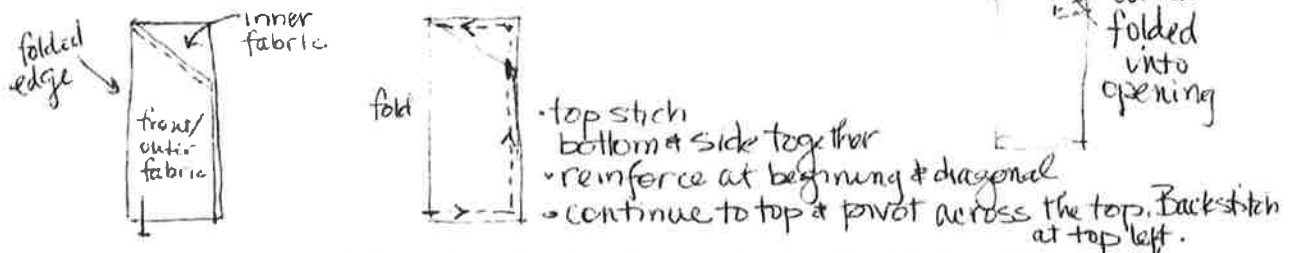


Turn the case right side out through the opening. A chopstick is helpful with this. Poke the corners out carefully. Fold the opening edge to inside and pin even with edge of case. Press.

7. If you didn't add quilting stitches in Step 4. add them now. If you are unsure of your quilting skills – you can just add a straight line vertically down the center of the case and one horizontally across the middle of the case – to secure the fleece batting.
8. Top stitching – 2 options
 - a. Top Stitch 1/8" from edge of case at the diagonal. Backstitch at beginning & end.
 - b. Top stitch 1/8" from edge all the way around the case (if you do this you will stitch over these stitches in the next step).



9. Fold case in half vertically matching shorter bottom and longer side edge up to diagonal part of case. Make sure your chosen front/outer fabric is on the outside of the case. You should see the inner fabric at the top corner. Pin or clip edges even with each other. Sew from bottom left corner (backstitch to reinforce), pivot at bottom right corner, sew up to diagonal opening (reinforce stitches here) and continue to the top right corner, pivot there and sew to top left corner (backstitch to reinforce).



Voila, & THANK YOU! The case is done. It can be closed over a pair of glasses by folding the upper corner over and tucking it into the diagonal opening of the case.

There are many examples of cases online – in videos and blogs. This case is longer/taller than the ones I saw online – to give it the opportunity to fold over.

The glasses we are bringing are reading glasses, but not all of them are the narrow lens type. So, this case is made to fit snugly but fit a wide variety of frame sizes.

If you prefer – you may use binding to sew the case sandwich together. I would zigzag the sandwich edges before attaching the binding. Start the binding slightly below the end of the diagonal and continue up and around the top edge of the case. At that point, fold the case in half and continue down the side with the binding covering the lower corner of the diagonal and attaching the open edges of the case together. Stop a little before the end of the bottom and fold the binding in to finish it cleanly at the bottom edge.



Huntingdon Farmers' Market opens Thursday, May 5th

11 am – 3 pm, Portstown Park pavilion (across from Laney's; 842 Penn St)



Farmers' Market Bucks Are Back

What are Huntingdon County Farmers' Market Bucks? They're "fake money" that can be used like cash at the Huntingdon Farmers' Market. They come in \$1 and \$10 denominations.

Why purchase Market Bucks? To commit...

- to eating more fresh, nutritious, locally-grown food
- to supporting and strengthening the market, its environmentally-responsible farmers and our local economy
- to increasing access to the market for folks who otherwise couldn't afford it
- to enhancing our sense of our community



How will Market Bucks help folks otherwise unable to afford shopping at the market? For every \$20 of Market Bucks sold, \$1 in Market Bucks will be given to Huntingdon County PRIDE, for use by their older clients. Donations may also be made towards "Bonus Bucks" for use by persons who get government food assistance – SNAP/EBT (a.k.a. Food Stamps), pandemic food relief (P-EBT), and WIC & Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers. When folks use their EBT / P-EBT cards at the market, they'll receive \$1 of "Bonus Bucks" (donated Market Bucks) for each \$2 they spend. FMNP voucher users receive \$3 Bonus Bucks for each \$6 voucher.

How can one buy Market Bucks and/or make donations to support the "Bonus Bucks" program? Market Bucks purchases and donations may be made using cash or check at the farmers' markets (all season – May through October). Please make checks payable to HFM.

Other questions? Interested in helping out with the project? We're seeking volunteers! Please contact Laura White by email or phone.

Originating at Stone Church, the Market Bucks/ Bonus Bucks program is a cooperative project of the nonprofit Huntingdon County Local Food Association, involving the Huntingdon Farmers' Market, the Huntingdon Forum of Churches, and area social-services agencies.

It's A Small World Book Project

Checkout Challenge

Many of you have already begun reading books for our year-long Checkout Challenge! We are so excited to learn together. The books are located in the back of the sanctuary and you are welcome to return/checkout books during office hours (M 9-1, T-Th 9-3) or on Sunday mornings! Remember that *all* of the books have something to teach us. That means that adults can learn a lot from the kids' books as well as those written for adult readers! If you haven't started reading, think about which reading challenge is best for you and get your whole family excited to read together!



And get ready to share what you've learned! Soon we will have a community sharing board located in the back of the sanctuary where you can write favorite quotes, share important lessons, or draw pictures from your favorite books! The hope is that this will encourage us to continue discussing and learning in community.



May is National Bike Month

- Consider riding your bike to Worship, as you're able.
- Get some exercise, reduce stress, have fun.
- Reconnect with your community and the natural world – the changing seasons and the weather.
- Slow your pace – open up time for reflection and listening for God's call in your life and for being mindful of your surroundings.
- Feel the empowerment that comes from travelling under your own steam.
- Inspire others to give their cars a rest – and perhaps make it a new habit for yourself whenever possible.
- Use less gasoline, give off less CO₂ and other pollutants, and live out your commitment to being a good steward of Creation. Every gallon of gasoline not used keeps 20 lbs. of CO₂ out of the atmosphere.
- Bike (or walk) in solidarity with all – human and nonhuman – who are paying the exorbitant price for our society's fossil-fuel addiction – victims of climate-change-enhanced flooding, drought, or wildfires... victims of catastrophic oil spills... victims of mountain-top removal coal mining... victims of war, political repression, and theft of indigenous lands in petroleum-producing regions....
- Bike to show we believe in *another way of living!*

May Birthdays

1—Stephen Engle
1—Leah Lashlee
1—Brooke Meadows
3—Jill Keeney
3—Landon Meadows

5—Cathy Closz
10—Jeannie Lashlee
10—Anne Siems
12—Don Mitchell
13—Jack Wagner *90

14—DeLois Fluke *96
14—Pam Grugan
16—Jason Boyer
17—Melodee Wingate
25—Rosemary Plane *15

May Anniversaries

21—Peg Krolak & Todd Hammer

27—Brooke & David Meadows

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

May 21st — 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. As things warm up again, we are excited to be gathering again **in person at Standing Stone Coffee Company**, but you can also join us over Zoom. Watch the Friday Flash for updates! 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.