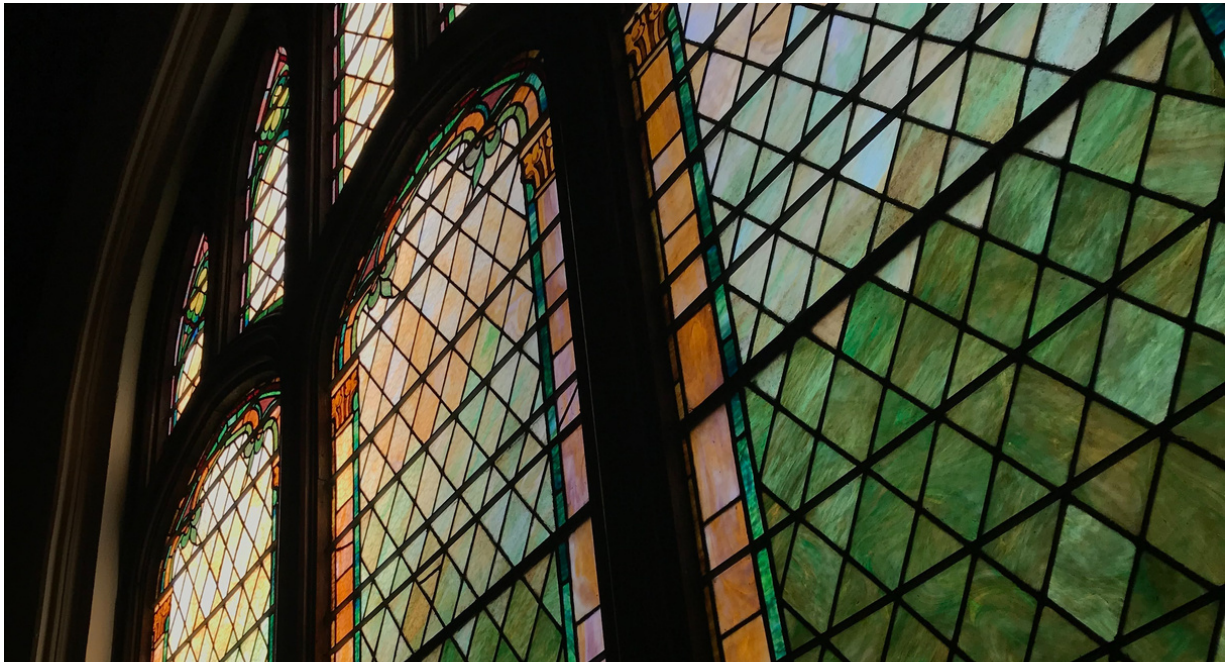


MAY 2023

# *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.

### MORE READS INSIDE:

PASTOR'S DESK - 2  
ANNOUNCEMENT & EVENTS - 3  
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE - 4  
OLDER ADULT LUNCHEON - 4  
WORKING GROUP UPDATE - 5  
ISW UPDATE - 6  
SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE - 7  
NATIONAL BIKE MONTH - 7  
NEWS FROM CAMP - 8  
SUSTAINABILITY CIRCLE - 9  
GENE'S JOTTINGS - 10  
STAYING IN COMMUNITY - 11  
CHURCH CALENDAR - 11



## From the Pastors' Desk

Baseball season is back. I grew up listening to the games on the local radio station. (Sorry - I lived in New York, so the Yankees were the home team.) I loved the sounds of the game. The crack of the bat and the smack of the ball hitting a glove. This year, baseball fans had a bonus in March before the regular season began - the return of the World Baseball Classic. If you're not familiar with it - it's a relatively new event - the WBC is kind of like the World Cup, but for baseball. Players from around the world come together every few years, playing for their home countries and competing in a big tournament. In the past the biggest American stars have stayed home - preferring to save themselves for Spring training and the return of the big leagues. But in 2017 something happened. The American squad won it all and the other players who were at home watched, wishing they'd been a part of it. Mike Trout - one of the game's best, started calling around to his friends, and they called their friends, and soon this year's tournament featured all the biggest names from around the globe. The finale featured was an incredible game. It featured a showdown between Major League teammates in the bottom of the 9th, as the pitcher for Japan struck out the American slugger to win it all.

I got to thinking about the way that news spread. Person to person. Excited. Sharing the story. People joining in because they wanted to be part of something like that...

Maybe you're not a baseball person, but I bet you have stories like this. Something so incredible that you had to tell your friends about. A community that made you want to be a part of it...

In worship this month, we're continuing our Building Blocks series. The empty tomb lit a fuse - and the shockwaves from the explosion of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost rippled outward. People saw this early church, the work of God in this new community and they got excited and wanted to be part of something like that. Throughout the month of May we'll watch the early church continue to grow, figuring out what it means to be part of this new movement together.

We'll also be celebrating those who've grown up among us - honoring accomplishments and looking forward to new beginnings alongside our graduates in worship - graduates from Juniata College on May 7th, alongside our High School, and other college graduates on May 21st. On May 21st we'll also share a meal together, recognizing the work you all do - and the many ways we all come together to create this special community we call Stone Church. It's the kind of community that Cindy and I are excited to be a part of.



## Announcements

### **Huntingdon Farmers' Market**

**Opens Thursday, May 4th, 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).

### **Worship Hour Change**

Starting on Sunday, May 28th Stone Church will transition to worship services beginning at 10 AM. Remember to mark your calendars!

## Upcoming Events

### **Join the Prayer Shawl Meeting**

***Thursday, May 4, 6:00 - 7:00pm in the Stone Church Conference Room.***

The prayer shawl ministry provides comfort and love from the Stone Church congregation to those who experience challenging times. The Prayer Shawl ministry offers shawls to anyone who might feel the benefit and comfort of this tangible item. If you would have any questions on joining the ministry or you would like a shawl, please reach out to Pastor Cindy, Pastor Ben, or Donna Rhodes.

### **Graduate Recognition Sundays**

- **Sunday, May 7th** in worship we will be recognizing graduating Juniata College students who have been a part of our Stone Church family during their time here in Huntingdon, and wishing them well as they move into the next chapter of life.
- **Sunday, May 21st** in worship we'll celebrate those members of our Stone Church family who are graduating from High School and other colleges and graduate programs.
- **Sunday May 21st** after worship, we'll join together for a meal celebrating our graduates, and also recognizing the many ways you all contribute to the life of our church family and community!

### **SAVE THE DATE! - The Brethren Open Golf Tournament**

***Tuesday, August 8th at Iron Masters Country Club in Roaring Spring PA.***

The golf committee is looking for sponsors and donations for this shared event with Camp Blue Diamond and Middle PA District COB. We offer prizes for golfers and are always looking for donations from organizations & businesses with swag or gift cards. If you would like to be a sponsor this year, make a donation or provide a prize for this event, please let me know. Proceeds from this shared event are used for the ministries that Camp Blue Diamond and Middle PA District COB provide for our youth, ministers and congregations.

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

***Saturday, May 6th, 8 am at Vineyard Outreach Center in Shirleyburg.***

The next Mount Union Area Ladies' Prayer Breakfast will take place on Saturday, May 6th at 8:00 a.m. The host church will be the Vineyard Outreach Center in Shirleysburg. The speaker will be Lisa Marie Ritz. Contact Pam Grugan if you have any questions.

# Easter Sunrise Service

There's something about that walk - up the hill in the darkness before the sun's light breaks over the ridge. There's a quietness to it. And then the first rays of dawn begin to warm the world and the



*(Photo by Daniel Laprade from Easter Sunrise)*

birds start to singing... More than 30 of us - young and old - from churches around the community gathered on Easter morning, seated on the granite stones of the Peace Chapel telling the story of the stone that was rolled away as a new day dawned...

Many thanks to those of you who participated - and a special thank you to Jeremy Uhrich whose "blackout poem" on the Easter Story was part of our time together!



## Older Adult Luncheon

*WRITTEN BY DORIS COMERFORD*

The new revised form of the Older Adult Lunch Group met for the first time at noon in the "back room" at Donna's on April 11. We pass a basket for each person to contribute money to help cover the cost of their meal, but if money is a challenge - just come! We value the time of fellowship together! Rick Laabs has offered to make Brunch for the group at the church once a quarter. These will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 11 am. Note this is a different day and time.

***You can see the full schedule below!***

### ***Upcoming Luncheons:***

#### At Donna's Restaurant

- May 9th - 12 pm
- July 11th - 12 pm
- August 9th - 12 pm
- October 10th - 12 pm
- November 14th - 12 pm

#### At the Church

- June 14th - 11 am
- September 13th - 11 am
- December 13th - 11 am

We had great food, lots of conversations, laughter, and fun at our first lunch out. There were 11 of us in attendance. Hopefully more of us "older adults" will be able to attend the next gatherings!





## ***It's a Small World Book Project: Check Out Challenge Update***

WRITTEN BY PAM GRUGAN

CELEBRATE! Yes, we did! Our Stone Church family celebrated the completion of our ISW Book Project Check Out Challenge on Sunday, March 26th.

All in all, our Stone Church family read the 52 books in our collection  
HUNDREDS of times, and that's something to CELEBRATE!

During the worship service on March 26th, Pastor Cindy invited readers to stand and CELEBRATE our reading, individually and together.

After the worship service, we CELEBRATED with a favorite Lisa Lunch.  
We CELEBRATED with prizes that were Divine.  
We CELEBRATED with glittery medals of completion.  
We CELEBRATED with conversation about the books we read.

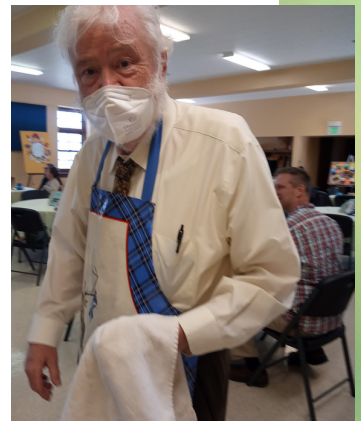
Since April 6, 2021...

We've purchased FOUR COLLECTIONS of the ISW books.  
We've read and read and become experts on the content of the ISW book collection.

So, WHAT'S NEXT?

We're ready to RECOMMEND these books to others in our community,  
AND to invite you to KEEP READING.

Our ISW book collection is in the church LIBRARY right down the hall  
from the church office, and it's there for you to  
KEEP ON CHECKING OUT BOOKS.



# May Sunday School Schedule

Dates	Children	Bible Study	Sojourners (Zoom Only)
7-May	<i>"On Earth as it is in Heaven"</i> Shine	Bible Study led by Pastor Ben	A book study on <i>Christ in Crisis</i> by Jim
14-May			
21-May			

**Sunday school begins at 9:30 am - please join us**

If you are interested in assisting with Children's Sunday school classes, please contact the Christian Education team (Chair, Chuck Yohn)!



## 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.



# Gene's Jottings

WRITTEN BY GENE GOSHORN

## Stop and Smell the (May) Flowers

When April showers turn to May flowers, they are gorgeous; the streams are burbling and I am a little more silly than usual. After all, I only have one good leg in this old body. So please — let me turn over my May spring happiness to my good friend Marty Keeney, who knows how to celebrate by seeing natural beauty. He writes this:

I love to experience the beauty and wonder of nature as I walk through the woods and streams fishing. Taking time to “notice” is like communing with the Holy Spirit. One lovely place I have experienced is nearby Spruce Creek, a haunt fished by former President Jimmy Carter some years ago, even during his presidency. In May, beautiful, yellow irises shoot up from the water’s edge and baby-blue forget-me-nots blanket the floor of the stream bank. They are a lovely complement to one another beneath the ancient hemlocks that protect the water from the sun so that my dear friends, the trout, can thrive in the cool, clear, limestone-rich flow. Close examination in the water reveals rich, green watercress teeming with tiny shrimp on which the trout gorge themselves year-round. Even the stream bed itself is a wonder. Its limestone makes the stream and the farm lands nearby tremendously fertile, and the colors match the trout so that they can avoid being seen by osprey, eagles, and me. There is so much to see and take in, and be grateful for that I almost don’t need to cast my fly. Almost...

Matthew 6: 28 refers to natural beauty: “Why worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; now they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” Matthew appreciated a beautiful flower.

All this reminds me of a song from the movie, “The Student Prince,” “I’ll walk with God,” by Mario Lanza. It goes like this:

I'll walk with God  
From this day on.  
His helping hand I'll lean upon.  
This is my prayer, my humble plea:  
May the Lord be ever with me.



# News From CAMP

WRITTEN BY DAVID MEADOWS

## **Breakfast With the Birds – May 12 & 13**

Join us for our Spring Migration “Breakfast with the Birds” morning at Camp Blue Diamond. Gabe Imler will lead us around Camp looking for bird species that are passing through Rothrock State Forest. The bird walk will begin on Saturday, May 13 at 7 a.m. with a bird-themed breakfast to follow. Or, if you would like to come the night before and participate in a guided night hike, overnight lodging and a snack will be provided. Cost for Saturday only is \$20; cost for both Friday and Saturday is \$40. All ages and experience levels welcome! Feel free to bring your own binoculars and field guides. For more info and online registration, visit [www.campbluediamond.org/retreats-%26-events](http://www.campbluediamond.org/retreats-%26-events).

## **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 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 \$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.

## **Amazon Wish List**

Camp is excited to announce that we have started an Amazon Wish List. This list is full of items Camp needs to help make our ministry a success. Be sure to check back often as it will constantly be changing as our needs change. To view the list, scan the QR code or visit <https://a.co/2AO626u>. You’ll also find a link to the list on the Donate page of Camp’s website at <https://campbluediamond.org/donate>.



## **Upcoming Events**

- Spring Outdoor School - March 27 – May 5
- Breakfast with the Birds - May 12 & 13
- 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





## Sustainability Circle

WRITTEN BY LAURA WHITE

### Farmers' Market Bucks Are Back

What are Huntingdon 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 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 low-income 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), and WIC & Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers. When folks use their 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) or through Laura White. Please make checks payable to "Huntingdon Farmers' Market."

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



**Huntingdon Farmers' Market opens Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**11 am – 3 pm**, Portstown Park pavilion

(across from Love It Upcycle Boutique – formerly Laney's; 842 Penn St)

# **Working Group Update: Addressing the Challenge of Finding Leadership**

*WRITTEN BY SHARON YOHN*

A common theme of our working group meetings has been our gratitude to be a part of such an engaged and active community. Although we face challenges, we are a healthy, thriving congregation that is having the foresight to address challenges before they become a crisis. Thank you for your commitment to Stone Church, and for making this such a vibrant and supportive family.

Our congregation, similar to many across the United States, has been struggling to find volunteers willing to accept leadership roles. In particular, three of our seven ministry teams either have no chair or an interim chair whose term has extended beyond the six year limit.

We are fortunate our congregation is blessed with many in our church family who actively contribute to the life of the church in many ways. However, it is clear that smaller, shorter term commitments are preferable.

During the September 2022 Leadership Team meeting a working group was formed (Sharon Yohn, Loren Rhodes, David Meadows, Bekah Ford, Pastor Cindy) in order to investigate these challenges and make a recommendation to the Leadership Team. The group has been meeting weekly and discussing a wide range of topics. The importance of participation was highlighted during several church services and the congregation was surveyed about their interests. This work led to the implementation of minor changes, such as moving the newsletter back to a paper format and embracing events that take little to prepare (such as Thursday hikes and the poetry reading). However, none of this resolved the original challenge of finding volunteers for leadership roles.

The working group has also been investigating other models of church leadership organization to determine if another model might decrease the demands of being a team chair. After exploring the models of other churches and much discussion, we brought to Leadership Team a proposed alternative model which is a modification of our current structure. The model has been shared with Leadership Team, and they are currently sharing it with ministry teams. After feedback and discussion with teams, we'll be holding congregational forums to collect further input.

Discerning an effective approach to the challenges we face is not an easy task, and we're hoping for active participation from all of you. If you'd like to review the proposed model, please don't hesitate to contact the church office!

In gratitude,  
Sharon Yohn  
Bekah Ford  
David Meadows  
Loren Rhodes  
Pastor Cindy



# Staying in Community

*FIND WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BELOW!*

## May Birthdays

1st - Stephen Engle  
1st - Leah Lashelee  
1st - Brooke Meadows  
3rd - Jill Keeney  
3rd - Landon Meadows  
7th - Ginny Sandifer  
10th - Lexis Corbin  
10th - Jeannie Lashlee  
10th - Anne Siems  
12th - Don Mitchell  
13th - Henrik Berger  
14th - DeLois Fluke  
14th - Pam Grugan  
16th - Jason Boyer  
17th - Melodee Wingate  
20th - Joyce Keiper  
23rd - Sharon Bookhamer  
23rd - Jesse Quarry  
25th - Rosemary Plane  
26th - Lesha Corbin  
3st - Deni Miller

## May Anniversaries

21st - Todd Hammer & Peg Krolak  
27th - David & Brooke Meadows



## 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  
John Bowser  
Sue Martin  
John Keiper

Louise Smith  
11642 Station Road  
Huntingdon, PA 16652