

# STONE CHURCH NEWS

November 2021

## From the Pastor's Desk

It was dead. Really, really dead. To be fair, it never had much of a chance in our house - I have a history of killing plants. I currently have two peace lilies that maintain varying levels of health depending on when I remember to water them. But otherwise - I can't seem to keep plants alive. Which was an ongoing joke when we handed out bulbs to everyone in the congregation for Lent last year. I watched with envy as your bulbs sprouted and blossomed over our computer screens. I planted several bulbs for my own worship center. And had several others spread throughout the homes of congregation members on standby - making sure I would have something on Easter Sunday morning that was NOT dead to put in our Zoom Worship Center. Good thing, too - because this bulb was dead.

Advent begins this month - the four weeks of time we spend preparing for Christmas. A sacred season of hope, peace, joy, and love - that is once again complicated and difficult because of the ongoing effects of the pandemic. We are just beginning to plan how we might be together as a community in this season. What will caroling look like? Or a pageant? Or Christmas Eve?

Our theme will be, *Close to Home*, using poetry, art, and worship materials created by the team at **Sanctified Art**. They write: "When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. *Close to Home* acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us."

I wonder about what "home" is for you? Is it a place? A feeling? What does it smell like? Is it a comforting image? Or is there too much pain in it?

I don't know all of what will happen during this Advent Season. I know that many of us are feeling run down, burned out, ready for a break. Some of you have commented that you are hoping for the season to be simpler, easier, quieter. Coping with the pandemic has drained everyone's energy and often made us feel numb or even dead inside. When you find yourself in the midst of this numbness it can be difficult to look forward with hope. Change and growth can feel impossible. But perhaps all we need is to let something hit us *Close to Home*. We need to let the familiar, the special, the sacred, the tender parts of the Advent season stir us awake and remind us to keep reaching with hope.

I had given up on that dead bulb. I was convinced it was doomed to death. It stood sadly on the windowsill - more proof of my lack of a green thumb. Months went by and I neglected to throw it out. And yet despite the months of dormancy, despite my disbelief, despite its glum, brown appearance... the bulb sprouted. I had believed it to be numb, burned out and incapable of reaching for hope. Turns out it just needed some patience. And for the sun to hit it *Close to Home*, reminding it to grow.



Picture from October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 when the bulb started to sprout.

## **Stone Church Leadership Team Meeting** **“Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.”**

Are you tired of this pandemic yet? Tired of the extra stress, the worry, the reduced social interaction, and wearing masks all the time? Your pastors and the Leadership Team are seeing the effect of this stress on many people in many different ways, and continue to focus on how this community can help support ourselves and others.



The report from the Covid Response Team made it clear that vigilance is still necessary. Unfortunately, cases in our county have still been high, and we have had at least two cases of someone infected with Covid attending church (they did not, of course, know this at the time). The good news is that our safety protocols are working, and we have no evidence of transmission at any church event. It's tough to keep distancing and masking, but it is working to keep our community safe. Thank you all for your continuing effort.

The Christian Education Team has been facilitating the meeting of small discussion groups. These connections have proved highly meaningful and an important way for some people to have social connections to their church family. These groups are ending, but the team is already thinking about planning for the next set.

The Worship Team reported that the technical work on Sunday mornings has just been getting smoother and more streamlined as we adapt to our new hybrid worship. Gratitude was again expressed to Brandon Beck and the many others who have made this transition possible.

Special thanks and affection were also shared with Luke Roth, who has been an effective and efficient chair of the Properties Team. He'll be stepping off the team, and his service is greatly appreciated.

The Witness Team is continuing to work with a focus on anti-racism, as well as engaging in conversation with the Hometown Hearts program in Huntingdon to provide support for those in our community that don't have enough to eat. They've also been looking at how to get more members of the church family involved in witness. To help people get involved without getting overwhelmed, they'll be creating opportunities for people to help with short-term tasks rather than long-term commitments.

This is just part of what was shared during the monthly Leadership Team meeting – there are many others working to support our church family. If you'd like to get more involved, you can always reach out to the church office. And if you need support, please make sure to contact your deacon or the church office.

~Sharon Yohn, Vice Chair of Leadership Team~

# News From CAMP

**Farewell Words from Dean and Jerri** – It was a bittersweet summer season as we found joy in welcoming campers back yet began saying “goodbye.” We are incredibly grateful to have served as Executive Co-Directors at CBD for the last 30 years. Thank you for welcoming us, supporting camp, and being our friends. It has been a joy to be a part of the important ministry of

Camp. We have heard again and again from youth and young adults that Camp has played an important role in their understanding and relationship with God. We are grateful to have been a part of that growth, and it will be fun to watch, from a distance, what God will continue to do in the lives of campers and staff. Please keep in touch and know you will always be in our hearts.

Camp also played a major role in the lives of our family. Andrew, our oldest son, pastor of the Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren in the Northern Ohio District, lives in Cuyahoga Falls, along with his wife Lauren and 4-year-old daughter, Grace. Jake and his wife Whitney, and sons Silas (6) and Calvin (almost 4), live in Fresno, CA where Jake teaches Entomology in the Plant Science Department at Fresno State University. Laban, after serving as the Facilities Director at Camp Stevens near San Diego for 7 years, is finishing a season as a sea kayak guide in Seward, AK. He’ll begin his next adventure in the coming weeks. Camp has truly influenced all three sons and they hold dear many memories of exploring the wilderness, making life-long friends, learning leadership skills as staff members, and doing all kinds of jobs like picking up sticks and pinecones, staining buildings and working in the kitchen.

Our plans are to depart on November 12. We will be relocating to Clovis, CA, near Jake and family. After getting settled, we plan to find part-time jobs, spend time with grandsons, find a new church community, and travel. We will make an annual trip East to visit family, and swing through Middle PA where we hope to reconnect with many of you. When you’re in the neighborhood, let us know! We’re near the sequoias and Yosemite. We have extra space and open arms.

## Summer 2022 Summer Camp Schedule

Cooking Camp (Grades 5 – 6) May 20 - 22  
Kiddie Weekend (Ages 5 – 7, Adult) June 4 - 5  
CIT Training (Grades 9 – 11) June 4 - 5  
Kiddie Camp (Ages 5 – 7, Adult) June 16 - 17  
Tenderfoot Camp (Grades 1 – 2) June 16 - 17  
Junior 1 (Grades 3 – 5) June 19 - 24  
Jr. High 1 (Grades 6 – 8) June 19 - 24  
Creative Arts (Grades 5 – 8) June 24 - July 1  
Yough Adventure (Grades 7 – 9) June 24 - July 1

Pioneer Camp (Grades 2 – 4) July 5 - 8  
Caving Camp (Grades 5 – 7) July 5 - 8  
Youth Camp (Grades 8 – 12) July 10 - 15  
Junior 2 (Grades 3 – 5) July 17 - 22  
Outdoor Living Skills (Grades 8 – 12) July 17 - 22  
Jr. High 2 (Grades 6 – 8) July 24 - 29  
Jr. Adventure (Grades 4 – 5) July 24 - 29  
Family Camp (All Ages) Aug. 19 - 21

### Upcoming Events

Youth Retreat  
Junior High Retreat  
Junior Retreat

January 28-30 *\*Pastor Ben is leading the reflections!*  
February 11-13  
March 4-5

### Have questions?

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows.



## *Gene's Jottings*

### *"He's My Own Grandpa"*

Thanksgiving Day is approaching. I am deeply thankful for my family and I am moved to share with you some of my history with them in hopes that you might also I think with gratitude on loved ones who have touched your life.

My first 12 years at West Vandevender Street in Mount Union, Pennsylvania, were blessed by life with Charles Edgar Jones, my grandfather, father of my mother, Mildred Ann (Jones) Goshorn.

Grandad lived only 64 years, dying of silicosis in Mont Alto Sanitorium near Chambersburg, like so many Mount Union men who worked in the local brickyards. Others who died from the brick dust included my Goshorn grandfather, Guy Goshorn of nearby Ryde. Guy died when I was only seven, the year I got my tonsils out.

When my Dad went off to the army in 1940, my Mom moved us up to Vandevender Street, where Grandad built his house in 1915. Believe it or not, grandad spent five dollars to have his cellar dug out. Mom was born in that house in 1918. I waited until I was a few months old in 1940 to catch pneumonia. Dr. Paul Maxwell told mom to put me in the sun on the front porch to heal. Dr. Maxwell's picture is in the hall in the Huntingdon hospital. Dr. Maxwell is famous for the eight stitches he put in my left knee and the pills he prescribed that someone said were candy.

Grandad and Lulu Foreman had six children who reached adulthood and a little girl, Cora, who died young. Lulu took Cora's death hard, I was told, and Lulu died in 1939 of strokes before I was born.

I loved my grandfather Jones. He was my dad until my father returned from World War Two. We went fishing in the Juniata River and caught several little fishes. He whittled elephants and many other creatures in the cellar. He and mom got a laugh when he sent me upstairs, telling me to sit on a kitchen chair with my legs crossed until he came upstairs. I sat there obediently until he came upstairs.

Grandad and I went for walks in the woods, where he attempted to teach me the names of trees and flowers. One particular plant was a mint leaf one chewed for the flavor. While Grandad lived, my aunts and uncles came often to visit, especially at Christmas and other Holidays. Grandad painted buildings, including St. Mary's Catholic Church near Shade Gap. With no car, Grandad had to walk from home to the church and stay in the church overnight.

My memories of Grandad Jones are precious to me. He's buried in Mount Union, where I and members of my family have nearby graves. I remember all of them with tremendous gratitude as we move into November and the Thanksgiving holiday. I pray you have similar warmth of feeling.



## November Birthdays

1—Grant Musser	14—Elliott Wetzel *7	21—Daisy Decker
2—Jeremy Uhrich	15—Chloe Soliday	21—Jay Hosler
9—Cindy Lattimer	16—Becky Plane	21—Lisa Hosler
10—Loren Rhodes	18—Kenny Evans	22—Sydney Paterson *5
10—Ken Steele	18—Bruce Lidston	25—Jon Yon
11—John Bowser	18—Bert McBrayer	26—Sue Lamey
14—Susan Grainey	20—Peg Krolak	27—Robert Washburn

## November Anniversaries

4—Kelli & Rob Reitenbaugh	23—Joe & Terri Krabill
5—Bob & Carol Oldring	26—Brandon & Kathryn Beck
13—Cathy & Jeff Cloz	30—Becky & Dennis Plane

## 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

November 20<sup>th</sup> — 8:00 AM

Enjoy fellowship, jokes, stories and a light reflection. Join the regular attendees, who look forward to seeing the gallery of faces and hearing the latest joke. If you are interested in attending, send your email address to Rick Laabs and he will send you an invitation. The plan is to still hold this month's breakfast on the patio at Standing Stone Coffee Company, but watch the Friday Flash just in case plans change! As always, there is also the option to join through Zoom. 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.

## An Invitation to Sacred Ground 2022 Stewardship Outreach

"An Invitation to Sacred Ground," is the theme for our Stewardship Outreach as we look toward 2022. As a part of this outreach, we request that you prayerfully consider your financial support for our shared mission through Stone Church. As the Finance Team thought about this year's outreach, we were struck by how grateful we are for the Stone Church community and mission. In addition to your pledge, we invite you to share a note about an aspect of Stone Church for which you are grateful. Here is how to return your commitment form:

1. Print and either deliver or mail your pledge card to:

Stone Church  
1623 Moore Street  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

2. Submit your pledge online by going to the link

<http://www.huntingdonstonechurch.org/pledge.html> or you can find it from the "GIVING" tab on the church web page.

Please take time to prayerfully consider your commitment, complete the form and return it by November 7<sup>th</sup>. As always, information regarding pledges is confidential. With all of our commitments in hand, the Finance Team (in consultation with the Leadership Team) will develop a 2022 budget for your review, comment and approval. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact a member of the Finance Team.

Peacefully, simply, together.

Stone Church Finance Team  
Jeff Cloz, Daisy Decker, Bob McMinn, Jamie White

----- cut here -----

### STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN      2022 Offering Pledge

In the spirit of Sacred Ground at Stone Church, tell us what you are thankful for:

---

---

---

---

With gratefulness and with prayer, I/we covenant to the following financial gifts in 2022:

**Stone Church Ministries**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually/monthly/weekly

This daily operational fund supports *ALL* the ministries and outreach of Stone Church!

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We are unable to pledge this year, but commit our support as possible.

You may also designate additional funds to:

**Property Projects Fund**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually/monthly/weekly

This fund is used for maintenance of our building  
beyond routine upkeep.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Organ/Piano Maintenance Fund**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually/monthly/weekly

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you would like more information  
about including Stone Church in your estate plan.

Please mail to 1623 Moore St., Huntingdon, PA 16652 by Sunday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> or visit [huntingdonstonechurch.org/pledge](http://huntingdonstonechurch.org/pledge)

## It's a Small World Book Project

It was in the early part of 2021 and my daughter Olivia texted me a photo of a book she found in one of Pittsburgh's many Little Free Libraries. I took a look and texted back immediately, "Do you know that author?! That's Chris Raschka!"

I went on to tell Olivia that Pastor Cindy, Sandy Loughlin, and I were considering including Raschka's *Yo! Yes!* in our It's A Small World Book Collection. For one thing, *Yo! Yes?* is a Caldecott Honor-winning book about two boys—one black and one white—who are willing to take a risk for the sake of friendship. For another, Chris Raschka was born here in Huntingdon! He has illustrated and/or authored over 70 children's books, won one Caldecott Medal for his illustrations in *The Hello, Goodbye Window* and another for *A Ball for Daisy*. And, there are more of the books he has illustrated—including Nikki Giovanni's *The Genie in the Jar* and bell hooks' *Happy to Be Nappy*, *Be Boy Buzz*, and *Skin Again*—which take on the subject of racial and cultural differences.

In an interview Raschka said, "So far I've looked at language and music and diversity. I want kids to be able to be positive toward these things. To enjoy difference and not be frightened by it." And so it is that we've come to ask Chris Raschka to present on the ways children's books can make a real difference in shaping hearts and minds on matters of race, AND YOU'RE INVITED...

### A Visit from Chris Raschka

Chris is an illustrator of more than 70 children's books (including *Yo! Yes!*, a book about taking a risk for the sake of friendship) and a two-time winner of the Caldecott Medal. He will be presenting via Zoom on the ways children's books can make a real difference in shaping hearts and minds on matters of race. Please see event details below:

Sunday, November 7, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Presentation held virtually over Zoom

*See the Friday Flash for more details as November 7<sup>th</sup> approaches*



## Remembering Janet Arlene Hartman

*A Memorial Service was held for Janet on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Stone Church of the Brethren*

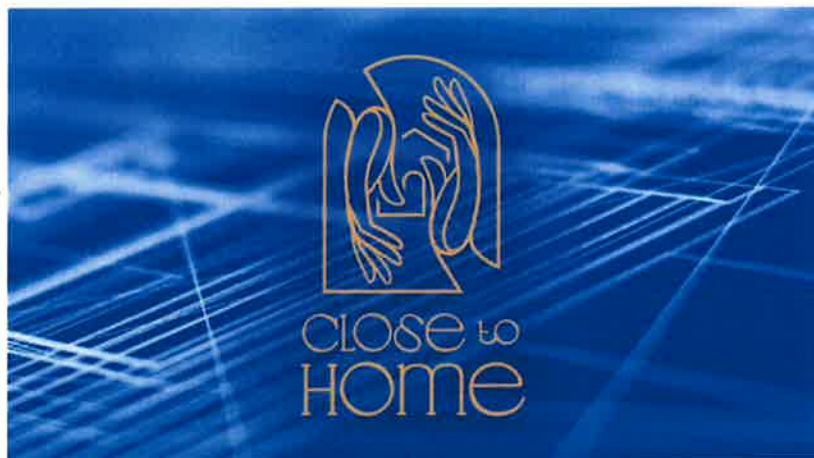
I shall remember Janet because of the prayer covering she always wore atop her head. The white cap was a tangible, constantly-visible symbol of her un-wavering faith and steadfast devotion to the One Above.

I shall remember Janet because of her buoyant spirit and positive attitude even when facing her own personal challenges, but one who always had time to help others, nonetheless. She accomplished this even from beyond the grave by willing her body to medical science.

I shall remember Janet because of witnessing and experiencing firsthand the overwhelming sadness that envelops a close family when the realization strikes that the thoughts and life-time memories within one of the most cherished family members are melting away due to a disease called Alzheimer's.

I shall remember Janet as one of the 'faithful servants' in Psalm 116:15. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of one of his faithful servants."

*Written by Howard Rupert  
First Cousin to Janet*



### Join us for Visual Meditation, Bible Study, and Prayer during Advent

Using original artwork created by the Sanctified Art team, Donna Rhodes will lead us in a time of reflection and prayer that illuminates the scripture readings for each week in new and surprising ways. This practice has been a meaningful way to engage with members of our congregation each time we have tried it - we hope you will make this time a priority for the Advent Season. We will gather on Zoom on Wednesdays at 7pm starting on December 1.

### Congregational Forum

*Held virtually and in-person Sunday, November 14th after worship*

All members and friends of Stone Church are invited to attend our annual November Congregational Forum. Hear updates on the life of the church and members can vote on appointments for church leadership in the year ahead! This Forum will be held in a hybrid format, so we hope you'll be a part of it, whether in person or over Zoom!

### Christmas Pageant!

One of our beloved Christmas traditions is our Pageant - and while we do not have all the details for what it will look like - we want to start inviting your participation! (It will help us plan!) We want people who are young and those who are old to participate - households with children and those without. We want people who only join us by Zoom to be a part of things - as well as those who are more comfortable having a part in the Sanctuary. Please let us know of your interest by contacting the church office soon!



**Stone Church of the Brethren**  
1623 Moore Street  
Huntingdon, PA 16652  
www.huntingdonstonechurch.org  
814-643-3390 • stonechurch@verizon.net

BULK RATE  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PERMIT NO. 116

Or Current Occupant

# STONE CHURCH NEWS

November 2021

**Stewardship Letter**— Please take some time to consider your ability to give and fill out a pledge card by November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Visit from Chris Raschka**—Chris is a Caldecott Medal winning author and illustrator who will be sharing with us on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. Read on for details of this *It's a Small World Book Project* event!

**Looking Toward Advent**—We are beginning to look toward Advent season. Read on to learn a bit about our theme, the Christmas Pageant, and the return of the art devotional series led by Donna Rhodes!