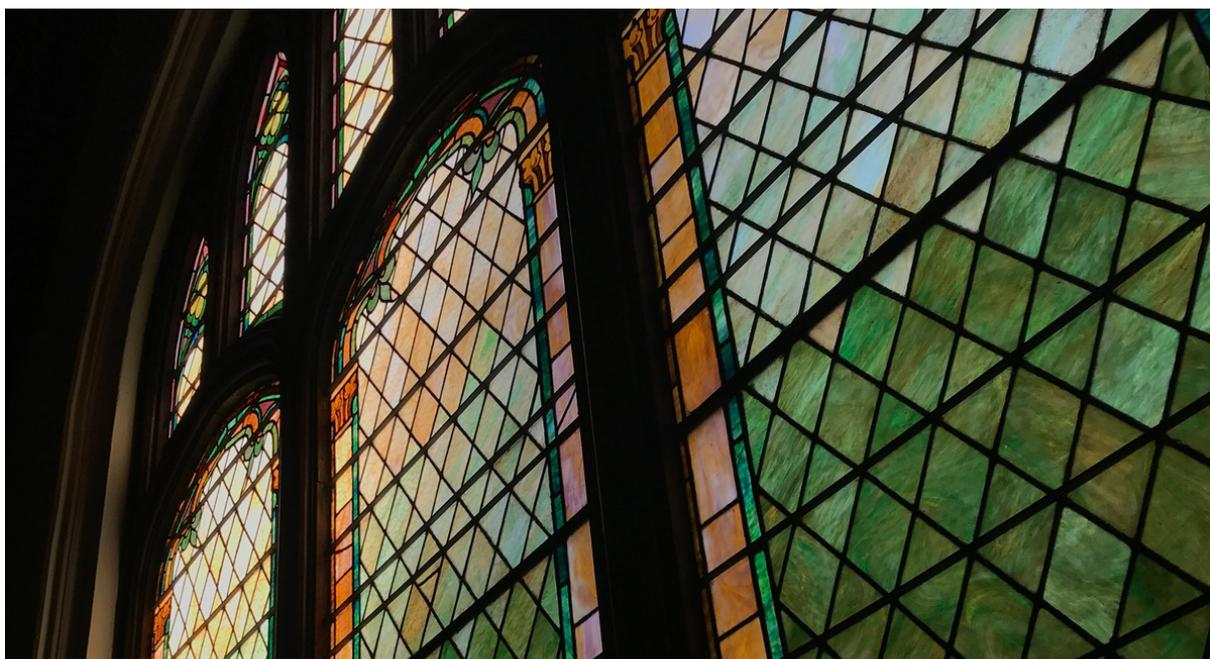


NOVEMBER 2022

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 Pastor's Desk

WRITTEN BY CINDY LATTIMER

Sarah Are Speed writes, "I can vividly remember a conversation between my 13-year-old adolescent self and my mother on the way to church one wintry morning. I asked her, "Mom, what if I don't want to be a Christian?" (a protest undoubtedly influenced by my teenage desire to sleep in). My mother didn't take the bait. Instead, she told me how this story of God has changed her life. She told me how she couldn't imagine her world without the church. She told me how she so deeply believed in a better day, and how she felt called to help be a part of that. From the back seat of the car, I could tell that she was serious. Her joy, her hope, her conviction—they were so pure and so authentic that they left a lasting impression on me. It was a generation to generation moment."

Her reflection comes as an introduction to the season of Advent - which will arrive before the end of November. But before we get there, we will finish up our Stewardship Series, "The Opportunity of Blessing." During that series we have asked a variety of members to share with us verbally a response to the question, "What opportunities hse giving (of time, money, self) opened for you?" Our hope is that we will all reframe our idea of "blessing" being rooted in the favor of God and more about a possibility to bless others.

Abraham and Sarah are told by God that they will be blessed in order that their family (for generation after generation) might be a blessing for the whole world. Like the mother above - how are you sharing your joy, hope, conviction, blessing with those around you?

Sarah continues her reflection on Advent saying, "The Christmas story, of a love that came here, that walked among us, that was born in a humble manger to uncertain parents with shepherds nearby, is a story that we pass from generation to generation, because without fail, it continues to change us. It reframes the way we hope. It centers the way we love. It shapes the way we live. So this Advent, may we tell this story that has spread like wildfire from generation to generation. Let us remember the generations from Abraham to Jacob who waited for that promised day. And let our generation be so influenced in joy and love that future generations can't help but pay attention. This Advent, let us tell the story of good news—from generation to generation."

There is much to look forward to in our gathering together over the next month and beyond - not the least of which is the ability to be sharing in a community across generations of experience, faith, and love. I look forward to the blessing of being with you in the weeks ahead.

Upcoming Events

Intergenerational Sunday School Class

Sundays, thru Nov. 13th, 9:30 am

This event will be held *hybrid* in the Fellowship Hall at Stone Church

This class is off to a great start - creating opportunities for unique intergenerational connections. The curriculum, by our own Joanne Thurston-Griswold, tells the story of our "peculiar people". It's even accompanied by music - written and performed by Andy and Terry Murray! Even if you missed the first few sessions, we hope you'll join us in the weeks to come! The experience may be best for those joining us in person, but if health or geography make that impossible - you can still join in the fun over Zoom! You can find the link each week in the Friday Flash.

Ladies Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, November 5th, 8:00 am

This event will be held in-person in the Stone Church Fellowship Hall

Ladies! You're invited for breakfast in the Stone Church fellowship hall on Saturday, November 5th. For the first time, Stone Church will be hosting the Mount Union Area Ladies' Prayer Breakfast. This event will allow us to meet and get to know some of our nearby siblings in Christ whose paths don't often cross with our own. At 8:00 a.m., we'll gather for breakfast, announcements, a time of prayer, and song.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 19th, 8:00 am

This event will be held in-person at Donna's Restaurant

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. Watch the Friday Flash for updates! If you have questions, call Rick.

***From Generation to Generation* Art Curriculum**

Sundays, starting November 20th, 9:30 am

This event will be held at Stone Church

Beginning November 20th at 9:30am, kids of all ages are invited to join together to discuss a Bible Story and make a craft based on our Advent Worship Series, *Generation to Generation*. We trust that many adults will return to the Sojourners Book Study after the 7 weeks of our intergenerational class. (The Sojourners are a great group of thoughtful people who reflect on books and articles, exploring the intersections between our faith and society. We encourage you to check it out!) But any youth and adults who want to remain are welcome - this new curriculum is intentionally written to bridge together generation to generation. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Cindy.

Congregational Forum

Sunday, November 20th, after worship

This event will be held hybrid in the Stone Church Sanctuary

Please join us for the November Congregational Forum. This is an important opportunity to participate in the life of our church by voting on the slate for church leaders and hearing from finance team about the stewardship drive and church finances moving into a new year.

Announcements

Children's Choir - Starting Nov. 20th!

We want to sing with your children! During our Advent Sunday School, we will begin each week by singing Christmas songs together. We hope this both helps your child participate more fully in our Caroling event later in December and opens up an opportunity for them to sing together as a choir in worship. Make plans to make have your kids participate in this special time at 9:30 on Sundays starting November 20. If you have questions, please contact Marty Keeney.

Try A New Podcast!

The Dunker Punks Podcast is not new - but it may be new to you! Here is their mission statement: The Dunker Punks Podcast (DPP) uses new technology in the old fashion way of coming together to broadcast the unique perspective of young people raised on following Jesus. It's a ministry where the young and youthful are leading the conversation. Characterized by thoughtful risk-taking and a raw punk-iness, the Dunker Punks Podcast is a particular kind of faith community reimagining together—even though across time and distance—what it means to embrace the original revolution of the anabaptist tradition. With a non-hierarchical project structure, DPP amplifies young prophetic voices to inclusively reach across and beyond traditional church, because everyone deserves community in Christ. The group includes youth, young adults, and the youthful in spirit! You can give it a listen here: <https://dunkerpunks.com/podcast/>

Craft Supplies Needed!

What do you have lying around that it would be a gift for you to get rid of - and a gift for us to receive? We will be doing a series of crafts during the Sunday School hour throughout Advent and need your leftover supplies!

We will use:

- Scrapbook paper in blues, purples, golds, black or white
- Old wrapping paper
- Blue or purple ribbon ½ to 1 inch wide
- Old newspapers or magazines
- Scrap fabric - especially in blues, purples, and golds
- Scrap Yarn - especially blues, purples, and golds
- Old Christmas Cards

Please let Pastor Cindy know if you have questions.

Stewardship Series: *The Opportunity of Blessing*

Our Stewardship Series continues through November 13. It is a time when we focus on the gifts, skills, and talents that we can share with the church. The theme this year is "The Opportunity of Blessing" and we are hoping you will ponder the question, "What opportunities have giving (of time, talent, self, resources, gifts) opened up for me?" Materials for financial pledging can be found on the next page.

Stewardship Series: *The Opportunity of Blessing*

WRITTEN BY YOUR FINANCE TEAM

"The Opportunity of Blessing", is the theme for our Stewardship Outreach. We can get trapped believing that blessing is just about God's favor toward us, when in reality, blessing is an opportunity to be a blessing by sharing and giving. Beginning with Sunday, October 23rd and ending on Sunday November 13th, our focus in worship will be on embracing the opportunity each of us have to participate in the blessing of God's love and community. Pledging is a real part of that. By pledging we make it possible for the Leadership Team to prepare a budget based on our shared commitments. Please prayerfully consider how you might support, contribute to, and share in the work of our Stone Church community.

- Print and either deliver or mail your pledge card to: Stone Church, 1623 Moore Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652
- Submit an Online Pledge Card by going to the link <https://www.huntingdonstonechurch.org/online-pledge-card.html> or you can find it from the "GIVING" tab on the church web page.

We hope you will complete the form and return it as soon as possible. With all of our commitments in hand, the Finance Team (in consultation with the Leadership Team) will develop a 2023 budget for your review, comment and approval. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact a member of the Finance Team.



Stone Church of the Brethren
2023 Pledge Card

***The Opportunity
of Blessing***



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

With gratefulness and with prayer, I/we pledge the following gifts this year:

Name: _____ Address: _____ Email: _____

General Ministries Fund

This daily operational fund supports all the ministries and outreach of Stone Church.

\$ _____ annually | monthly | weekly

Property Projects Fund

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

\$ _____ annually | monthly | weekly

Organ/Piano Fund

This fund is for maintenance of our piano and organ beyond routine upkeep.

\$ _____ annually | monthly | weekly

Please return this pledge card to the church office by Sunday Nov. 13th.

News from Camp

WRITTEN BY DAVID MEADOWS

Thanks for making our kids a priority!

In times of penny-pinching and budget cuts, churches often look for ways to balance the budget that may include reducing or eliminating programs. I am deeply grateful that Stone Church has made an ongoing commitment to the Christian formation of our children and youth through a relationship with Camp Blue Diamond. That we continue to support our young peoples' summer camp attendance through funding half of their registration fee is no small thing; it's a statement that makes clear what we value. And in the summer of 2022, we stated that we value the 20 Stone Church campers who chose to leave their screens behind and forego their busy schedules for time at CBD. Thank you! -- David Meadows



2023 Summer Camp Schedule

It's never too early to start dreaming about summer camp! In case you're looking to make vacation plans or decide in advance which camps will fit into your schedule best, take a look and think happy CBD thoughts. More info at www.campbluediamond.org.

- Cooking Camp (Grades 5 - 6) May 19 - 21
- Kiddie Weekend (Ages 5 - 7, Adult) June 3 - 4
- CIT Training (Grades 9 - 11) June 3 - 4
- Kiddie Camp (Ages 5 - 7, Adult) June 15 - 16
- Tenderfoot Camp (Grades 1 - 2) June 15 - 16
- Junior 1 (Grades 3 - 5) June 18 - 23
- Jr. High 1 (Grades 6 - 8) June 18 - 23
- Creative Arts (Grades 5 - 8) June 25 - 30
- Yough Adventure (Grades 7 - 9) June 25 - 30
- Pioneer Camp (Grades 2 - 4) July 5 - 7
- Caving Camp (Grades 5 - 7) July 5 - 7
- Youth Camp (Grades 8 - 12) July 9 - 14
- Junior 2 (Grades 3 - 5) July 16 - 21
- Outdoor Living Skills (Grades 8 - 12) July 16 - 21
- Jr. High 2 (Grades 6 - 8) July 23 - 28
- Jr. Adventure (Grades 5 - 7) July 23 - 28
- Family Camp (All Ages) Aug. 18 - 20

Upcoming Events

- Summer Camp: Registration Opens January 1
- Youth Retreat: January 27-29
- Junior High Retreat: February 10-12
- Junior Retreat: March 3-4



Have questions?
Contact your Camp
Representative, David
Meadows

Lessons from the Woodpecker

WRITTEN BY GENE GOSHORN

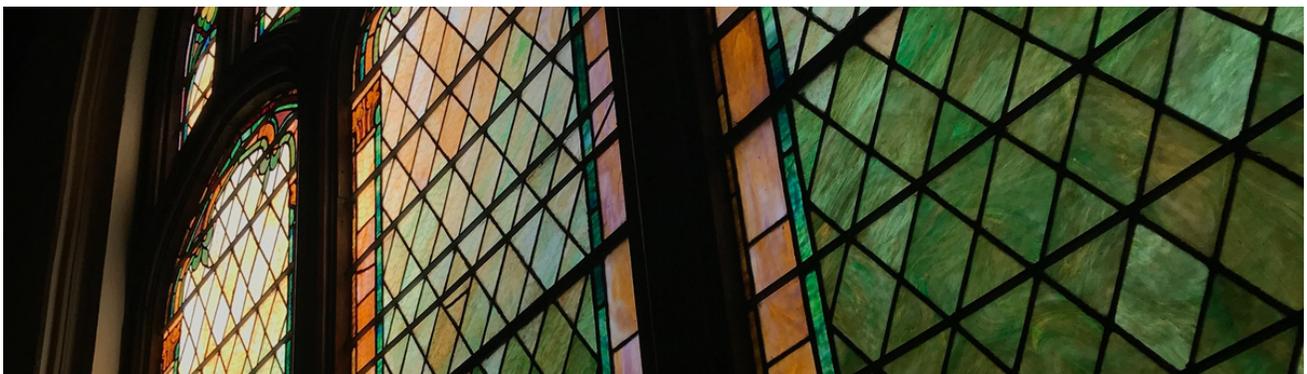
I was captivated by a quote I read by Coleman Cox recently. He pointed out some characteristics of woodpeckers from which we can draw some wisdom.

“Even the woodpecker owes his success to the fact that he uses his head and keeps pecking away until he finishes the job he starts.” - Coleman Cox

Woodpeckers’ survival depends on finding grubs and insects that are hard to get to because of the trees and logs that serve as their homes and are a fortress around them. Cox points out that success for the bird is based on three things. First, the bird “uses her head.” Second, she keeps at it, sometimes for hours in order to accomplish what is needed. And third, focusing on one spot is key to weakening the wood such that progress can be made toward the food.

So what are our lessons from the woodpecker teacher? How about thoughtfulness, persistence, and keeping focus on the key. Indeed, we need to use our heads to be mindful and intentional in our work and decision-making. We always need to remember that important goals are not accomplished in a few minutes. Sustained effort throughout our lives is needed to experience meaningful and lasting beauty in this life. And, most importantly, in order to guide our choices for living, we need to keep key principles in clear focus. I would suggest that these are Jesus and the Word of God.

I am grateful to Mr. Cox and his observations of woodpeckers for these insights. May you all have a great November.



Celebrations and Stories

WRITTEN BY YOUR STONE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Hanging a Flag as a Statement of Faith

By Sharon Yohn

"I commit to being in community, because I know I cannot keep my commitments alone and I trust that when we walk together we are already making a difference." These words concluded the promises spoken by the group gathered from Stone Church, Juniata College and the Huntingdon community, as they committed to empathy, peace and hope and raised the rainbow flag to show that all in this community are loved. The simple but powerful service outside of the church was a statement of love and support by many in response to the act of hatred of a few in tearing down the previous flag.

Personally, this service made me proud to be a part of the Stone Church family, boldly declaring that God's love and our support will not be defined by gender or sexuality. I have spoken to young members of the LGBTQ community who feel real fear to share with their families their true identities and feel rejected by their churches. I hope that we can continue to commit to choosing empathy and love not just for those like us, but for everyone born.

Faith and Snakes

By Emily Elder (and family)

We were blessed to host Dr. Dauda Gava last month as he was in town. Dauda was able to share his experiences through story telling and comparing life here in the States versus his home in Nigeria. We benefited from the use of technology as he was able to pull up iPhone pictures of his house and garden from Nigeria. We got to see what a cashew plant and flower looks like and learned of the MANY venomous snakes he deals with at home. We even pulled out a children's book we own about snakes and reptiles to aide in our discussions. The kids were fascinated to learn that Dr. Gava fights off snakes with just a stick (not even a machete, like Henry imagined). He relayed that 3 accurately placed strikes with a solid stick should stop your snake problem, in his experiences (wow).

After the kids went to bed, the adults got to talk with Dauda about the violence in his city and how many neighborhoods hire private security details. We also learned that Nigeria is home to the main movie industry in Africa, often called "Nollywood". Dauda expressed much appreciation for us hosting him and continues to check in with a weekly text or picture to say hello! During homecoming festivities, we bumped into him on campus getting a caricature, which started our picture sharing thread. I hope we continue to stay in touch and we will keep him in our prayers as he continues to travel and share his amazing story of brotherly love.

An Intergenerational Patchwork

By Pam Grugan

These days, if you entered the Fellowship Hall on a Sunday morning at 9:30, you'd find children, youth, and adults gathered together, telling stories, singing songs, reading scripture, drawing, coloring, recollecting the past, making origami birds, and performing skits. With needle-fine precision and lots of fun activities, we're threading the patches of our memories together, the Brethren way. Some call it Sunday school.

Inspired by the curriculum, *Piecing Together the Brethren Way*, written by Joanne Thurston-Griswold and Jean Moyer, Pastor Ben Lattimer is leading an *intergenerational* discovery of our individual and collective histories with the Brethren church. Darlene Chivers aptly "sets the stage" with quilt-covered tables and floor space and a growing collection of patches on the wall. Terry and Andy Murray serenade the group each week with their history-rich lyrics and musical compositions that have us humming, clapping, and singing along. And Sydney Garner, our Sunday school intern, leads activities that bring children, parents, and grandparents to the same table for sharing, learning, and laughing.

All in all, we're a patchwork of people putting together a patchwork of stories that help us understand how we came to this place and the role that Jesus plays in the heart of it all. We're a circle of friends—young, older, and oldest—with Jesus at the center, ready every week to widen the circle to include you. Won't you join in?

Witness Through Art

By Martha Swigart

Have you seen the new, colorful print by the church nursery room door? Have you read our recently framed Welcome Statement on a wall of the narthex? A third piece of art will be placed soon!

Witness Team members are enthusiastically engaged in what they have named their Welcoming Art Project. The new print and the framed Welcome Statement are Witness's first efforts at illustrating, through wall art, various ways that our Stone Church Welcome Statement can be understood and lived into. While our actions demonstrate our intentions to be inclusive in our faith community, our church property, too, can provide a welcoming experience.

Above the Welcome Statement in the narthex, you can see a sizeable wall space, which, in a few months, will become the location for a beautiful quilt now being designed by artist Elody Gyekis. This quilt will feature images for each phrase in the Welcome Statement and will even incorporate Nigerian and Guatemalan fabric pieces as reminders of Stone's welcoming into our hearts special communities from these countries. Team excitement is growing as the quilt design progresses. Witness Team will keep news coming as the Welcome Statement Quilt completion date gets closer...in just a few months!

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

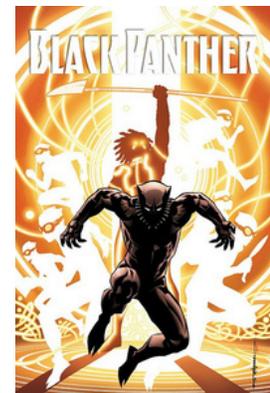
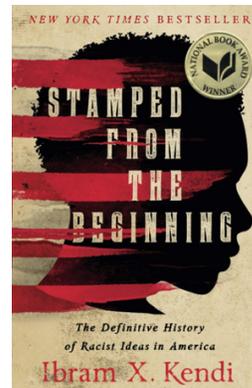
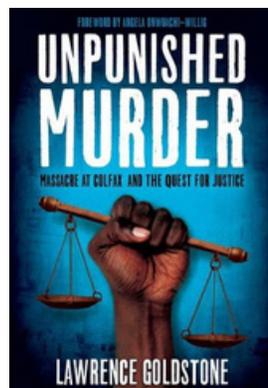
WRITTEN BY PAM GRUGAN AND LAURA WHITE

On April 6, 2021, Stone Church received a grant, which we used to initiate our *It's A Small World Book Project*. The title of the grant was Healing Racism. It is an audacious title, indeed; yet, healing racism is what we must do if we are to live with one another in peace.

We all know that healing requires patience if we're waiting for healing to come to us, but healing requires "integrity, courage, fortitude, and hearts for justice" if we're actively working toward healing. In the book review below, Laura White describes the way in which one of the books in our *It's A Small World* book collection impacted her understanding of our challenging history with racism. Laura recommends Lawrence Goldstone's *Unpunished Murder: Massacre at Colfax and the Quest for Justice* and encourages us to consider the hard truth that no amount of patience will heal racism. We are, instead, compelled to be courageous and make necessary sacrifices for the sake of justice.

It's not often that I finish a book (much less a work of young-adult nonfiction!) and immediately begin rereading it cover-to-cover. But that's exactly what I did with Unpunished Murder: Massacre at Colfax and the Quest for Justice, by Lawrence Goldstone. It's written so grippingly and is so packed full of startling and eye-opening information that I felt compelled to revisit it immediately.

Goldstone does more than simply chronicle a horrific event that I'd never heard of previously. He masterfully ties it into its historical context in 1870s Louisiana and to landmark political and legal decisions that ultimately helped set the stage for the failure of Reconstruction and the rise of Jim Crow. His accounts of disputed elections, competing slates of electors, and threatened and actual post-electoral violence strike an eerily familiar chord. In exploring the squandered potential of Reconstruction, he paints

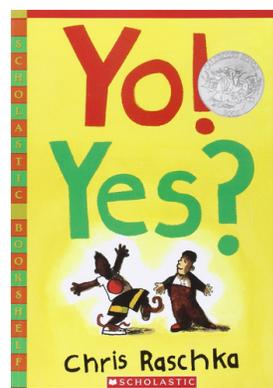
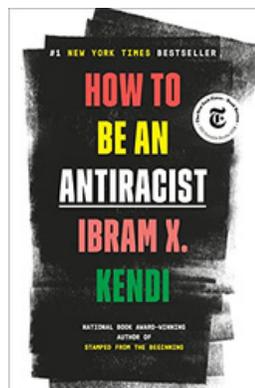


fascinating portraits of Pennsylvania's own Thaddeus Stevens, James Beckwith (the attorney who tried, against heavy odds and at great peril, to hold the perpetrators to account), and the "unsung hero" Radical Republican John Bingham (principal framer of the Fourteenth Amendment who, incidentally, shares the name and distinctive facial features of my high-school biology teacher, which gets me to wondering...). Also included is the fascinating tidbit that Dred Scott, plaintiff in the infamous Dred Scott v. Sandford Supreme Court case, was married at Fort Snelling, just a few miles from where our daughter Joanna currently lives in St. Paul, MN. I can guarantee (except, perhaps, if you're Jim Tuten) that you too will learn any number of surprising and stunning new facts and gain tremendous insights and perspectives from this book.

Most tantalizing to me are the unspoken questions that Goldstone seems to dangle: "What if there had been more persons with the integrity, courage, fortitude, and hearts for justice that Stevens, Beckwith, and Bingham displayed? What difference could it have made for Reconstruction? Could the misery of Jim Crow (and its present-day echoes) have been avoided?" And by extension, "What more could we step up and accomplish today – in this pivotal moment in history – by embodying those same traits more fully?"

At Stone Church we are actively engaged in familiarizing ourselves with the 52 books that make up our It's A Small World book collection. Since April 6, 2022 and until April 6, 2023, we are challenging ourselves to read these books in preparation for recommending them to educators, librarians, pastors, children, and youth in our community.

Collectively, we have already read these books hundreds of times. More than 40 children and adults have participated in this Check Out Challenge, and the number is still growing. Some have read (or nearly read) all 52 books; others are reading one or two of the books each month. We are reading them individually, with our children and grandchildren, and during Story Time Sundays with Jay Hosler. Importantly, we are discussing among ourselves the content of the books and discerning our individual and collective roles in the process of healing racism.



Staying in Community

FIND WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BELOW!

November Birthdays

1st - Grant Musser *21
2nd - Jeremy Uhrich
9th - Cindy Lattimer
10th - Loren Rhodes
10th - Ken Steele
11th - John Bowser
14th - Susan Grainey
14th - Elliott Wetzel *8
15th - Chloe Soliday
16th - Becky Plane
18th - Kenny Evans
18th - Bruce Lidston
18th - Bert McBrayer
20th - Peg Krolak
21st - Daisy Decker
21st - Lisa Hosler
21st - Jay Hosler
22nd - Sydney Paterson *6
25th - Jon Yon
26th - Sue Lamey
26th - Catherine Weld *17
27th - Robert Washburn

November Anniversaries

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

