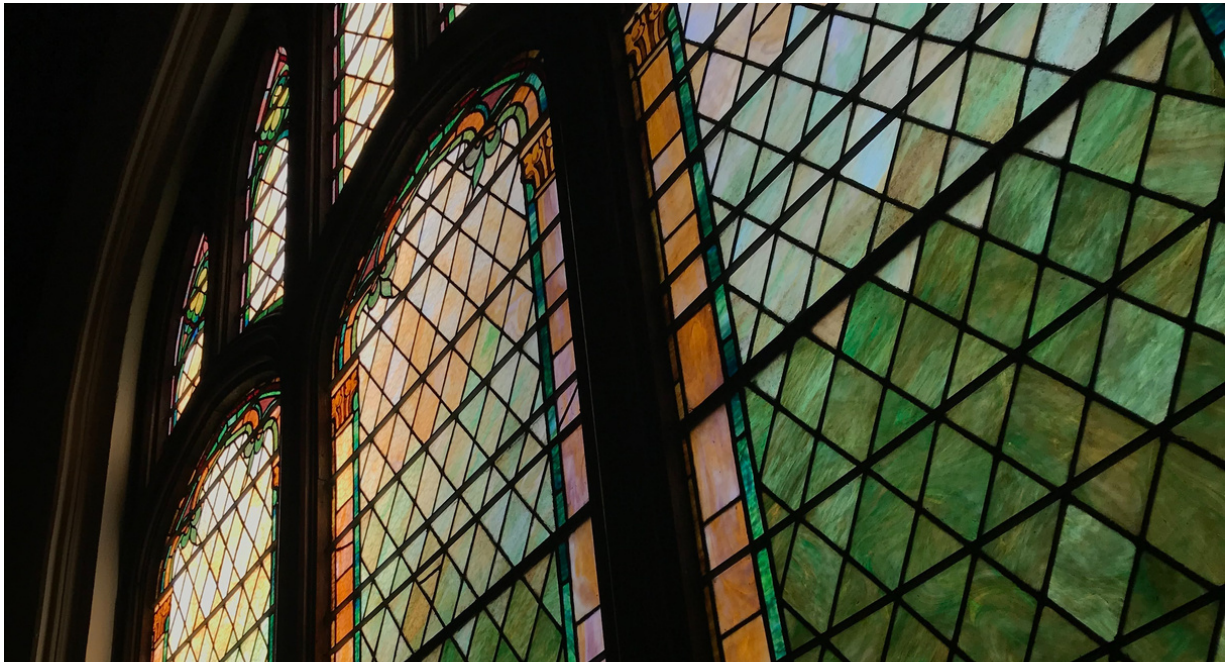


NOVEMBER 2023

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.

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From the Pastors' Desk

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me...*

This has been a heavy season in the life of our church family. You've seen the names each week in our prayer list. Loved ones who have died. Parents. Siblings. Husbands and wives. We grieve... Maybe it's fitting then that November in the Christian calendar begins with *All Saints Day* - a day when we remember those faithful loved ones who have gone on ahead. It's a day when we remember and celebrate their lives - and when we take comfort in the reminder that we are not alone. Others have trod these paths before us - and God walks alongside.

We have been grateful for how this community of faith - the Body of Christ here at Stone church - has walked faithfully alongside one another as well. Our Stewardship Series this year has been looking at the ways we steward what God has given us - *Beyond the Offering Plate*. On November 5th in worship, we will look at the **Stewardship of Community**, investing in the people around us. As part of that service we have the joy of **welcoming in new members** to our community by baptism and by transfer. In this time we make promises, one to another - pledging to each other "our help, our prayers, and our concern, that we may *all* increase in the knowledge and love of God."

On November 19th, we have another chance to learn from the **"Experts Among Us"** as we explore the ways that the realities of our 21st Century world continue to shape our faith understanding. In worship we'll look at scriptures that speak to the question of "*what it means to be human*" - and then after the service you're invited to join us for a conversation on **Artificial Intelligence**, developments in which certainly push our understanding of "human-ness".

We truly are *thankful* for the ways this church family continues to live into those promises week after week - gratitude befitting this November and its Thanksgiving Holiday. We'll also be joining with other churches in a **Community Thanksgiving Service** on the afternoon of November 19th. Our very own Will Robbins, now pastor of the Abbey Church, will be preaching at the service.

The November month that began with All Saints Day then ends with *Christ the King Sunday* - the final week in the Christian year, before it begins again with Advent in December. This year on *Christ the King Sunday* (Nov. 26) we will be telling the entire story of the book of **Revelation (Abridged)**. It's going to be amazing. The book's overarching message of Christ victorious over the powers of darkness shines a light of hope in the midst of our broken world. It boldly proclaims life - declaring that even death itself no longer has the final say.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Announcements

November Food Pantry Collection

Our monthly collection for the Food Pantry will take place on Sunday, **November 19th**. We will be collecting **HAND SOAP** this month. Additionally, starting in November and continuing until April 2024, any monetary donations will benefit the food pantry.

Upcoming Events

Mount Union Area Ladies' Prayer Breakfast

Held in-person on Saturday, November 4th at 8 am.

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

The next Mount Union Area Ladies' Prayer Breakfast will take place on **Saturday, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.** The event will take place at **STONE CHURCH** of the Brethren. The speaker will be Rita Scott from The Gathering in Saltillo. Contact Pam Grugan if you have any questions AND if you are able to help by preparing a BREAKFAST CASSEROLE or BAKED GOODS.

Older Adult Luncheon

Held in-person on Wednesday, November 14th at 12 pm.

This event will be held at Donna's Restaurant.

The October Older Adult Luncheon was held at Donna's on Tuesday, October 10 at noon. Our group was smaller this time, only 11 total. We will be back at Donna's again this month! When we meet at Donna's it is the second Tuesday of the month at noon, but when we meet at church it is the second Wednesday of the month at 11. Hope to see you.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Held in-person on Saturday, November 11th at 8 am.

This event will be held in the back room at Donna's Restaurant.

Our gathering is very informal and is a great opportunity to get to know other Stone Church men. If you have visitors, bring them along too. We share life stories, corny jokes and enjoy a delicious made to order breakfast. Rick also shares a light reflection. If you haven't attended in the past or haven't attended in a while, please consider joining us. We guarantee you will leave with a smile on your face and a full stomach.

Taize Service

Held in-person on Sunday, November 12th at 6 pm.

This event will be held in the Sanctuary.

This service uses simple, repetitive music, prayers, and scripture to guide us in reflection. There is also a period of silence to allow space for us to listen and attune to God's presence. Please join us for what is always a refreshing and renewing worship.

Events - Continued

21st Century Faith - Experts Among Us

Held in-person on Sunday, November 19th during and after worship.

One of the gifts of this church community is being surrounded by incredible people who bring wisdom and insight into our midst. This month we'll be continuing our non-consecutive series entitled 21st Century Faith. With each session, we'll explore the ways our 21st century experience impacts our understanding of what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus. On November 19th in worship, we'll be exploring the question of **"What it means to be human..."**.

Then AFTER worship, we'll hear from some of the "Experts Among Us". Ryan Wetzel and Loren Rhodes will lead a conversation downstairs in the Fellowship Hall around issues of **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**. Sandwiches and snacks will be provided!

Community Thanksgiving Service - In Partnership with the Huntingdon Forum of Churches

Held in-person on Sunday, November 19 at 3 pm.

This event will be held at the Oasis of Love Church.

Join us for this service where we gather as a Huntingdon Community, remembering all that for which we are grateful. Our very own Will Robbins (husband of Olivia Grugan Robbins and pastor now at the Abbey UCC) will be sharing the message!

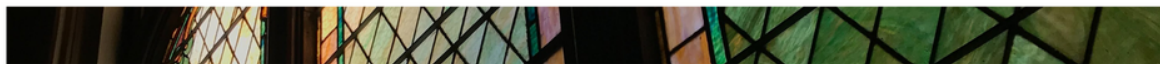
Stewardship Series - *Beyond the Offering Plate*

Over the next month the finance team is asking you to pledge your giving for 2024. Having a clear picture of the incoming funds through individual giving allows the team to create and present the best budget for the coming year. The budget is one way we support the Church's ministry, and live into the vision we all have for our church community. You can find a pledge card below, on the church website, or by calling Rowan in the office.



Stone Church of the Brethren
2024 Pledge Card

*Beyond the
Offering Plate*



☐ 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. 12th.

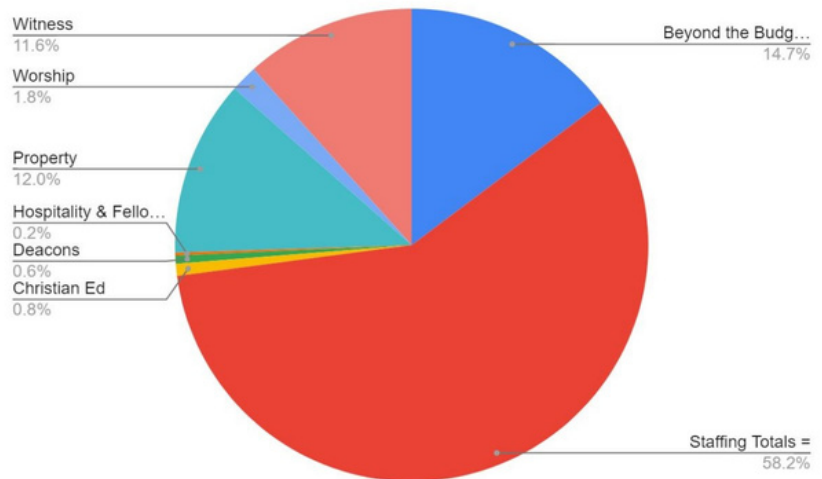
From the Witness Team Desk

WRITTEN BY PAM GRUGAN

Dear Friends of Stone Church,

During worship service on October 22nd, Cory Buterbaugh and I shared a reflection on the wisdom to be gained when you carefully consider how you slice your pie. We shared our preferences for pumpkin and apple pie respectively. Cory praised his dad for his pie baking skills, and I lifted up my mom. We talked about how in Cory's family each person got an equal slice of the pie and in my family the guest got the biggest piece.

Then we asked the congregation to take a look at an image projected onto the wall of the sanctuary, an image of a pie...graph. The graph we referred to showed how we slice our Stone Church Financial Pie after our essential expenses are paid. What the congregation could see was that the biggest piece of the pie, after expenses, goes to OUTREACH. In fact, in 2023, YOU, the congregation, empowered the Witness Team to steward \$42,000! This is the money we passed forward to the organizations listed below (and more) to do the work they do best.



Alternative Christmas Gifts Bazaar	Forum of Churches	On Earth Peace Assembly
Asturias Academy, Guatemala	Habitat for Humanity	PA Interfaith, Power and Light
Bethany Seminary	Hometown Hearts	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Camp Blue Diamond	Juniata College Scholarship	Susquehanna Valley Ministry
Dunker Punks	New Community Project	Village at Morrison's Cove

But that's not all! Another significant slice in the pie-on-the-wall was the slice we call, "Beyond the Budget." It's the giving we do that's not accounted for in the budget. This includes funding for the following organizations and projects.

Fuel and Heating Oil Assistance	<i>It's a Small World</i> Book Project	Welcome Quilt Project
Grocery Card Fund	Market Bucks	Other art projects
Huntingdon Food Pantry	Memorial funds	

All together, this GIVING YOU DO makes up more than 26% of our Stone Church Financial pie. In the words of Cory Buterbaugh, "That's a HEFTY piece of pie!" This is **the Witness You Do!**

And so, on behalf of the Witness Team, Cory and we say, "Thank you" for contributing the INGREDIENTS for our Stone Church Witness PIECE of the Pie!

Sincerely,

Cory Buterbaugh, Pam Grugan, and the rest of the Witness Team: Pastor Cindy, Anne Rice, Martha Swigart and Randy Yoder

ACGB Volunteers Needed!

The Alternative Christmas Gifts Bazaar is coming! It will be held Dec. 2, 10:00-3:00 pm in Ellis Hall Ballroom on Juniata's campus.

It's a fabulous, fun affair and we need help:

- Volunteers to work 2-hour shifts on Dec. 2, as greeter or cashier or staffing a vendor table;
- Help around 8-9 am to help vendors move in and set up..

If you want to volunteer (and we hope you do) please do one of the following things:

1. Contact the church office. Please let us know what you're volunteering for and when you're available.
2. Email Ruth McDowell or call with the same information.

Any questions?

Call or email Ruth at the email and phone number above.

Thanks a bunch.

Your ACGB elves,

Darlene Chivers
Cathy Closz
Jessica Buterbaugh
Cory Buterbaugh
Ruth McDowell
Anne Rice



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 2023, 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

Summer Camp Staff and Volunteer Needed!

If you (or someone you know!) love Camp Blue Diamond and enjoy working with children and youth, nothing is better than working at Camp and getting paid too. Counselors, lifeguard, climbing tower director, naturalist, arts and crafts director, kitchen, and maintenance staff are hired each summer. Program Staff must be at least 18 years old. Support Staff - kitchen and maintenance workers - must be at least 16 years old. All must be committed Christians, enjoy children and youth, and must be able to live in harmony with others. Applications will be available in the coming months.

2024 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 camp will fit into your schedule best, take a look and think happy CBD thoughts. Early Bird Registration opens in January and runs through February. More info at www.campbluediamond.org.

Cooking Camp	Grades 5 - 6	May 17-19
Kiddie Weekend	Ages 5 - 7 +Adult	June 1 - 2
CIT Training	Grades 9 - 11	June 1 - 2
Kiddie Camp	Ages 5 - 7 +Adult	June 13 - 14
Tenderfoot Camp	Grades 1 - 2	June 13 - 14
Junior 1	Grades 3 - 5	June 16 - 21
Jr. High 1	Grades 6 - 8	June 16 - 21
Creative Arts	Grades 5 - 8	June 23 - 28
Yough Adventure	Grades 7 - 9	June 23 - 28
Pioneer Camp	Grades 2 - 4	June 30 - 3
Caving Camp	Grades 5 - 7	June 30 - 3
Youth Camp	Grades 8 - 12	July 7 - 12
Junior 2	Grades 3 - 5	July 14 - 19
Outdoor Living Skills	Grades 9 - 12	July 14 - 19
Jr. High 2	Grades 6 - 8	July 21 - 26
Jr. Adventure	Grades 4 - 5	July 21 - 26
Family Camp	All Ages	August 16 - 18

Upcoming Events

- Fall Outdoor School - Sep 25 - Nov 3
- Youth Retreat - Jan 26 - 28
- Jr. High Retreat - Feb 23 - 25
- Junior High - Mar 1 - 3

Have questions?
Contact your Camp
Representative,
David Meadows.

Christian Education Spotlight!

- **Becoming a People of God:** Our Sunday School class for kids of all ages meets in the Llamacats Room, down the hall from the office. It's a chance to learn Bible Stories and build friendships through crafts and games!
- **Biblical Leftovers Bible Study:** Rick Laabs leads this Bible Study for teens and adults - taking us on a deeper dive into the Bible Stories we read each Sunday morning in worship. It's a chance to really explore and digest the scriptures together. This gathering is open to anyone. You don't need to be a Biblical Scholar in order to notice and explore connections you hadn't seen before. Join in person or over Zoom!
- **Sojourners Book Study:** Be a part of this group of thoughtful people reflecting together on the intersections between faith and society. This Fall we're reading *From Inclusion to Justice*, by Erin Raffety which explores the ways we can be part of a more authentic community for persons with a variety of disabilities. Join in person or over Zoom!

Gene's Jottings

WRITTEN BY GENE GOSHORN

November always reminds me of Mrs. Albright and Mrs. Chilcote, dear neighbors of mine when I was a kid growing up on Vandevender Street in Mount Union in the house my grandfather built in 1915. The former, Mrs. Goldie Albright, was great at making pumpkin pie. The texture was exquisitely soft and reflected the sinew of the pumpkins...no fake stuff out of the can. The taste was full of spice and the subtlety that only the finest ingredients can provide. She was kind and generous in sharing with all of us neighbor kids.

Mrs. Chilcote was a master of cake creation. She made a great chocolate one, from scratch of course. No self-respecting confection creator in Mount Union in those days would use a box. The magic, though, was in her icing. She could create a sea foam icing to die for. She had just the touch to take egg whites, sugar, water, and a little vanilla to whip up a tasty and lively icing that was lovely to behold, almost too pretty to eat...almost. 😊 No measurements were needed, just her skill, experience, and love for all who would share in her beautiful work of kindness.

Pastor Ben tells me he is really grateful to Pastor Cindy for her fall culinary creations as well. She makes wonderful apple crisp and banana oatmeal cookies from bananas that are a little over the hill. He loves these and her awesome gravy at the Thanksgiving Holiday and the tradition and memory they represent.

November puts lots of us in mind of gratitude. Indeed, I am ever grateful for the kindness of my neighbors and friends for the delicious memories I carry with me 70 years later. Who are the folks that have touched your lives in ways that leave you forever grateful?

Staying in Community

FIND WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BELOW!

November Birthdays

1st - Grant Musser
2nd - Jeremy Uhrich
9th- Cindy Lattimer
10th - Loren Rhodes
10th- Ken Steele
14th - Susan Grainey
14th - Elliott Wetzel
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
25th - Jon Yon
26th - Sue Lamey
26th - Catherine Weld

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



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

Louise Smith
11642 Station Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Westminster Woods
Sue Martin