

STONE CHURCH NEWS

October 2020



From the Pastor's Desk

It was my roommate's fault. When I left college for Thanksgiving break, my laptop was sitting on my desk. He wasn't leaving for a couple more days. When I got back, it was gone. He had neglected to lock the door before he left. I was so angry. My family didn't have a lot of extra money. I wasn't sure if we'd be able to replace it. The anger and the worry about money was eating me up inside.

I went to visit my grandfather over Christmas break, a few weeks later. He didn't know anything about my computer or my worries. He was just happy to see me. He lived in a retirement community that subsidized retired pastors. (He'd been a minister in an age that sometimes paid clergy in chickens and potatoes. His retirement savings were not extensive.) As I was getting ready to leave, he said, "Hold on a minute!" And he went into the back room. "I wanted you to have this," he said, smiling as he handed me a roll of Sacagawea gold dollar coins. "Hold onto one of these and you'll never be broke." 50 dollars was a lot. And not just for me. Like I said, he didn't have a lot of extra money. But he gave it generously, because he loved me.

It got me thinking about my own relationship to money. How I'd let the love of it, the *fear* of not having enough of it, consume me. How I'd let it ruin my relationship with my roommate. I started thinking about how my money story reflected - more honestly than I cared to admit - where I really put my trust. I needed to write a new story. To be more like my grandpa. To trust more in God.

Turns out, my parents' homeowners insurance covered the loss, even though it happened while I was away from home. (Who knew?) Since my computer was so old that I couldn't get an exact replacement, the insurance company even got me a newer model that was better than the one I had lost. God was faithful. And I started to think differently about my relationship with money.

This month we're beginning our new stewardship series in worship, called "*Our Money Story*". We'll be looking at the ways we talk about and think about money - and the ways that shapes our relationships with God, with each other, and with ourselves.

"We all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not," write *Lisle Gwynn Garrity & Anna Strickland*. "Perhaps we are living from a story of fear or shame. Or a story that the church is dying and no longer relevant. Or a story that our actions won't have an impact. Or a story that we don't have enough. Where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we have told ourselves? [We are invited] to discover and tell our money stories in light of God's money story of liberation and justice... To transform our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe... To speak of money is to invite tension into the room. We so quickly want to avoid it. But it's time we reframe this. Money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story. Thinking about God's money story should be liberating, inviting, and transformative. This stewardship season, we invite you to remember, release, reimagine, and restore your money stories so that we can write the one God is begging us to live into."

Bread and Cup Communion October 4 during Zoom Worship!

October 4 is World Communion Sunday and so we will join with other Christians around the world and celebrate this Holy meal together during our regular Sunday morning Zoom service. We want all of you to be able to participate with us so you will need to have bread or crackers and juice or another similar drink with you when we begin the service. You are welcome to simply purchase bread. You may also use the recipe below. **Deacons are willing to make bread that can be delivered or arranged for pick up.** Please contact Pastor Cindy via email or phone if you would like for us to provide bread for you! We look forward to worshipping together with you!



Communion Bread from the kitchen of Opel Flora

4 $\frac{1}{3}$ cups of flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of milk
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of cream
2T sugar
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt

Dough should be very stiff. May not take all of the flour. Knead until free from bubbles. Roll onto baking sheet(s), trim. Mark in 1 inch squares, prick with fork. Bake in 375 degree oven until golden brown. Cut apart before removing from baking sheet.

Please note: This will make enough bread for you to be able to share - consider giving some away - even to someone who is not part of our church. It would be a wonderful way to live into the hope and promise of communion!

"With us in spirit..."

Below are members of our church family who, though they are not often able to join us in worship, remain with us in spirit. Remember them in your prayers, and with cards and visits! Please contact the church office (814-643-3390 or stonechurch@verizon.net) to add others you know.

DeLois Fluke
11325 Raystown Rd.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Gene & Alberta Goshorn
14155 Hill Valley Rd.
Mt. Union PA 17066

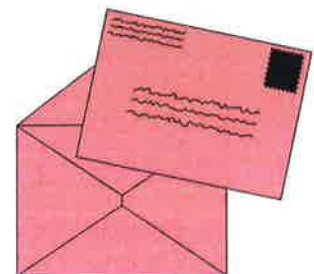
Westminster Woods
John Bowser
Sue & Bill Martin
(@the Oaks)

Jean Prendergast
Arista Care, Room 173
1229 Warm Springs Ave
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Lydia Price
c/o Charla and Greg Chiapelli
597 Sechler Rd.
Somerset, Pa 15501

Thelma Wallace
5754 Wallace Dr.
Huntingdon, PA 16652

John Keiper
PO Box 121
Bedford, PA 15522



Stone Church Leadership Team Meeting

“Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.”



I love the coming of fall weather. I know that some people thrive on the heat of summer, but frankly, I'm not one of them. Heat seems to pull the energy from my body and leave me sluggish and uninspired. The state of my garden after this summer will support that... But in these last few days of crisp weather I feel energized and uplifted.

At our September leadership team meeting, the church teams seemed to have the same feeling as I do in the fall. The long hot summer is past, and it is time to live energetically into the future. It won't, of course, be the same as previous years. The pandemic still weighs on all of us and forces us to think creatively about our ministry. But despite that, Stone Church ministries are alive and energized!

As I'm writing this, just yesterday we had our first face to face event in months. Outside at Camp Blue Diamond we were able to share safely in worship and community as we both listened and shared. We also learned that you can still hear a trumpet played from a very safe distance away, as Marty serenaded us from across the lake... This was made possible by the efforts of the Worship team, as well as our pastors and Marty. The Worship team is also working on a plan for communion in October so that we can partake in the bread and cup together while safely in our own homes. I look forward to seeing the creative and spiritual ways this group continues to bring us together.

The Witness team is active both locally and in the denomination as they coordinate with other Church of the Brethren congregations to notify local congregations when a Brethren college student has moved to their area. This will allow congregations to reach out to these students and provide them with a church home while they are at college. Closer to home, this team, along with the Sojourner's class, are planning on meeting with Juniata students about how to witness for social justice.

Meanwhile, over forty of the Stone Church family are attending small group gatherings for an opportunity to both share and learn about others in our community. Thanks to the Christian Education team for their work in organizing this. If you missed out, no worries – there will be another opportunity.

In other areas, the Finance Team is preparing for the fall stewardship campaign, and the Deacons continue to reach out to those in need. Our pastors are always sharing their gifts through worship and pastoral support, and are also engaging again in with campus ministry as we move through the semester. And, on top of everything (literally), the Property team is keeping the building in good shape – including another round of roof repairs.

The church ministries are indeed alive and energized. While there are so many things right now that can spiritually drag us down, I am grateful to have a place full of energy and community. -Submitted by Sharon Yohn, Leadership Vice-Chair

From our Finance Team...

"Our Money Story" is the theme for our Stewardship outreach during October. In worship, we will look at stories from scripture that inform the ways we as individuals and as a church community talk about and interact with money. The Finance Team asks you to give thought to your financial support for our shared mission through Stone Church.



Because of COVID-19 this year, there are two ways for you to return your commitment form:

1. Print and mail your pledge card to:

Stone Church
1623 Moore Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652

2. Submit 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.

With your help, we hope to have all commitment cards returned to Stone Church by Sunday, October 25th. Please take time to prayerfully consider your commitment, complete the form and submit it online or mail it as soon as possible. With all of our commitments in hand, the Finance Team (in consultation with the Leadership Team) will develop a 2021 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, John Wright

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STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 2021 Offering Pledge

In trust and with prayer, I/we covenant to the following financial gifts in 2021:

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.

Organ/Piano Maintenance Fund

\$ _____ annually/monthly/weekly

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

____ 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, Oct. 25th or visit huntingdonstonechurch.org/pledge

RELEASE

REMEMBER

REIMAGINE

RESTORE



there I Am in the midst

Stone Church Fellowship Groups!

Are you enjoying Stone Church’s 10-week program for small group fellowship and reflection? This Zoom-based program keeps us connected as a congregation and community during this time when we cannot physically be together. Groups consist of no more than 8 persons, with themed devotionals with related faith and Christian life exploratory questions. These groups meet weekly or biweekly for 10 weeks.

If you would like to know when the next groups start, contact Pastor Ben or leave a message on the church office phone.

Sojourners

Adults of all ages are invited to join Sojourners as they study the book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church’s Complicity in Racism*, by Jemar Tisby. It’s “an acclaimed, timely narrative of how people of faith have historically--up to the present day--worked against racial justice. And a call for urgent action by all Christians today in response.” **The Sojourners class meets via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday!** Contact Virginia Biber, Sojourners Coordinator to join us for this timely study!



Mid-Week Bible Study

WEDNESDAY nights @ 7pm*

(*except on the 2nd week, when we’ll meet on Tuesday the 13th!)

Join us as we take a deeper dive into the scripture.

See the **Friday Flash** for details on how to join us on Zoom via computer or phone. And, if you’re unable to make it, but still want to listen in, contact the office to have an audio recording sent to you!



Pennies for Witness

Although District Conference is cancelled this year, they will still accept the **Pennies for Witness Offering**. Pennies for Witness is an offering emphasis for our district outreach ministries. It has been our hope to continue to increase our outreach to a “tithing” level-10% of our budget. Those outreach ministries are: Trucker Traveler Ministries, CentrePeace, Prince Gallitzin Park Ministry, Small Church Fund, Outreach Ministry Matching Grant, Global Outreach. Everyone is encouraged to collect pennies, dimes, nickels, quarters and dollars. The goal is \$10,000 – that’s a lot of spare change!! But if everyone member gives \$1.25 we can exceed that goal. Together we can be the Body of Christ. Place coins in an envelope to deposit them in the church mail slot – or **make your check payable to: Middle PA District- Memo line: Pennies. Our ministries thank you!**

Alternative Christmas Gift Bazaar



It's hard to believe, but it's already that time of year to announce Stone Church's 13th annual Alternative Christmas Gift Bazaar (ACGB). We get excited each year to come together on that cold first Saturday in December to shop, volunteer, eat, support great causes, and mostly to join in fellowship. Well, as everyone knows, this has not been any kind of typical year.

After much consideration of the situation with COVID-19 and the potential health risks that could still be present in December, we've decided that it's probably best to hold our event online. That's right...Our very first *VIRTUAL* ACGB!!! It won't be quite the same, especially the fellowship aspect, but we're not going to let the pandemic get us down.

Starting on November 1st, you will be able to access our Virtual ACGB website! Through this site, you will have the ability to shop with, and donate to, many of your favorite causes and vendors, with most merchandise being shipped directly to you! Our goal is to give Amazon a big run for their money this Christmas! ☺

We will be providing a socially distant curbside pickup service for a few local vendors, so we may be reaching out for volunteers to help with this. Stay tuned.

If you have any digital photos of previous ACGB events, we'd love to have a few of your favorites for possible use on the website. You can email them to stoneacgb@gmail.com. Thanks so much!!

We've still got a lot of work ahead, but stayed tuned to your bulletins, Friday Flashes, and future newsletters for more information.

We hope to make our Virtual ACGB a good close 2nd to the real thing!

Blessings to all,

The ACGB Team



News From CAMP

Virtual Heritage Fair

Because Heritage Fair won't occur at CBD this year, the Heritage Fair Committee has planned a virtual Heritage Fair. To support the special events, meals, sales, and fundraisers that have been planned, visit

www.campbluediamond.org and click *Heritage Classifieds* under *Events & News*. Or, visit Camp Blue Diamond on Facebook. So far, we've seen classified ads for Beech Run COB's Ham & Bean Soup sale, Space Cadet Wayne Guyer's voyage to Mars, Scarecrow making with the Claysburg COB, Scott Criswell's scroll saw artwork, and more.



Another way to support Heritage Fair is to participate in the Hike/Walk/Run-a-Thon anytime before Oct. 15. More info is available at www.campbluediamond.org at *Virtual Heritage Fair* under *Events & News*.

The District and Camp have challenged churches to support Heritage Fair, which typically raises \$25,000-\$30,000. These funds are needed for church assistance, workcamp scholarships, ministry training, and camp expenses. If \$25,000 is raised by Oct. 17, Camp and District leadership will be drenched with a tractor bucket full of ice water! The Ice Water Challenge will be recorded and posted on Facebook and CBD's website.

Rising Sun and Lakeside Cabins

Looking to get away? Consider renting a cabin by the lake at CBD. Lakeside and Rising Sun are Camp's "Beach Houses in the Woods". Both cabins have 3 bedrooms, a living/dining room, full kitchen, 2 bathrooms, loft, central AC and heat. They come highly recommended by the Meadows Family. For more information, visit www.campbluediamond.org/cabins.

Summer Camp 2021

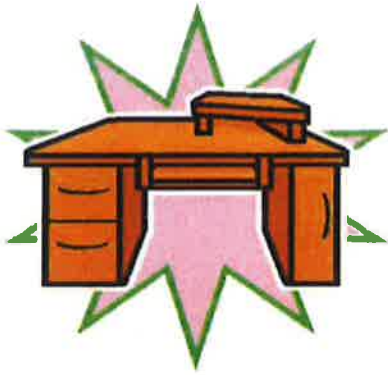
The Summer Camp schedule is now available online at www.campbluediamond.org and Pre-Registration will be open from Nov. 9 to Dec. 31. Families that transferred Summer Camp '20 payments to 2021 will receive letters in October, informing them of the dollar amount they can deduct from their '21 fees. Everyone Pre-Registering in November and December will receive a free 2021 CBD Summer Camp t-shirt!

Upcoming Events

Virtual Heritage Fair	Now through October 15
Jr. High Retreat for grades 6-8	February 19-21
Junior Retreat for grades 3-5	March 5-6
Youth Retreat for grades 9-12	March 19-21
Quilt & Craft Camp	April 23-25
Annual Dinners	May 1 & 2
Father/Son Retreat for grades K-8	May 7-8
Senior Adult Day	June 4
Hoss's Fundraiser	June 13
Brethren Open Golf Tournament	August 10
Family Camp	August 20-22
Heritage Fair 2021	September 18

Have questions?

Contact your Camp Representative, David Meadows.



Gene's Jottings

"While Nero fiddled"



I doubt few Christians have not heard of the Roman emperor Nero, who persecuted the early Christians in Rome, crucified Peter, beheaded Paul, burned everyday Christians to provide night light and fed them to wild beasts in the Coliseum to entertain the People.

Nero was only 17 when he became emperor. A huge fire broke out in Rome in AD 64. Half of Rome's population was left homeless and 70 percent of its buildings were destroyed. The fire lasted six days. The Roman people wanted someone to blame. So they blamed their new emperor, Nero.

The story soon developed about Nero fiddling while Rome burned. Nero was blamed for ignoring a serious matter while his people suffered. But the real fiddle wasn't invented for another 1,500 years. Nero would have played the cithara, a stringed instrument like a lyre. Nero was known to have a great passion for music. Life expectancy in Nero's time averaged 35 years. After murdering his mother and his wife, Nero committed suicide at age 31.

Please now consider Nero's life alongside that of Jesus of Nazareth.

In Matthew 22, Jesus is asked: 'Master, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. That is the greatest commandment. It comes first. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." Everything in the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

And then there is Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, which says in part: "I may have faith strong enough to remove mountains; but if I have no love, I am nothing...."

— Eugene Goshorn —



From the exiting Church Administrative Assistant.....

Thank you!!! My time at Stone has been challenging – challenges you too faced as church leadership shifted and finally settled with the Pastors Lattimer – and rewarding. With the passing of my mother, I make preparation to move to North Carolina and start a new chapter. This 'final' transition comes at a time of uncertainty in the world and as Pastor Ben suggested in the cover article, I am discovering that God is speaking a new narrative into my life. As I struggle with the idea of leaving the familiar with it's secure income, you have been a light. I am so very grateful for your thoughtful gifts, and your calls, letters and notes of thanks and encouragement. I shall miss you all and look forward to updates as I catch you during Zoom worship services!! With warmest regards, Debbie

October Birthdays

4—Evan Peters	12—Quinera Bumgardner	23—Barb Moyer
5—Melissa Trout	13—Jean Prendergast *104	23—Chip Gibboney
6—Marty Keeney	15—Zeb Evans	26—Kathryn Beck
6—Dale McClure	16—Mark Quarry	27—Dante Fisher
8—Reagan Oser *1	17—Thomas Tuten	27—Alberta Goshorn
9—Myrna Landrum	18—Janis Jones	27—Sue Martin
9—Maxwell Paterson	19—Gavin Musser	29—Thelma Wallace
9—Yvonne Stein	19—Peg Yoder	30—Laurie McMinn
12—Donna Rhodes	20—Heather Hicks	30—Judy Pheasant
12—Jim Tuten	20—Maylin Musser	31—Maggie Lashlee
12—Joanne Laabs	23—Henry Elder	

October Anniversaries

6—Joanne & Rick Laabs	21—Brenda & Monte Furry
13—Roxann & Jon Yon	26—Lori Schoupe-Wright & John Wright
17—Sarah Worley & Ryan Wetzel	

FROM HARRIET KAYLOR: Many thanks for the wonderful response from the Stone church congregation with greeting cards on my 90th birthday on Sept. 7.

thank you!



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 leave a message at the church office! Cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100.



Food Pantry Sunday—October 18th

Since we aren't meeting to collect your food item and cash donations, we are instead accepting donations to purchase grocery cards to mail to the Huntingdon Food Pantry. Simply mail your checks to the church office or go to the donation page on our website and indicate in the note

line where the funds are to be used.

Men's Breakfast via Zoom

October 17 — 8:00 AM

Prepare your favorite breakfast and join the gathering virtually by Zoom. 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 a Zoom invitation.



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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO. 116

Or Current Occupant

STONE CHURCH NEWS

October 2020

Stewardship Series — October 4–25
Stewardship Pledge Cards due October 25!

District Conference — will not meet this year;
Stay tuned for virtual opportunities to connect!



Virtual Worship Continues — see the Friday Flash for the Zoom link or catch us later that week on our Facebook page.