

AUGUST 2024

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



Before our family left for Guatemala in June, I helped the kids each pick out a brand new journal to take along. I wanted them to reflect on their experiences as they were having them - and for them to have a way to look back and remember. I was so excited to discover that each of the other families traveling with us to Guatemala had done the same - that all of the children were being given time to journal as we went through the trip!

The kids did great! Their journals are full, not only of writing - but also drawings and places for them to paste pictures. It's a lovely keepsake - even if the writing decreased as we went through the week - and Ezra's journal got soaked on a hike to a volcano.

Unfortunately, I did not hold myself to the same discipline that I did my children. So I have tried over the last few weeks to record some memories and do some reflecting - I don't want to lose what I've learned! Or forget details within my memories.

As the summer winds down, I am reminded that we don't have to leave the country to learn, see new things, and have memories that warrant reflection. The changing of seasons and rhythms can be an invitation to muse a bit about our lives, our faith, our future. And this practice has value for our mental health - and our spiritual growth.

We mark this shift as a worshiping community by:

- having a Sunday where we intentionally share events we have done alongside or on behalf of the church this summer (August 18 will be our Sharing Sunday - we will also have a blessing for those beginning school);
- changing our worship time back to 10:45am (starting August 25);
- re-starting Sunday School (also August 25);
- and having a great big meal together to reconnect and welcome in any new college students who are starting a new adventure at Juniata!

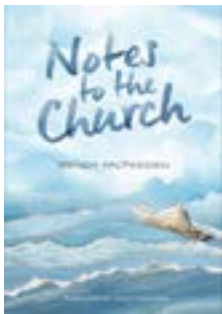
How might you also mark the end of the summer schedule in your personal or family life? Would you be willing to spend 7 minutes (the length of most folks' attention span) journaling or simply considering some questions? Questions like: What have you learned about yourself during this time when schedules are a bit looser? What brought you the most joy? What was the most difficult thing that happened? Is there something you wanted this season to hold that you have not found time for yet? Is there a way for you to prioritize that experience in the next few weeks?

I wonder what will happen if you engage those thoughts. I wonder how it might propel us further as a community. I wonder how God might use something we *almost* didn't give a second thought. The possibilities seem expansive to me...can't wait to hear what you come up with!

So Much To Read!

There's been a windfall of books coming into our library this summer! There was a book giveaway at Juniata College, purchases at Annual Conference - and then Marty Keeney won a raffle that led to even MORE books for the Stone Church Library! We have lots of new children's books, but also books for adults! We will put some of the new children's books in the sanctuary so your kids can pick them up there - but also take some time to browse the library and see what's new!

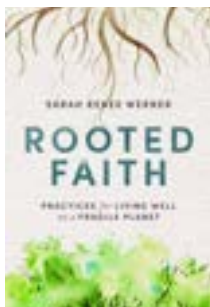
To help pique your interest, here are a few of the new books (we'll feature others in the coming months):



Notes to the Church by Wendy McFadden

For more than 25 years, Wendy McFadden's column has opened each issue of *Messenger*, the magazine of the Church of the Brethren. This book includes a selection of these columns - covering a range of topics from the personal to the global, focusing on Brethren values of peace and community. "Brief, but poetic, theological, scriptural and insightful - each short column made me think differently about something.

Compact but masterful writing that is readable, wise, and engaging." - Associated Church Press



Rooted Faith: Practices for Living Well on a Fragile Planet by Sarah Renee Werner

Drawing on Scripture, Christian history, and practical theology, author Sarah Renee Werner invites readers into a new way of seeing ourselves in relationship with the rest of creation. She offers tangible practices for opening up our hearts to both the beauty and tragedy around us and guides us toward meaningful action to restore creation. There has never been a

more crucial moment to reclaim this overlooked aspect of our faith as we seek to live differently - live well - on this fragile planet.



We are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom

Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, this bold and lyrical picture book issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption.



Walking toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim by Kathleen Krull

This true story about a little known woman who sacrificed everything for her convictions inspires us to step out for what we believe in, gathering others to join us along the way.

Preaching the Word...



Several folks have asked for my reflections on what it was like to preach at Annual Conference. Humbling. Nerve-wracking. Exciting. Emotional. Those seem like predictable feelings - and I felt them all! But here are some of the unexpected experiences of the process: Healing. Hopeful. Engaging.

There is no question that I love the church - I love our church - our Stone Church community - it is full of people who inspire and challenge and support me.

But the process of writing for the larger church was also a reminder that I love the big-C Church - in all its complicated, divisive, fallibility. There are so many people to love in this community of Christ - and whatever mistakes and missteps we make - we are doing our best. I am so grateful that I was given a text to preach on that begins with the premise of deep and abiding love and affection for the church - it invited me to inhabit that space as I wrote. What a gift - to get the chance to love the church - a community that needs loving these days.

The process of writing was months-long. There were many Bible Studies with our team. There was individual reading and reflection. There are pages and pages of notes. I spent days in the Learning Commons at Juniata College - I even walked the Labyrinth to pray! And of course - the text was spinning in the background as I moved through many months of interactions.

It was a lot of work for 20-ish minutes of air-time. I am grateful for the space this congregation gave me to write and process - to prepare so that I could faithfully do my best. And for the many ways you showed up alongside me in that work.

I worried that such a large crowd would make the experience feel less connecting than a Sunday morning - where I can look you in the eyes and feel you with me, working with me to hear God's word anew. But it was surprisingly intimate. I hope you felt it too. The encouragement of Christ, the comfort of love, the sharing of the Spirit, the tenderness of compassion, and the joy. It was all there. Thanks be to God!

WrapUp



ROMANS 16:2 (CEB)

**WELCOME+
WORTHY**

2024 CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Elections and appointments

Annual Conference moderator-elect:

Don Fitzke of Lancaster (Pa.) Church of the Brethren

Program and Arrangements Committee:

Laura Sellers, Happy Corner Church of the Brethren, Clayton, Ohio

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits

Advisory Committee, affirmed: **Andrew Hamilton**, Southeastern District executive

Mission and Ministry Board – Area 4: **Colby Patton**, Wichita (Kan.) First Church of the Brethren; *Area 5:* **Erik Brummett**, Live Oak (Calif.) Church of the Brethren; *affirmed:* **Daniel Landon Butler**, Ivester Church of the Brethren, Grundy Center, Iowa; **Edward Cesar-Fincher**, San Diego (Calif.) First Church of the Brethren; **Pete Kontra**, Atlantic Northeast District executive (ex-officio)

Bethany Seminary trustees – representing colleges: **David McFadden**, Manchester Church of the Brethren, North Manchester, Ind.; *affirmed:* **Patrick Chapman Starkey**, Cloverdale (Va.) Church of the Brethren

Eder Financial Board, affirmed: **Jerry Patterson**, Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren; **Wayne Scott**, Mechanicsburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren; **Donna Rhodes**, Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pa.

On Earth Peace Board: **Jennie L Waering**, Roanoke (Va.) Central Church of the Brethren; *affirmed:* **Priscilla A. Weddle**, Chesapeake, Va.; **Laura L. Hay**, Modesto (Calif.) Church of the Brethren; **Carol Young Lundquist**, Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Ind.



Moderator Madalyn Metzger (center) at the head table of the 2024 Annual Conference, with moderator-elect Dava Hensley and secretary David Shumate. Shown here, the historic moment at the close of the business when, for the first time, a woman passed the moderator's gavel to another woman. Photo: Glenn Riegel

Delegates handle numerous business items

The delegate body handled numerous business items during the 2024 Annual Conference. Moderator Madalyn Metzger presided over the Conference, assisted by moderator-elect Dava Hensley and secretary David Shumate.

Review and Evaluation Committee: A mandate and an extension of term of service were approved for the next Review and Evaluation Committee. A new Review and Evaluation Committee is called in the fifth year of each decade to evaluate the organizational structure and procedures of the Church of the Brethren. The committee's term was extended from two years to up to four years at the recommendation of the Standing Committee of district delegates, which foresees that in this time in the life of the denomination such evaluation may require more time. The five-member committee, chosen from at-large members of the church, will be elected by Annual Conference in 2025 and will have until 2029 to bring back a report and recommendations.

Query: A New Model of Denominational Structure: The concern of this query, brought by Miami (Fla.) Haitian Church of the Brethren and Atlantic Southeast District, was referred to the Review and Evaluation Committee.

Among other things, it notes "serious conflict and division around issues of human sexuality and biblical authority" and asks how a new model of denominational structure may give hope to those who are contemplating separation from the Church of the Brethren. The query was characterized as speaking on behalf of the multicultural sector of the church. It sparked much discussion at the microphones including appreciation for the focus on "how" and for the Haitian Brethren bringing the query, and anticipation of an opportunity to work in a more structural way toward becoming a truly multicultural denomination. Questions about it included its assumption that inclusiveness with regard to sexuality and ability to be a multicultural church are opposing values. In pre-Conference meetings of Standing Committee, the moderator explained that potential outcomes of the query include districts shifting from being geographically based to being theologically aligned.

Breaking Down Barriers—Increasing Access to Denominational Events: This study committee was granted another year to complete its work, including a feasibility study.

(continued on page 2)

For more: www.brethren.org/news/coverage/ac2024. Order the video Wrap-Up and Sermons at www.brethrenpress.com. The Annual Conference Press Team included Jan Fischer Bachman, Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford, Russ Otto, Donna Parcell, Frank Ramirez, Virginia Rendler, Glenn Riegel, Laura Sellers, Frances Townsend, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford (editor).



Photos by Glenn Riegel



Church of the Brethren Annual Conference 2024 Grand Rapids



Preachers (from left): Moderator Madalyn Metzger, Greg Broyles, Brandon Grady, Leonard Dow, and Cindy Laprade Lattimer.

Photos by Glenn Riegel and Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford



(continued from page 1)

Memorandum of Understanding with Bethany Seminary: This interim measure was approved, updating the seminary's polity regarding its board of trustees pending approval of a new agency covenant that is being developed.

Polity of On Earth Peace: Approval was given to a temporary revision of the agency's internal polity as an interim measure until a new agency covenant is finalized. The revision updates bylaws to meet diversity commitments.

Standing with People of Color: This committee is two thirds of the way through its three-year mandate to collaborate and develop materials for congregational, district, and denominational use. It was formed in response to a 2022 query from Southern Ohio and Kentucky District. Annual Conference directed the response to be a collaboration of the district with On Earth Peace and staff of the Church of the Brethren including the director of Intercultural Ministries.

Calling Denominational Leadership: This study committee presented an interim report, shared some of its findings, and received comments and input during the Conference. Issues around the calling of leadership are many and it has become increasingly difficult to get enough nominees for the Conference ballot.

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee recommendations: Two recommendations were approved by the delegates including the annual cost of living adjustment to the minimum cash salary table for pastors, which was set at 3.3

percent for 2025, and revisions to the pastor's Housing Equity Fund. The latter shifts the fund from a mutual fund account to a qualified church retirement account held by Eder Financial. The savings fund enables pastors living in parsonages to purchase their own homes after leaving the parsonage.

Special Response Process: The Standing Committee, which is tasked with reviewing the Special Response Process intended to help the denomination work through strongly controversial issues, asked the Conference officers to bring names for a task team to carry out the review.

Anniversaries: Anniversary celebrations included the 300th anniversary of Germantown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren as the oldest Brethren congregation in the Americas; the 80th anniversary of Heifer International, which got its start as the Church of the Brethren's Heifer Project; and the 45th anniversary of the Death Row Support Project.

Receiving the Revelation 7:9 Award from Intercultural Ministries (from right): Michaela Alphonse, Joshua Brockway, Duane Grady, Matt Guynn, Gilbert Romero, Joe Vecchio (in absentia), with Intercultural Ministries director Founa Augustin Badet.



Photo: Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford

By the numbers

7 churches were welcomed:

1 congregation—Southern Ohio/Kentucky

District: East Dayton (Ohio) Fellowship

1 fellowship—Atlantic Southeast District:

Jesus Lounge Ministry, Delray Beach, Fla.

5 projects—Atlantic Northeast District:

Arbor Park Church of the Brethren, Lancaster, Pa.;

Pacific Southwest District: Iglesia

del Salvador Viviente, McFarland, Calif.;

Virlina District: Monte De Dios, Eden, N.C.,

Monte de Hermon, Bassett, Va., The Way,

Roanoke, Va.

1,450 people registered including 410 delegates and 1,040 nondelegates (45 virtual).

\$47,065.36 total received in offerings:

\$16,994.42 for Core Ministries of the Church

of the Brethren with a focus on Global Mission

and Discipleship and Leadership Formation,

\$8,134.35 for the Conference operating budget

and \$6,681.35 for programing for children

and youth, \$15,255.24 for the Witness to the

Host City to Kids' Food Basket and Sleep in

Heavenly Peace—and volunteers also built

30 beds.

\$10,375 in a Silent Auction for Conference translation and interpretation expenses and operating budget.

\$8,328 in donations: \$1,198 for Conference operations, \$7,130 for Core Ministries.

\$8,200 raised by the Quilt Auction for hunger relief. AACB announced this was their last quilt auction at Annual Conference.

121 units collected by the Blood Drive.

200 or so people were at the vigil sponsored by the Gun Violence Prevention Action Team.



Right: Senior high service project at Camp Brethren Heights.

Photo: Frank Ramirez

Left: Third to fifth grade tied 103 blankets for the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

Photo: Laura Sellers



Photos above by Donna Parcell

Reflections from the Delegate

Dear Church Family,

Thanks for trusting me to serve as your delegate at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference this year. David and I had a lovely time in Grand Rapids, Michigan, visiting with old and new friends, finding fun restaurants, and worshipping as part of our larger faith community. We especially loved being there in person to experience Pastor Cindy's powerful preaching on Sunday morning! She's so smart and thought-provoking!!! I also delighted in the business sessions, believe it or not...That's mostly because I grew to care deeply for the people assigned to my small group and enjoyed our "table talk" times. Plus, the business before us was less emotionally charged than I have experienced at A.C. in the past. All in all, it was a wonderful experience. I look forward to sharing more details with you soon. In the meantime, I'll share a picture of David, who attends conference to represent Juniata.

Here he is in the Brethren Colleges booth of the exhibit hall with our friends Mark Clapper (left) from Elizabethtown and Bethany Seminary and Erin Skinner (center), who serves as chaplain at Bridgewater.

Sincerely,
Brooke Meadows



From the Witness Team

IT'S A SMALL WORLD BOOK PROJECT
AND THE ALEXANDRIA MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

On Monday, June 3, 2024, young Sandino Philippe Grugan tugged on the handle of our *It's A Small World Book Project* crate and delivered Stone Church's ISW Traveling Collection to Jill McDonald, librarian at the Alexandria Memorial Public Library. Jill received the collection with enthusiasm and displayed all the books in the collection in a manner that is "out and accessible."



This manner of display has proven to be successful. During a recent phone call, Jill told me that the ISW book collection has been a hit! She said many of the books "really did circulate, the kids' books, especially," but also the books which interest youth and adults. Jill mentioned two patrons in particular, a parent and their child, who checked out one of our ISW books about Ruby Bridges. That child enjoyed the book so much, Jill ordered a copy for the Alexandria library's permanent collection.

**In the spring of 2021, the Stone Church Witness Team applied for and received a \$750 Healing Racism Congregations and Communities Mini-grant from the Church of the Brethren and Brethren Faith in Action Fund Committee. This "seed money," as well as donations from the congregation, allowed us to purchase four curated collections of (the same) 52 books. Our congregation donated one collection to the Huntingdon County Library and one to the Mount Union Community Library. We have one collection in our Stone Church library, and the fourth collection is the "traveling collection," meant to be used by other interested groups. This collection of 52 books targets children and youth and is intended to advance knowledge and understanding of racial healing and racial equity. The books are available for you to check out, anytime, in the Stone Church library.*

Witness Team Continued...

*HOMETOWN HEARTS, STONE CHURCH, AND PAYNE CHURCH
A PARTNERSHIP*

Friends and members of Stone Church have participated in the work of Hometown Hearts (formerly known as Community Soup Kitchen) for some two decades. But it has been many years since we've prepared a meal.

On Wednesday, June 26, 2024 friends and members of Stone Church and Payne Church set out to change that and met in the St. James Lutheran Church kitchen to prepare food for meal distributions on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

Lisa Hosler led food prep on Wednesday and Thursday, while Anthony Bullett arranged for volunteer and dessert contributions by members of the Payne Church, and Anne Rice led children and their parents for meal deliveries. Other volunteers peeled potatoes, snapped beans, baked desserts, and washed dishes in a collective effort to present a Hometown Hearts Thursday Night Feast.

MANY THANKS to all 38 volunteers!

- 135 lbs. potatoes
- 40 lbs. ham
- 20 lbs. fresh green beans
- 20 lbs. carrots
- 24 loaves of homemade bread
- 38 VOLUNTEERS
 - 1 lead cook and her family
 - 1 trip to Belleville
 - 1 child care provider
- 10 potato peelers
- 9 dessert-makers
- 1 lead meal-deliverer
- 10 children and their adults
 - MANY* emails, texts, meetings
- 1 partnership with Payne Chapel A.M.E.Church



Mix all the ingredients together
and you get 225 delicious meals!

Witness Team Continued...

*HOMETOWN HEARTS / FRESH EXPRESS
ONE MORE WAY TO HELP FOOD INSECURITY IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY*

Since 2016 Hometown Hearts coordinators Michele Rupert and Amy Yoder—with help from lots of local youth and other volunteers—have been hosting the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank’s year-round FRESH EXPRESS program at the St. James Lutheran Church, 525 Mifflin Street, on the third Saturday of each month.

Stone Church members have participated in this program since its establishment in Huntingdon by delivering a variety of perishable items, like milk, butter, eggs, fruits and vegetables, as well as non-perishable items, to five or six neighbors who are otherwise unable to access this service.

If you would be willing to serve as a substitute deliverer of Fresh Express items on any of the twelve Saturdays in the year, please contact Pam Grugan



WRITTEN BY DAVID MEADOWS

Golf Tournament – August 13

The annual Brethren Open Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, August 13 at Iron Masters in Roaring Spring. This is one of the biggest fundraisers for Camp Blue Diamond and Middle PA District. Proceeds are shared from this event and are used to support ministry training, youth events, and summer camp. Your donation of \$90 includes a round of golf, cart, snacks, free gifts, dinner and chance to win lots of prizes- including the \$20,000 hole-in-one. Team prizes and skill prizes. Registration begins at 11:30 am with a 1:00 pm shotgun start. The golf committee is looking for more sponsors and donations for this event.

News From Camp Continued...

Family Camp 2024 – August 16-18

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 Hinish, 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 \$85 for Adults and \$60 for Children ages 3 – 11.

For more information and registration, visit www.campbluediamond.org.

Amazon Wish List

Did you know that Camp Blue Diamond has an Amazon Wish List?

If you're looking for a way to help from afar, consider providing something that Camp needs to help make its ministry a success. Check back often as the list will change as needs change.

Heritage Fair – September 21

Heritage Fair will be held on Saturday, September 21 at Camp Blue Diamond.

There will be food, children's activities, an auction, Dunk the Dunker Tank, crafts and demonstrations. Save the date and make plans to attend this fun event in God's beautiful creation! All proceeds go to support the ministries of Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District. In addition to Stone Church's direct contributions to the day, general volunteers are always needed for the children's area, parking, auction, and more.

Please contact David Meadows if you'd like to help – or contact Camp or the District directly. See you there!

Upcoming Events

- Brethren Open Golf Tournament - August 13
- Heritage Fair - September 21

Have questions?
Contact your Camp
Representative, David
Meadows,

From The Leadership Team

WRITTEN BY SHARON YOHN

And the family priorities are...

In May, many of us gathered to think about Stone's priorities for the coming year and discern the areas we would give some extra attention. The two highest priorities are:

- Long term financial health
- Sustaining and enhancing engagement and feelings of ownership

How, you might ask, are we going to implement these priorities? That's a great question - and we want your help in answering it! Please plan on being a part of this important discussion during our Church retreat (**August 10, 9 AM - noon, coffee and snacks at 8:45 AM, in the Fellowship Hall**).

Why should I attend a retreat?

Think, for a moment, about what brings you joy and meaning in your life.

For me, two things that are essential to my well-being are close, meaningful relationships, and feeling like I am doing worthwhile, significant work. Stone Church retreats fill both of those needs. As we tackle questions that are important to the health of Stone Church, we share and grow closer through meaningful conversations and a deep sense of purpose.

Many of the definitions of "retreat" are negative, but I like the definition from cambridge.org, "a period of time used to pray and study quietly, or to think carefully, away from normal activities and duties." Retreats are a time where we, as members of the church family, can think more broadly about what it means to be Stone Church, and how we can live into that vision.

While the specific themes may change each retreat, they always include ways of building and strengthening relationships with others in our church family.

This August, we'll be focusing on how we can live into our priorities for the coming year, particularly sustaining and enhancing engagement and feelings of ownership towards Stone. The ideas generated at this retreat will be implemented through the year.

Stone has changed many lives (including mine) for the better in countless ways. And I love that spending time maintaining Stone's energy and vitality both enhances the lives of others and my own life, as I get to deepen my relationships with my Stone Church family and walk away feeling like I have done meaningful work. I'm looking forward to August's time away to grow and work together - I hope to see you there.

Gene's Jottings

WRITTEN BY GENE GOSHORN

He's a Sower of the Word of God.

For the last 12 years, Glenn C. Parsons, a retired heating contractor from Tell Township in Huntingdon County, heads a 23-member committee that places Bibles for the Gideon Society. His wife, the former Penny Jones, is also a part of the work with him. The Gideons are famous for their work in placing Bibles in hotel rooms. They also place Bibles in other locations where people gather, such as carnivals and restaurants. The committee has placed more than 2,300 Bibles.

Asked if Bibles they place are used, Glenn said yes, he has learned of people who were just leafing through a Gideon Bible and finding verses that speak directly to them.

The Gideon Bibles first page lists portions of the Bible useful in time of sorrow, suffering, danger, fear, and other conditions. Personally, I love First Corinthians, Chapter 13. And few of us are unaware of "the valley of the shadow of death" where we "will fear no evil."

Glenn reported that the Gideons movement is based on Isaiah, 55:11. Isaiah is considered the Shakespeare of the prophets, I am told, regarded as one of the greatest and most important Old Testament books.

Isaiah's purpose was to bring back the nation of Judah – God's nation – and modern readers have seen connection between Isaiah's words and the life of Jesus.

Glenn reported that two parts of Matthew Chapter 13: 1-9, and 18-23, adds importantly to the Gideon's Bible distribution. Here, Jesus sits on a ship and tells thousands of listeners the parable of the sower of seeds; some seeds fell where the birds could eat them; some on rock where the seeds couldn't grow and other seed fell on good soil and grew a hundredfold. The same is the story of spreading the word of God, Glenn stressed.

What seeds of Good News are you sowing?

Upcoming Events

Church Retreat - Implementing our priorities

August 10th, in the Fellowship Hall, 9am - noon, 8:45am for snacks and coffee.

21st Century Faith: Experts Among Us

August 11th - 20th Century Faith: Experts Among Us Worship Series Continues In this non-consecutive worship series, we explore topics of faith through our contemporary lens in worship and then gather afterward for a simple meal and a discussion led by an "expert" from within our community. This session will be about planned giving led by Bob McMinn. Make plans now to join us!

Food Pantry Collection

August 18th, we'll roll out the red wagon to collect Chicken Noodle Soup for the local food pantry. Thanks for your generosity in caring for the hungry in our community!

Don't miss our Fall Welcome Meal!

August 25th, the end of summer, we gather back together to connect and celebrate as a community. This time helps us renew relationships, welcome college students, kick-off our fall schedule, eat, laugh, tell stories, and in general experience the best of who we are as Stone Church. Join us right after the service for this special gathering. The meal will be informal so that we can move around and connect! We can't wait to see you there!

Worship Hours

August 25th, we will return to our regular worship times.

Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 9:30am, with Worship at 10:45!

Christian Education Spotlight

Christian Education Spotlight

August 25th, Sunday School classes return for all ages. These classes provide an opportunity for connection and growth that makes a real impact in the life of faith.

- There will be a **Bible Study** for adults and teens led by Rick Laabs, diving deeper into the scriptures from each week's worship service.
- The **Sojourners Book Group** returns as well - a group of thoughtful people starting a new book study that looks at the intersections of our life and faith.
- The **OLDER ELEMENTARY** Sunday School class engages kids from 2nd - 7th grade - learning stories about the Bible and making friends along the way.
- And the **YOUNG CHILDREN's** Class teaches our smaller children stories from the Bible through crafts and games.

Whatever your generation, we hope you'll plan to be a part of these classes!

An Invitation to Ministry

An Invitation to Ministry with Previously Incarcerated Individuals

Did you know that Stone Church hosts a support program for individuals who were previously incarcerated? Now Jim Sharrock is looking for volunteers to serve as mentors for students that have completed the Farming to Freedom (F2F) parole reentry program. We call them Life Caddies. There will be a short training session and ongoing support for the volunteers. The time commitment should be 1-2 hours a week, possibly meeting the graduate at a coffee shop, at the library, or at our church.

Here is a description of the role of a Life Caddie:

A Life Caddie is a volunteer with a heart for servant leadership. They want to help people achieve goals, improve their quality of life, and develop skills. Life caddies use their lived experiences to help F2F program participants move from surviving to thriving. They can help with various challenges, including job searching, social interaction, and identifying areas for improvement - but the most essential skill is being a compassionate and active listener. You are not responsible for fixing anyone! Instead, I encourage you to be that friendly voice that cares. Life Caddies are crucial in boosting program participants' confidence and self-esteem. They offer guidance, support, and techniques to help individuals overcome self-doubt and negative self-talk, ultimately fostering a positive self-image.

Life Caddies partner with program participants, helping them achieve their goals, overcome challenges, and change their lives. They help participants identify their strengths and use that power to create the desired changes. Life Caddies help participants focus on three main areas of their lives: physical well-being, mental well-being, and social well-being.

If you're interested in learning more - please contact Jim Sharrock

Staying in Community

FIND WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BELOW!

August Birthdays

1st - Eddie Crader
1st - Terry Fultz
1st - Luke Roth
2nd - Lori Schouppe-Wright
2nd - Sharon Yohn
5th - Clay Pheasant
5th - Jeremy Santos
5th - Finley Uhrich (13 yrs!)
8th - Nina Meadows
8th - Owen Wetzel
13th - Fiona McBrayer
15th - Roxann Yon
16th - Anna Lisa Gross
19th - Luke Fultz
22nd - Otto Krugh
23rd - Andrew Murdock
23rd - Anne Swigart
24th - Marge Berrier
24th - Dale Dowdy
24th - Erica Hayden (40 yrs!)
24th - Jordan Soliday
25th - Jim Bookhamer III
25th - Morgan Knepp
26th - Emily Yohn (16 yrs!)
28th - David Meadows
29th - Donald Berrier
29th - Todd Hammer (70 yrs!)
30th - Everett Lattimer
31st - Andrew Deike

August Anniversaries

1st - Katelyn & Ryan Oser (5yrs!)
4th - Laurie & Bpn McMinn
7th - Judy & Clay Pheasant
8th - Fiona & Antonio Phillippe-Grigan
11th - Jerriann Heiser & Dean Wenger
15th - Maylin & Bill
16th - Kim & Luke Roth
23rd - Celia & Dan Cook-Huffman
24th - Meta & Mark Meckstroth
27th - Anita & Doug Soliday
31st - Stacia-Fe Gillen & Ben Steines

Homebound Members

*USE THE ADDRESSES BELOW TO REACH OUT TO THOSE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THAT ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US IN-PERSON*

Gene Goshorn
14155 Hill Valley Road
Mt. Union, PA 17066

Louise Smith
11642 Station Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Westminster Woods
Sue Martin

AUGUST - CHURCH CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 6 pm - Prayer Shawl Meeting	2	3
4 10am Sunday Service	5 Farm to Freedom 5:30pm - 8pm	6 7 pm - Witness Meeting	7	8 6:15 pm - Democrats Meeting	9	10 Church Retreat @ 8:45 In the Fellowship Hall
11 2 pm - Cub Scouts 4 pm - Boy Scouts	12	13 12 pm - Older Adult Luncheon @ Donna's Restaurant	14 7 pm - Leadership Meeting	15	16	17 Men's Breakfast @ Donna's Restaurant
18 10am Sunday Service	19 Farm to Freedom 5:30pm - 8pm	20	21	22	23	24 Huntingdon Democrat Luncheon
25 9:30 Sunday School 10:45am Sunday Service Fall Welcome Meal Following Service	26 Farm to Freedom 5:30pm - 8pm	27 7 pm - Finance Meeting	28	29	30	31

Stone Church Events

Stone Church Staff Events

Juniata College Events

Community Events