

SEPTEMBER 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

As a kid growing up in New York State, the thing I remembered most about Labor Day was that it meant the school year was about to start. Classes always began the day after, so it was a holiday that brought mixed emotions. To be honest, I'm not sure that I really realized what the holiday was until I was older. Only later did I learn about the great struggles of the labor movement, working together against powerful forces for safe working conditions and fair living wages for their work.

The Bible has a fair amount to say about how employers treat their laborers and how the wealthy treat the poor:

“The laborer deserves his wages.” And, “You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the immigrants who are in your land within your towns. You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the Lord, and you be guilty of sin.”

My dad used to say that you could tell a lot about a person by the way they treated other people. He told me not to pay attention so much to the way they treated people who were richer or more influential. He said that instead, the real measure of a person's character shows up in how they treat people without power - the more vulnerable folks around us...

Jesus of course had a lot to say about this too:

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? ... Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked...”

Over the course of this month in worship we'll be reading from the prophet Ezekiel whose visions speak to the surprising presence of God in unexpected places - far from the powerful in the temple, but instead with the poor and vulnerable. And his visions come with warnings to those who in their greed oppress them. Ezekiel also casts visions of new hope...

So, maybe this month - we can pay special attention to the folks working alongside us, offering kindness - not just to co-workers, but to all of those laboring in often unseen ways - cleaning the aisles, answering phones, and serving in checkout lines. Offer a thank you and an extra smile this month as we recognize the labor of those around us.

# Christian Education Spotlight

**Sunday School for All ages is Back @ 9:30am on Sunday Mornings!**

**It's a great time to get involved.**

- **YOUNG Children's Sunday School Class (age 2 - 1st Grade):** This class for the YOUNGER younger among us is full of energy as kids learn the stories of the Bible through crafts and games. Join this group of kids, growing up together as a family of faith!
- **OLDER Children's Sunday School Class (2nd Grade and up):** Our OLDER children's class is a great opportunity for older elementary and middle schoolers to begin to reflect more deeply on the stories of the Bible as they deepen friendships with one another!
- **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'll be reading *The God Who Sees* by Karen Gonzalez - a conversation on "Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong". This book selection will allow participants to explore some of the struggles people in the Bible must have faced when they left the land of their birth. The author moved from Guatemala to the USA so she knows first hand the struggles immigrants face. She has included a section entitled " Ideas For Reflection and Action" which will be a resource for class discussion. Extra copies of this intriguing book are available.
- **New EXPLORING STONE CHURCH Class:** Coming soon!  
See below for more information!

## It's Time for a DTR Conversation...

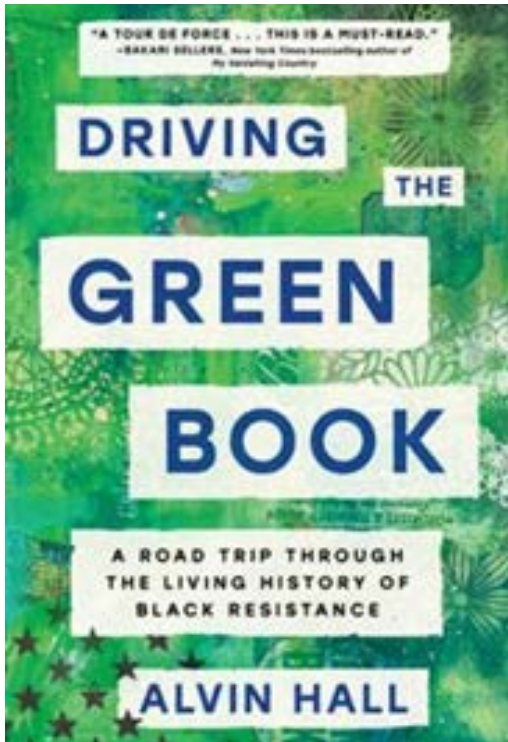
At the end of September, we will begin a Sunday School class called Exploring Stone Church. It will be an opportunity for folks who are newer to our community to get to know each other and the mission and vision of Stone Church. We will also explore topics like the Bible, Church History, and Church Ordinances. While it will be styled similarly to membership class - and the opportunity to make membership official will be available to you - there is no obligation to become a member at the end of it. We just want to explore together how we can become better followers of Jesus together.

Pastors Ben and Cindy will teach the class, beginning at 9:30AM on September 29. We will have 7 sessions (with a break in the middle on October 20th) This class is open to *anyone* - even longtime members and friends - who want to ask questions and learn together. We hope you'll join us! Contact the office if you are interested.

# Much More To Read!

## Still more new books!

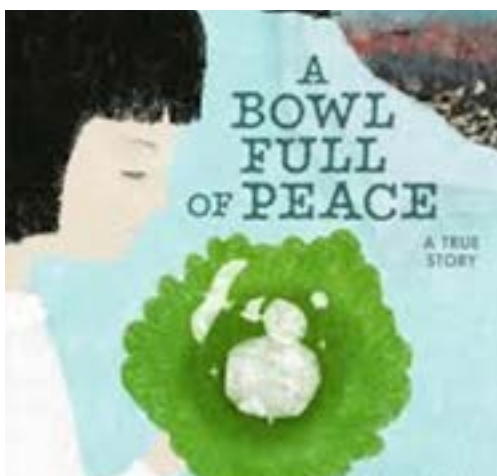
A windfall of new books! Marty Keeney hit the jackpot! He won the Brethren Press door prize at the Annual Conference, so we hope you'll take advantage of the new additions to our Church Library!



### Driving the Green Book:

#### A Road Trip through the Living History of Black Resistance by Alvin Hall

This book is informative, difficult, and hopeful. Following the Negro Motorist Green Book, Alvin Hall takes all of us on a trip through history - filled with violence and fear - as well as a journey through creativity and ingenuity as we learn about the ways blacks created ways to survive Jim Crow Era injustices. The stories and recollections of the people he interviews along the way are not to be missed!

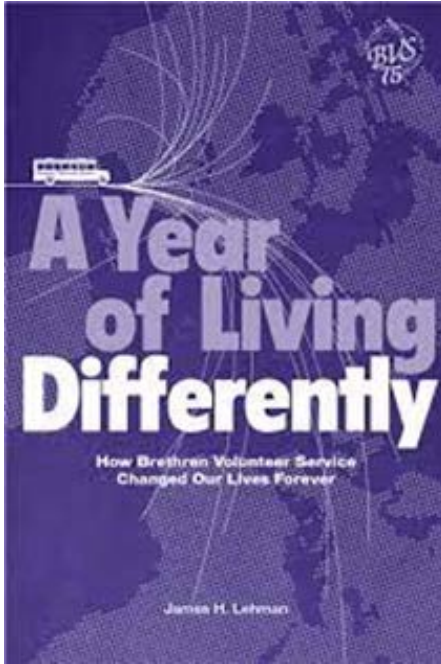


### A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story by Caren Stelson

On August 9, 1945, an atomic bomb explodes over Nagasaki. Sachiko's family suffers devastating losses. In the rubble of their home, they find a leaf-shaped bowl that has miraculously survived without a chip or crack. This bowl, which was passed down through the generations, connects Sachiko and her family to the past while giving them hope for the future.

**Liturgies for Wholeness: 60 Prayers to Encounter the Depth, Creativity, and Friendship of God in Ordinary Moments by Audrey Elledge and Elizabeth Moore**

When your spirit is restless and you can't find the words, these modern-day prayers help you articulate your brokenness to the God who calls you beloved.

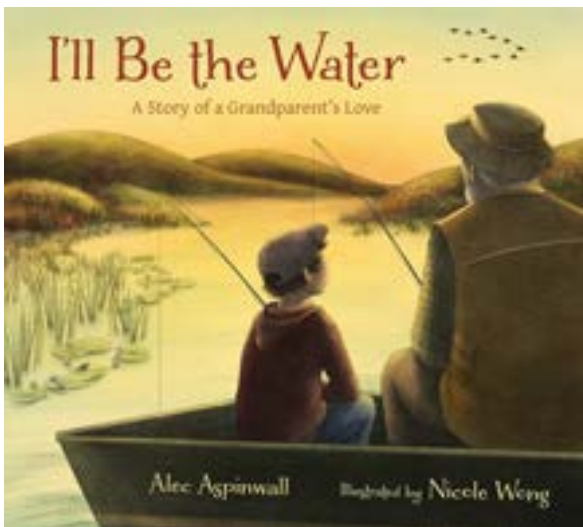


**A Year of Living Differently:  
How Brethren Volunteer Service Changed Our Lives  
Forever by James H. Lehman**

This book is something of a photo album in words, providing snapshots of the people, places, ideas, and stories that make Brethren Volunteer Service a unique organization with an outsized impact around the world. This is a book for browsing, exploring, reflecting, and being inspired by the living legacy of BVS.

**Preaching the Gospel of Mark: Proclaiming the Power of God by Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm**

Our own Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm has written this commentary that makes the message of Mark come alive and urges the participation of all God's people in the witness of the good news that God has transformed human reality through Jesus Christ. Geared toward preaching, but accessible to all - reading through it may feel like spending some time with a former Stone Church Pastor and friend.



**I'll be the Water: A Story of a Grandparent's  
Love by Alec Aspinwall**

This is a beautiful and touching book that you will want to share with a child you love! Dealing with issues of aging, death - this book is a comforting look at love that lasts forever.

# Building a Strong Foundation for the Future

**Dear Stone Church Family,**

Last January and at our subsequent family meetings and retreats, a number of us expressed the desire for a capital campaign on behalf of the church. Our last campaign - more than a decade ago - focused on renovations and updating our physical plant. The retreat conversations turned to a campaign to grow Stone's endowment. The Leadership Team named me and our Treasurer Jamie White as chairs of a capital campaign committee. A steering committee is currently forming, and we want to assure you that the planning and work of the campaign is underway. The best example of that was Bob McMinn's *Experts Among Us* presentation from August 11 on using planned giving through wills, trusts and QCDs to benefit Stone in the long run. I didn't know what a QCD was and since August is *National Write Your Will Month*, all of this information was timely.

If you missed Bob's session and would like to have the information Bob shared contact me or Jamie. You will be hearing more from the capital campaign team in the coming weeks and months as we seek gifts, pledges and commitments in people's estates to help Stone Church flourish.

(Of course, if you want to seed this project with an early gift to the endowment, let us know.)

Remember, just as we sang this summer, financial gifts are much like faith the size of a mustard seed, they may be small but can grow into something mighty and nourishing.

**Jim Tuten and Jamie White**



# News From CAMP

WRITTEN BY DAVID MEADOWS

## Heritage Fair – September 21

The Middle PA District Heritage Fair is right around the corner! Spend the day at Camp Blue Diamond for this annual festival featuring food, crafts, activities, and more!

It's a family reunion for all of our camp and church friends as we eat, visit, and have fun.

The day starts with breakfast in the Lodge and booths open at 8:30 a.m. Enjoy all of the traditional Heritage Fair features including the auction, dunk tank, crafts, children's activities, demonstrations, and entertainment. Traditional foods include beef and noodles, apple dumplings and apple butter pies, fresh cider, pies and cakes, ice cream, soups, hot sausage, fudge, whoopie pies, chili, and so much more. Last year, the Polar Bear Plunge and Communion Bread Contest were a huge success! NEW this year will be a pie eating contest! The money raised at Heritage Fair helps the District maintain its support of ministries throughout the region and helps Camp Blue Diamond maintain an amazing summer camp program.

Overnight lodging in the summer camp cabins and Lodge is available, but going fast! Contact the Camp office at 814-667-2355 for more info.

Volunteers for parking are needed. If you're able to help, contact David Meadows (see below for contact info).



For more information about Heritage Fair, and a photographic look back at fairs past, visit [www.campbluediamond.org/heritage-fair-1](http://www.campbluediamond.org/heritage-fair-1).

Have questions?  
Contact your Camp  
Representative, David  
Meadows

# A Special Message

FROM CAROLYN LIDSTON

## Greetings treasured Stone Family,

I am on the mend and glad for it. I will have several weeks of physical therapy ahead of me. We value your continued prayers. All of you have my deepest gratitude for the kindness and support that you have always given both Bruce and I. Especially during the past few months.

Thank you,  
Carolyn Lidston

# Gene's Jottings

WRITTEN BY GENE GOSHORN

## Talking About Juneteenth

*Our newsletter schedule is a little different over the summer. Here's a reflection by Gene looking back at the Juneteenth holiday...*

For most of my years, the day between June 18th and June 20th was just June 19th. June 19th is now a Federal Holiday. This was the first new Federal Holiday since Martin Luther King's birthday was honored in 1983. The new holiday is called Juneteenth. On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln announced that the Emancipation Proclamation would go into effect on January 1st, 1863. President Lincoln promised freedom to enslaved people in all parts of the Confederacy, including Texas. Texas was so remote and there were so few Union troops in Texas that the freedom order did not actually go into full effect until June 19th, 1865. That was 71 days after Robert E. Lee surrendered, 900 days after the Emancipation Proclamation officially went into effect, and 24 days after the disbanding of the Confederate military department covering Texas. During the Civil War, Emancipation came at different dates in different places. (January 1st, July 4th, August 1st, September 22nd, November 1st, April 1st and June 19th.)

But this final end to slavery in the US on June 19th came to be celebrated with remembrances, often called Jubilee Days in reference to the Biblical year of Jubilee when slaves were to be set free.

Celebrated at first with church picnics and speeches, this Freedom Day is to remember and honor men, women and children who made sacrifices for freedom. Sometimes with their lives. As a Federal Holiday, Juneteenth was sponsored by Senator Edward Markey of Massachusetts and sixty co-sponsors. The President signed the bill on June 17th, 2021.



# Upcoming Events

## **Sojourner's Class**

To be meeting every Sunday mornings, at 9:30 in the Conference Room Studying, "The God Who Sees".

## **Mount Union Area Ladies' Prayer Breakfast**

***Held in-person on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 8am.***

***At the Crossview Missional Church, 18546 Cooks Road, Cassville***

The prayer breakfast offers an opportunity for local women from many different denominations and congregations to share their faithful Christian convictions with stories, prayer, and song. In September, Raylene Adams will be our speaker.

## **Church Picnic**

***September 8, 2024, at 4:00pm, meal at 5:00pm***

***Allegheny Shelter at Raystown Lake***

Join us for a potluck picnic and fellowship. There is space to play if you have children and want to arrive early - and a beautiful view of the lake.

Please bring your own table setting and drink in addition to a dish to share.

(Keep in mind that college students are welcome but are not expected to bring anything!)

We hope this time together will be relaxing and fun - don't miss it!

## **The Older Adult Bruncheon**

***Wednesday, September 11th***, we will meet at ***11am*** in the Fellowship Hall for Brunch.

Rick and Eddie will delight us again as chefs. We hope to see "a bunch at brunch"!

## **How to Be a Good Neighbor with your Polar Opposite**

***Thursday, September 12th, 9am - 3pm in the Fellowship Hall***

Offered in partnership with Stone Church, the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center and Juniata's Baker Peace Institute. This workshop led by peace studies scholars Amr Abdalla and Joseph Bock is an incredible opportunity to explore this dynamic and develop strategies for being agents of change - peacemakers - in our community and beyond.

## **Food Pantry Collection**

***On Sunday, September 15th***, we'll roll out the red wagon to collect **TOMATO SOUP** for the local food pantry. Thanks for your generosity in caring for the hungry in our community!

# Upcoming Events Continued...

## 21st Century Faith - Experts Among Us: Politics

**Sunday, September 22nd, after worship**

As this election season kicks into high gear and political forces seek to divide us against one another, we can start to wonder what it looks to live faithfully in the midst of our world? The early Christians were a persecuted minority in the midst of a vast Empire. But we find ourselves living as a majority in a democracy. How do we understand the scriptures in the light of our 21st century context?

Join us for the latest installment of our 21st Century Faith series as we explore these questions - then gather downstairs after worship for a meal and a presentation by some of our very own Experts Among Us, Juniata College political science faculty members Dennis Plane and Lauren Bowen (Juniata's Provost). You won't want to miss it!

## Taize Worship

**September 22 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary**

Join us for a contemplative worship using music, scripture, prayer, and silence to rest in the presence of God. The service is informal and open to anyone. Please consider trying it if you have never attended! For more information on Taize you can go here: <https://www.taize.fr/en>.

# Staying In The Community

FIND WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BELOW!

## September Birthdays

3rd - Jane Laprade	19th - Henry Thurston-Griswold
3rd - Holden McBrayer	20th - Aiden Borgardt
5th - Cheryl McClain	22nd - Bill Peters
8th - Kristy Launtz	24th - Grace Cook-Huffman
8th - Bill Musser	25th - Joan Engle
9th - Jessica Buterbaugh	25th - Greta Hall
10th - Barb Purdy	25th - Neva Lattimer
11th - Rachael Beck	25th - Austin Plane
13th - Pam Hileman	25th - Doug Soliday
14th - Brandon Beck	30th - Tom Ness
14th - Barbara Detwiler	
14th - Cyrus Lattimer	
14th - Ezra Lattimer	
15th - Randy Yoder	
16th - Rowan Dickey	
18th - Elsie Weld	

## September Anniversaries

1st - Bert & Melissa McBrayer  
6th - Ben & Cindy Lattimer  
15th - Chuck & Sharon Yohn  
20th - Anne & John Shetron Swigart  
21st - Jeremy Santos & Mary Garvey  
25th - Cindy & Jeff Clarke  
25th - Charlie & Robin Paterson  
29th - Jeff & Pam Adams

## 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

Westminster Woods  
Sue Martin

Louise Smith  
11642 Station Road  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

# SEPTEMBER - CHURCH CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30 Sunday School 10:45am Sunday Worship 2 pm - Cub Scouts 4 pm - Boy Scouts	2	3 7 pm - Witness Meeting	4	5 6 pm - Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:15 Chior Practice	6	7 8am Mt. Union Ladies Prayer Breakfast
8 9:30 Sunday School 10:45am Sunday Worship 4pm Church Picnic- Raystown Lake 2 pm - Cub Scouts 4 pm - Boy Scouts	9 Farm to Freedom 5:30pm - 8pm	10	11 11am - Older Adult Luncheon in Fellowship Hall 5pm BBBS Meeting 7 pm - Leadership Meeting	12 9am Good Neighbor Workshop 6:15 pm - Democrats Meeting 7:16 Chior Practice	13	14
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:45am Sunday Worship 2 pm - Cub Scouts 4 pm - Boy Scouts	16 Farm to Freedom 5:30pm - 8pm	17	18 5pm BBBS Meeting	19 7:16 Chior Practice	20	21
22 9:30 Sunday School 10:45am Sunday Worship 12pm Experts Among Us Meal 2 pm - Cub Scouts 4 pm - Boy Scouts 6pm Taize Worship	23 Farm to Freedom 5:30pm - 8pm	24 7 pm - Finance Meeting	25 5pm BBBS Meeting	26 7:16 Chior Practice	27	28
29 9:30 Sunday School 10:45am Sunday Worship	30 Farm to Freedom 5:30pm - 8pm					

■ Stone Church Events    
 ■ Stone Church Staff Events    
 ■ Juniata College Events    
 ■ Community Events