NOVEMBER 2026

# The Stone Church Newsletter

The monthly publication of the Stone Church of the Brethren

## Our Welcome Statement

*ADOPTED BY OUR CONGREGATION JANUARY 2012*
*(UPDATED APRIL 2026)*

We are a Christ-centered community, which celebrates every individual as a unique and beloved child of God.

We welcome all—of any 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.

*READ MORE INSIDE:*


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# From the Pastor's Desk

As I drive around these days, I often find myself flipping on the radio and listening to the news. Or when I'm sitting around with a few spare moments I find myself scrolling through news sites on my phone.
I don't know why. It's become a habit - but I'm not sure it's a good one. There's a sense of urgency - a feeling like I need to know what's going on. Maybe it's partly an "alertness response" to the pervasive sense of constant change, the sense of fear and panic and impending doom that seems to be in the air. It is important to stay informed. But I've come to wonder about the value staying immersed in the constant cycle morning, noon, and night.

The other day I turned on the radio to listen to the news again - but found an old song playing instead. I stayed there. And it reminded me that while the news may inform me about what's happening in the world here and now - art and music and stories - these things speak to deeper, more constant truths. Lost in the hurricane of the modern information world are the anchoring truths of deep stories. These are the stories we tell each other about our lives and the lives of our loved ones. These are the stories we read in books - some of which have been told and retold for hundreds and thousands of years. In the novel East of Eden, one of the characters, a man named Lee, reflects that "No story has power, nor will it last, unless we feel in ourselves that it is true and true of us…"

Every week in worship and in Sunday School we gather together to look at these lasting types of stories - not just the urgent stories of the day - but the deeper ones that guide us through the storm. This month we'll explore the stories of David and Zacchaeus and Peter that have spoken to people for generations. Then, on November 22nd in worship, we'll tell a long-form story - road-tripping along with the journeys of Paul. And it's not just the stories of the Bible that ground us. In our small groups and fellowship we take time to tell each other our own stories and to listen to one another.

This is the work - and it feels like it matters now more than ever. Paradoxically, in this age when the pace is frantic and urgent, the work of slowing down becomes even more important. In this season of our church, we're working to step back and examine ourselves. We're looking at our individual lives and at our life together. I am so thankful for this community of faith. I am thankful for the ways we share and wrestle with these deep stories together. I am thankful for the ways each of you invest in our shared life - committing to each other as we drop below the noise and recenter on the things that matter most.

**We are Here to Help Each Other: Fall Stewardship Series**

Our annual Stewardship Series and Pledge Drive continues through November 15. We will build our 2027 Budget based on pledges, as this allows us to plan based on real data as opposed to educated guesses. **Please turn your pledge in by November 15!**

In worship, we will continue with our Fall Series, We are Pilgrims on a Journey, with a slight shift to a line in the song that comes later: We are Here to Help Each Other. We will look at stories of people in the Bible who find themselves in a place of expanding what they think of as "spiritual" so that they can use the fullness of God's gifts to them to put their faith in practice. We will continue to ask questions of the stories and of ourselves about what gives us life, where are we feeling depleted, how are we spending our time - and our money - as a community and as individuals?

During the four weeks of the Stewardship Series, we will also have a time of offering where we pass plates in the sanctuary. This practice used to be a regular part of how we worship together - but as giving moved more and more online within the community, we adjusted our practices. And yet, giving is an incredibly important spiritual practice. At Annual Conference, when talking about offering a wise woman from a church I used to attend, asked me, "How will your children learn if you don't show them?" More than that, how will our relationship to giving change if it is not situated within the act of worship?

You are invited to experiment with your own giving practices during these four weeks. What might it be like for you to bring some cash or a check in on those Sundays? Will the practice orient you to the generosity of God? Is it possible that participating in giving alongside others as opposed to alone or automatically from your bank brings unexpected joy? How may it help each other to walk the mile and bear the load?

There is a pledge card included in this newsletter. We will also mail pledge cards out with a letter from the Finance Team. You may fill the pledge card out and return it through the offering, click on the link to fill it out through our website, or call the office to make your pledge for 2027. **Pledges are due by November 15!**

May this period of focus on the spiritual discipline of giving bring reminders as well as new understandings, discoveries as well as new paths of exploration in our pilgrim journey together as a family of faith.

STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

PLEDGE CARD

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

I/WE PLAN TO GIVE $ _____ EACH ◯WEEK ◯MONTH

FOR AN ANNUAL TOTAL OF $_____ TOWARDS OUR 2027 MISSION AND MINISTRY.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE PLEDGE, I COMMIT TO THESE LONG TERM FUNDS:

PIANO/ORGAN FUND $ _____ PROPERTY FUND $_____ ENDOWMENT $_____

TO PLEDGE ONLINE (PREFERRED METHOD), GO TO:
HTTPS://WWW.HUNTINGDONSTONECHURCH.ORG/ONLINE-PLEDGE-CARD.HTML
OR EMAIL THE OFFICE AT:
STONECHURCHOFTHEBRETHREN@GMAIL.COM

# NEWS from CAMP

WRITTEN BY DAVID MEADOWS

**Thanks for a fantastic Heritage Fair!**

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Heritage Fair at Camp Blue Diamond on September 19th! Heritage Fair is a joint fundraiser between Camp and the Middle PA District Church of the Brethren. This year, we raised over $22,000! These funds help make summer camp affordable for everyone and keep Camp a peaceful place for retreat year-round. It also helps the District provide support, resources, and programs for pastors, churches, and youth. A special THANK YOU to all of the volunteers, including Jeannie Lashlee and Paul Hoover, who ran the sawdust pile activity for Stone Church. Heritage Fair wouldn't have been the success it was without you!

**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 – the list will change as needs change. There's something for every budget, with items ranging from under $10 to over $500. To view the wish list, find a link on the 'Ways to Give' webpage at https://campbluediamond.org/ways-to-give

**2027 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.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cooking Camp | Grades 5 - 6 | May 14 - 16 |
| Kiddie Weekend | Ages 5 - 7 + Adult | June 5 - 6 |
| CIT Training | Grades 9 - 11 | June 5 - 6 |
| Kiddie Camp | Ages 5 - 7 + Adult | June 17 - 18 |
| Tenderfoot Camp | Grades 1 - 2 | June 17 - 18 |
| Junior 1 | Grades 3 - 5 | June 20 - 25 |
| Jr. High 1 | Grades 6 - 8 | June 20 - 25 |
| Creative Arts | Grades 5 - 8 | June 27 - Jul 2 |
| Yough Adventure | Grades 7 - 9 | June 27 - Jul 2 |
| Pioneer Camp | Grades 2 – 4 | July 6 - 9 |
| Caving Camp | Grades 5 – 7 | July 6 - 9 |
| Youth Camp | Grades 8 - 12 | July 11 - 16 |
| Junior 2 | Grades 3 - 5 | July 18 - 23 |
| Outdoor Living Skills | Grades 9 - 12 | July 18 - 23 |
| Jr. High 2 | Grades 6 - 8 | July 25 - 30 |
| Jr. Adventure | Grades 4 – 5 | July 25 - 30 |
| Family Camp | All Ages | August 20 – 22 |

**Upcoming Events...**

| | |
|---|---|
| Youth Retreat | January 15 – 17 |
| Junior Retreat | January 29 – 31 |
| Jr. High Retreat | February 12 – 14 |
| Annual Dinners | March 20 & 21 |

# *It's a Small World* Book Project, Part 2

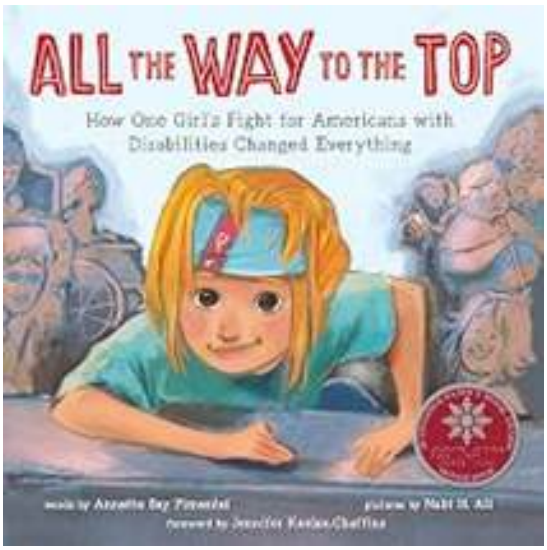
SUBMITTED BY PAM GRUGAN

**COMING SOON…**

In the October issue of our Stone Church newsletter, our pastor celebrates reading as a spiritual discipline. If you'd like to be a spiritual discipline super-star too, CHECK OUT our two "It's a Small World" Book Project collections in the back of the sanctuary. We're planning to add SIX NEW BOOKS (hopefully to your TBR list) and expand the opportunity to learn about strategies for making everyone feel welcome at Stone Church.

*Rescue & Jessica, A Life-Changing Friendship*
by Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes

Read about how a service dog named Rescue helps a girl with two prosthetic legs.

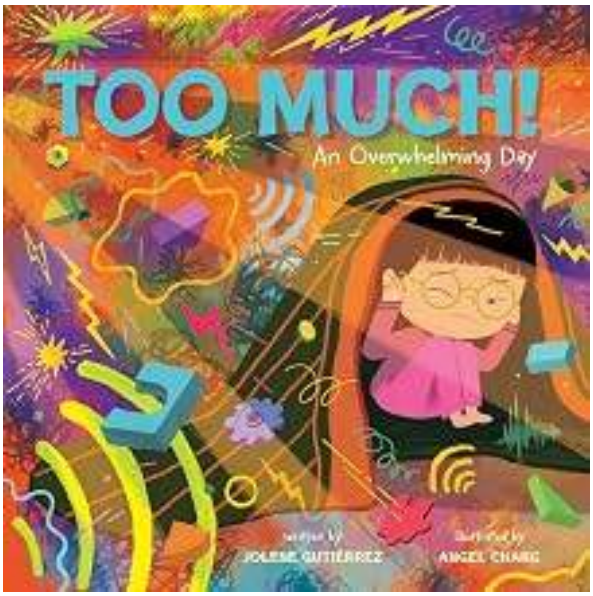



*All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything*
by Annette Bay Pimentel

In this book you'll learn how an 8-year-old with cerebral palsy climbed out of her wheelchair to crawl up the steps to the United States Capitol because it was the only way she could get to the front door.

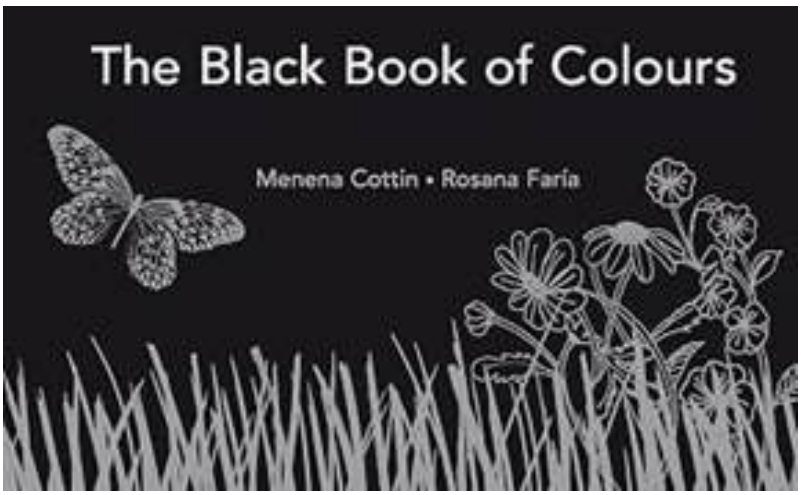
*Tenacious Athletes: 15 Adventures Alongside Disabled Athletes*
by Patty Cisneros Prevo

Be inspired! Read about athletes who develop strong abilities despite or because of particular challenges.




*Too Much! An Overwhelming Day* by Jolene Gutiérrez

Read this book and learn how to respect some people's sensory needs




*The Black Book of Colors* by Menena Cottin

What do colors smell like, taste like, and feel like when you
can't see them?

*Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah*
by Laurie Ann Thompson and Sean Qualls

Read about how a boy with one leg hops two miles to school, plays soccer with crutches, teaches himself to ride a bike, and becomes a national hero.

# From the Property Team

*SUBMITTED BY PHIL PATERSON*

There will be a delay until the spring, to have the painting done on the church. The wet weather that we have had this summer and some health issues put our painter behind schedule.

The Property Committee has agreed to wait until then, because this is the only qualified painter that is capable  to do the project.

The Property Team is also looking at the lighting issues that we have in different areas of the building.

# From the Deacon Team

*SUBMITTED BY DARLENE CHIVERS*

**Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!**

During this season of harvest, color, and cooler weather I find it easy to give thanks. Today, for example, is a glorious fall day full of clear blue skies, of leaves blowing in the breeze, gently dropping to the ground and of anticipation for the holidays to come.
Amid all of this glory, I started thinking of the beatitudes for some reason. I love unexpected gifts!

There are four that are staying with me, and I hope for a long visit:

Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted….
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for holiness….
Blessed are the merciful….
Blessed are the peacemakers….
For me, these four describe in some way the role of deacons in our church family.

I give thanks for being part of Stone Church, for having a deacon and for being a deacon. For being welcomed and having the chance to be welcoming. For being cared for and supported. The opportunity to care for and support the people in my care group. As well as Stone Church family. My heart overflows.

# Christian Education Spotlight

**Sunday Mornings @ 9:30am**

- **Bible Study** - A gathering for adults led by Rick Laabs, diving deeper into the scriptures from each week's worship service. You can join in person in the room to the RIGHT of the office, or over Zoom!
- **Sojourners Book Group** - This book group meets in the room to the LEFT of the Office, or over Zoom! It is full of thoughtful people exploring the intersections of our life and faith.
- **YOUNGER and ELEMENTARY Kids' Sunday School** - meets in the "Room of Bernard" down the Hall from the Office. Kids in Pre-K thru 5th grades are invited to come build and strengthen friendships while learning the stories of the Bible through fun and games.
- **YOUTH Class for Middle and High Schoolers** - Meets upstairs in the 3rd Floor Classroom. Moving beyond our childhood understanding of the stories of our faith, and asking deeper questions as young people grow in relationships with God and one another.

**INTERGENERATIONAL Sunday School Class**
**Beginning on Sunday, November 29th @ 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall**
During the weeks of Advent we'll begin an INTERGENERATIONAL Sunday School class series - with all ages gathering together in the Fellowship Hall to build relationships and celebrate the stories of the season with music, crafts, and games. You won't want to miss it!

# Upcoming Events

**Food Collection for the Backpack Program**
***Sunday, November 1st, During Worship***
The Backpack Program at Standing Stone Elementary School here in Huntingdon provides easy to prepare food for students in need to take home on weekends, ensuring that no child goes hungry when school meals aren't available.
This month, we'll be collecting donations of **MICROWAVEABLE Mac & Cheese and Ravioli!**
Every small act of generosity helps feed a child and strengthen our community. Together, we can make sure every student starts their week nourished and ready to learn!

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering**
***Thursday, November 5th at 6pm in the room LEFT of the Office***
Join together with folks knitting and crocheting beautiful prayer shawls - which are given out to folks going through difficult times as a tangible expression of the embrace of God and this community - as the shawl wraps around them. The embrace of God and this community
If you would like to be a part of this group - or if you know someone who could use the love and support and prayers of our church family in this way - please reach out to Donna Rhodes for more information!

**Mount Union Area Ladies' Prayer Breakfast**
***Saturday, November 7th, at 8am in Stone Church of the Brethren Fellowship Hall***
What a refreshing outlook to gather through the loving lens of ecumenical uplift and affirmation. The monthly Mount Union Area Ladies' Prayer Breakfast offers just that. At the last two gatherings we had around 50 people from 12-18 different congregations!
We are here to find unity, solidarity, ways to be the church together, and the Body of Christ. We are here to rejoice with each other. That each one of us has a faith that brings them joy and hope that can be shared through living action and spoken words.
We eat, pray, sing, and share our faith. What a blessing! The guest speaker this month is Donna Rhodes! We will be offering the message, "Seeds...Roots...People....Places...God's Guidance in our Lives."
Please contact Anne Rice or Pam Grugan if you are able to contribute a **BREAKFAST CASSEROLE** or **BAKED GOODS.**

**Taize Worship**
***Sunday, November 8th at 6pm in the Sanctuary***
Join us for this contemplative worship experience! Using scripture, prayer, simple music, and silence, this service helps us to be rooted in God's presence. There is a beauty to this time together that it is difficult to put into words - we hope you'll join us!

**Older Adult Luncheon**
***Tuesday, November 10th at Noon in the back room at Donna's Restaurant***
Join us for this wonderful time of good food and great fellowship!

**Food Collection Sunday for the Food Pantry**
***Sunday, November 15th, during Worship***
We'll be rolling out the red wagon once again to collect food for the local food pantry to care for hungry folks in our community. The item this month is **HAND SOAP** and **PEANUT BUTTER**.

**Men's Breakfast**
***Saturday, November 21st at 8am in the Back Room @ Donna's Restaurant***
Please join us for some wonderful fellowship, plenty of corny jokes, the sharing of life stories, some great food, and contemplation on a light reflection. If you haven't attended before, now is a great time to consider giving it a try!

**Salvation Army Bell Ringers needed!**
***Friday, December 5th from 1pm - 6pm at Ace Hardware***
It can be hard to find an extra hour during the holidays - but this is worth it!
Ringing the bell to encourage donations to the Salvation Army is an excellent opportunity for caregivers to model charitable giving in our community. It's a great way to spend time with friends ringing the bell together and getting to know other volunteers. This is also a family-friendly service opportunity.

Unsure of what to do? It couldn't be easier! You stand near the door to Ace Hardware where a red kettle will already be and ring the bell. It's that easy. And, you don't even have to stand. If needed, feel free to bring your own chair.
For questions or to volunteer, please contact Jeannie Lashlee

# Staying in Community

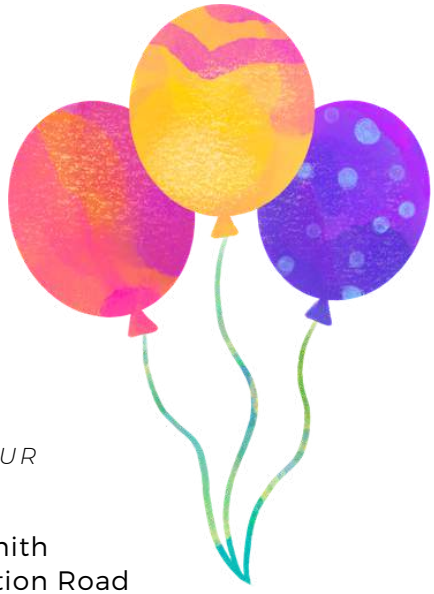
FIND WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BELOW!

## 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
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



## Homebound Members

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

Gene Goshorn
156 Snyder Memorial Road
Marienville, PA 16239

Westminster Woods
Sue Martin
120 Aspen Lane
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Louise Smith
11642 Station Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652

# November 2026

Stone Church Staff, Building Maintenance, Community Events, Juniata Student Events, Stone Church Events

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| 1<br>9:30am - Sunday School<br>10:45am - Sunday Worship<br>2pm - Cub Scout Meeting<br>4pm - Boy Scout Meeting | 2<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm | 3<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm<br>Election Day | 4<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm<br>4pm - Cookies Care.<br>5pm - BBBS Meeting | 5<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 1pm<br>6pm Prayer Shawl Group<br>7:16pm Choir Practice | 6 | 7<br>8am Mt. Union Ladies Prayer Breakfast at Stone Church |
| 8<br>9:30am - Sunday School<br>10:45am - Sunday Worship<br>2pm - Cub Scout Meeting<br>4pm - Boy Scout Meeting | 9<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm | 10<br>12pm Adult Luncheon<br>12pm Worship Team Meeting<br>5:45pm Witness Team Meeting<br>6pm Deacon Meeting | 11<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm<br>4pm - Cookies Care.<br>5pm - BBBS Meeting<br>7pm Leadership Meeting | 12<br>9:45am - CET Meeting<br>6:15 Huntingdon Democrats Meeting<br>7:16pm Choir Practice | 13 | 14 |
| 15<br>9:30am - Sunday School<br>10:45am - Sunday Worship<br>2pm - Cub Scout Meeting<br>4pm - Boy Scout Meeting<br>6pm Taize Service | 16<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm | 17<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm | 18<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm<br>4pm - Cookies Care.<br>5pm - BBBS Meeting | 19<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 1pm<br>7:16pm Choir Practice | 20 | 21<br>8am Stone Church Men's Breakfast at Donna's Restaurant |
| 22<br>9:30am - Sunday School<br>10:45am - Sunday Worship<br>2pm - Cub Scout Meeting<br>4pm - Boy Scout Meeting | 23<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm | 24<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm<br>7pm Finance Team Meeting | 25<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm<br>4pm - Cookies Care.<br>5pm - BBBS Meeting | 26<br>Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday | 27 | 28 |
| 29<br>10:45am - Sunday Worship<br>9:30am - Sunday School<br>2pm - Cub Scout Meeting<br>4pm - Boy Scout Meeting | 30<br>Office Hours<br>9 - 3pm | | | | | |