



Stone Chippings Newsletter

December 2021

Why?:

Several years ago I remember coming across a TED Talk by a guy named Simon Sinek entitled Start with Why. Since then, millions of people have been inspired by such a profound idea: in order for us to truly flourish in this world, we need to know why we do what we do. In his talk and similarly titled book, Sinek explains that most people and organizations function on three different levels: What, How, and Why. The first two levels, What and How, are easy enough to understand. We know what and how we operate a business or even our own personal lives. But why do we do it? Sinek suggests that when we really wrestle to understand our Why, that's when we are on the way to understanding fulfillment and purpose.

Why does Old Stone Presbyterian Church exist today? Sure, we know the What of our church community: we worship, gather for fellowship, and even serve in mission. We know the How of our church; some of us can even recite the Book of Order and talk about the joy of stewardship and committee work! But why do we exist? This is a much more complex question for us to process.

And this is where I'd like for us to begin our journey together during this transitional ministry experience. Especially in an age of competing interests, organizations, teams, and obligations, it's essential that each of us begin to wonder aloud why we go to church, why we give financially, why we offer our time, talents, and treasures to the Old Stone community. And when each of us begins to answer this question of Why in our own lives, then perhaps we can begin to articulate a message of Why for the church as a whole, and for the world around us.

Why do we gather to worship each Sunday?

Why do we bring our children and family to this church, and invite our friends to join us?

Why does Old Stone exist here in Lewisburg in the year 2021?

As we begin to respond to this question, I invite your feedback as well! Feel free to stop by and share your response. Write a letter, send an email, give me a phone call. I look forward to helping us piece together the Why of Old Stone as we continue this journey in faith!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Stewardship:

It is great to be in church again and not at home watching you-tube or listening to the radio. We have been using media to substitute for attending church for two years, so we became proficient with you-tube as a substitute for attending church. We can use the new technology in the future, but it can not replace our attending church.

I am here to talk about stewardship and not a film critic praising our video artistry. Donations to the church are down. Fortunately, our expenses are lower. We have continued to maintain and improve our facilities. We anticipate returning to normal operations gradually as the Covid-19 pandemic subsides. We need to also return to our usual practice of tithing to the church. Christmas will be here in 40 days. We have many programs for young and old. Let's enjoy being back to worship. It is time to show our commitment.

Thank you for your support!

Presbyterian Women's Ministry - Outreach Opportunities:

The women's ministry participates in numerous community outreach projects. Perhaps, two of the longest standing relationships are our programs with Greenbrier Health Care Center (formally Greenbrier Manor) and the young women at Davis Stuart's McCormick House.

For over twenty years, church women and volunteers from our congregation have led a monthly fellowship time with the residents at Greenbrier Health Care Center. Our time together is full of singing old hymns, stories, laughter, prayer and sharing our love for our Savior. The pandemic has been challenging for the residents and staff of this care facility. Even though our monthly meetings have not been permitted to take place, we have continued to provide care baskets and cards of prayer and encouragement for residents and staff over the last year. The youth in our church have helped by providing homemade crafts for resident's rooms. Our hope is to share God's light and love in unique ways until we can meet again in-person. If you are interested in participating by creating care packages or eventually in-person programming, please contact Amy Brown.

We have also enjoyed spending time with the young women at Davis Stuart's McCormick House over the years. Prior to the pandemic, a group of church women would meet monthly with these wonderful young women. Our time would include a devotional, fun activity and delicious treats! Of course, Covid has hindered us from meeting in-person. However, we continue to provide care packages, stay in contact with these young ladies and will soon provide Christmas baskets. It is our hope to begin meeting in-person this Spring. If you would like to participate in the future, please contact Molly Hileman or Dawn Huffman.

~ Presbyterian Women of Old Stone

Presbyterian Women Afternoon Circle:

The P.W. Afternoon Circle plans to meet in the Activity Room of the church at 1:00pm on Wednesday, December 8th.

Presbyterian Women Poinsettia Dedication:

The Presbyterian Women are ordering poinsettias to place in the sanctuary during the month of December. If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia in honor of a loved one, simply contact the church office to let them know who you would like to dedicate the flowers to. You can contact the secretary via email (office@oldstonechurchwv.com) or by phone (304-645-2676). All dedications will be donation-based so please feel free to give any amount of your choosing (cash and checks are accepted). All of the dedications will be listed in the December 19th bulletin.

Sunday Nursery:

We are looking for a couple of rocking chairs for our nursery. If you have one around your home that you aren't using, we would love to put it good use rocking our Old Stone babies! Call the church office or see Amy Kesterson.

Great news! Our nursery is open and functional! We are seeking volunteers to help. Our Safe Sanctuary Policy requires two background screened adults be present with out children. We can't do this without you!

Presbytery Meeting Highlights:

Please [click here](#) for the *Presbytery Highlights* of the Presbytery of West Virginia's Zoom Presbytery Meeting, held November 13, 2021.

Congregational Meeting on December 19th:

There will be a congregational meeting following worship on December 19th for the purpose of electing officers. Please plan to be there if you can. Thank you!

Men's Breakfast on December 8th at 8:00am:

The Men's Breakfast will be held at Shoney's at 8am on Wednesday, December 8th. Please note that the cost per meal will be \$7.00. We are happy to announce that the featured speaker will be Rev. Jeff Binder. Please join if you can!

Virtual Worship Links and Information:

- Live Video from the Old Stone Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Begins at 11:00am: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OldStonePresbyterianChurch>
 - Live Broadcasting on the Radio Begins at 11:00am: 103.1FM or <https://www.facebook.com/103.1BearCountry> or <https://tunein.com/radio/The-Bear-103-1031-s30113/>
 - In-Person Worship Guidelines are Available Here: www.oldstonechurchwv.com
-

November Birthdays

*11/01 Tracy Morgan
11/06 Macie Hileman
11/06 Dawn Huffman
11/06 Stephanie Williams
11/13 Ian Burford
11/14 Brenda Jones
11/14 Shirley Runyon
11/16 Dick Marshall
11/16 Lucy (Marshall) Taylor
11/19 Bridgett Armentrout-Edwards
11/21 Marley Kesterson
11/22 Annabelle Galyean
11/23 Carol Cales
11/23 Larry Jones
11/24 Elizabeth Kucera
11/27 Carter Huffman*

December Birthdays

*12/01 Amy Ahern
12/01 Linda Walls
12/04 Herb Pearis
12/07 Hallie Nemicik
12/09 Frances Crane
12/09 Paige Totten
12/11 Betsey Satterfield
12/16 Townley Hamilton
12/28 Cliff Huffman*



Just a reminder:

You will NEVER get an email or text from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.



If you receive one of these messages, it will come from an email other than @oldstonechurchwv.com or a phone number not in use by a church staff member. Simply report it to the church and delete. Do not respond. We are so sorry for the inconvenience these fraudulent activities (that have been happening for years to churches everywhere-not just here) continue to cause!

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021

12-4

Blue Ribbon Center

WV State Fairgrounds

Sponsored by

When Pigs Fly Barbeque



Call 304-249-8124

For Information

or to Volunteer