



## Stone Chippings Newsletter

December 2023

### A Note from Rev. Julie Olt:

At our Tuesday Bible study this week, we talked about the Christmas carol, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" which is based on Isaiah 7:10-14. We had fun learning about the history of the carol and of the people of Israel. For one of our activities, we broke into small groups and rewrote some of the verses in a more contemporary way. I hope you enjoy the results of your talented friends!



O come, O come, our God of hope,  
To comfort grieving lost and lonely souls,  
Those who mourn in lonely exile here,  
Until the light of hope appears.  
Sing praise! Sing praise! For God of hope,  
Shall come to us for all humanity!

O come dear God and help us to see,  
The relationship that is possible with Thee,  
Remove all doubts that we "belong,"  
Help us to live faithfully and strong.  
Sing joy! Sing joy! We all are family,  
For Jesus came to set us all free!

O come new day with comfort and light,  
Encourage us with new insight,  
Calm the storms that cause us distress,  
And doubts and faithlessness repress.  
May joy and gladness found in you,  
Shine in our lives anew!

Welcome our God of everyone,  
All children belonging to your son,  
Special needs, poor, and in foster care,  
Along with you their burdens bear.  
Take care! Take Care! O Christ the King,  
And help the children praise you and sing!

May your advent be meaningful, and your spirit be bright!

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Julie

### Monthly Worship Attendance:

**Sunday, October 29th:** In Person: 69 / YouTube: 19

**Sunday, November 5th:** In Person: 56 / YouTube: 0

**Sunday, November 12th:** In Person: 82 / YouTube: 0



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### **First Sunday - December 3rd at 12:00 P.M.:**

First Sunday will take place on December 3rd at 12:00 p.m. We can't wait to see you there!

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### **Officer Installation Reminder - Sunday, December 10th:**

We will be installing officers during worship on Sunday, December 10th.

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### **Poinsettia Dedications Due By Tuesday, December 12th:**

The Presbyterian Women will be ordering poinsettias soon to display in the sanctuary. 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](mailto:office@oldstonechurchwv.com)) or by phone (304-645-2676). You can also bring your dedication name(s) and donation(s) with you during Sunday worship and leave them in the offering basket if you prefer. All dedications will be donation-based so please feel free to give any amount of your choosing (cash and checks are accepted – please make checks out to Presbyterian Women). All of the dedications will be listed in the December 17th bulletin so please have your name(s) turned in no later than Tuesday, December 12th.

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### **Christmas Caroling Reminder - Sunday, December 17th:**

We will be Christmas caroling after our soup lunch following worship on Sunday, December 17th.



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### **Blue Christmas Worship Service - Thursday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m.:**

We will have our "longest night" Blue Christmas worship service at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 21st. Everyone from the community is invited, so please feel free to bring your friends and family along for a service of remembrance and hope.



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**Fellowship Time Hosting:**

We are asking that you please consider signing up for hosting Fellowship Time after worship on any Sunday that works best for you. Fellowship Time provides an opportunity to get to know others and their interests and to build relationships beyond Sunday morning worship. There is a poster in the narthex with dates to choose from, please consider picking a Sunday to host. Thank you!



**SEEKERS  
OF THE  
LIGHT**

**OSPC Choir**

A Cantata for Christmas

by  
*Lloyd Larson and Mark Hayes*

**Sunday – December 24, 2023**

**11:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
**Old Stone Presbyterian Church**  
**644 Church Street**  
**304-645-2676**

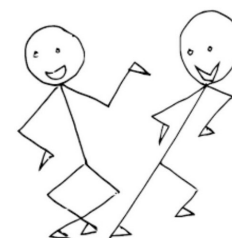
### **Life Is Better When You Can Line Dance!**

**What:** Beginning Line Dance Lessons

**When:** Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

- December 6, 13, and 20

**Where:** Old Stone Church's Fellowship Hall (enter on Foster Street)



Lessons are sponsored by Active Southern West Virginia....FREE....Open to the community. Emphasis will be on beginning steps and dances from 6-7, with slightly more difficult dances taught during the last half hour. It is NOT necessary to

attend all sessions or to stay the entire time. No partners needed, but bring your friends and neighbors. Check out the Facebook page "Beginning Line Dancing with ActiveSWV".

Lessons are geared towards persons 18 and over. Youth must be accompanied by a guardian and the adult must stay with them during the activity. Participants are asked to sign a one-time waiver with Active Southern West Virginia.

So step to the right, step to the left, and LET'S DANCE!

### Stewardship Financial Update:

| Old Stone Presbyterian Church<br>Financial Update October 2023 *UPDATED |                    |                     |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
|   | October<br>Actual  | Actual to Date      |
| Pledges Received  | \$18,743.00        | \$252,842.00        |
| Other Offerings   | \$4,586.00         | \$45,674.00         |
| Other Income  |                    | \$40,895.00         |
|   |                    |                     |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$23,329.00</b> | <b>\$339,411.00</b> |
|   |                    |                     |
| Expenses  | \$31,677.00        | \$345,105.00        |
|   |                    |                     |
| Net Ordinary Receipts   | -\$8,348.00        | -\$7,645.00         |
|   |                    |                     |

| Old Stone Presbyterian Church<br>Financial Update November 2023 Month-to-Date |                    |                     |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
|   | November<br>Actual | Actual to Date      |
| Pledges Received  | \$23,671.00        | \$276,512.00        |
| Other Offerings   | \$11,286.00        | \$56,960.00         |
| Other Income  | \$5,150.00         | \$46,045.00         |
|   |                    |                     |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$40,107.00</b> | <b>\$379,517.00</b> |
|   |                    |                     |
| Expenses  | \$25,888.00        | \$370,994.00        |
|   |                    |                     |
| Net Ordinary Receipts   | \$14,218.00        | \$6,574.00          |
|   |                    |                     |

### November Birthdays

11/01 Tracy Morgan  
 11/06 Macie Hileman  
 11/06 Dawn Huffman  
 11/06 Stephanie Williams

### December Birthdays

12/01 Amy Ahern  
 12/01 Linda Walls  
 12/04 Herb Pearis  
 12/07 Hallie Nemcik

*11/13 Ian Burford  
11/14 Brenda Jones  
11/14 Shirley Runyon  
11/16 Lucy (Marshall) Taylor  
11/16 Dick Marshall  
11/21 Marley Kesterson  
11/22 Annabelle Galyean  
11/23 Carol Cales  
11/23 Larry Jones  
11/24 Elizabeth Kucera  
11/27 Carter Huffman*

*12/09 Frances Crane  
12/09 Paige Totten  
12/10 Ben Gurley  
12/11 Betsey Satterfield  
12/16 Townley Hamilton  
12/26 Andrew McClelland  
12/28 Cliff Huffman*

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### **Scam Emails/Phone Calls Reminder:**

This is a reminder to be diligent and watch out for scammers pretending to be staff of Old Stone. We've already had at least six reported instances this year of a scammer sending fake text messages to our church members pretending to be Rev. Julie. We ask that you reach out to us if you receive any texts, emails, or phone calls pretending to be a staff member so that we can notify church members when this is happening.

If you receive an email, text, or phone call and you aren't sure if it is legitimately from a staff member, please call the church office at (304) 645-2676 to find out. Do NOT reply to the person's text, email, or phone call. We want everyone to be safe and not fall victim to these types of scams. Just as a reminder, we will NEVER reach out to you asking you to purchase gift cards, request any type of monetary exchange, or request personal information, so you can be sure it is a scam if you are asked for any of these things.

While there is no way for us to prevent this from happening 100%, we are taking additional steps to try to reduce the likelihood of this happening in the future.

In the meantime, Rev. Julie has recommended that you report and then block the phone number that sent you the scam text. You can report the text by forwarding the message to 7726. After you block the number, you shouldn't receive any more scam texts from that phone number.

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