

**A Note from Rev. Julie Ott:**

As we enter the season of thanksgiving, let's take a look at how we express our thankfulness. Sometimes it is so easy to get caught up in complaining about the things we don't like that we forget to express our thanks and gratitude for all that we have for which to be grateful!



Old Stone has so much going for it! I challenge you to think about all the positive things that are happening here and maybe make a list. When we focus on the things for which we are thankful, our whole attitude toward life can change. We begin to see things in a different light and approach others differently. There is a quote that says, "It is not joy that makes us grateful, it is gratitude that makes us joyful!" (Author unknown) I promise you; joy is contagious. Let's be known as the church that is joyful!



In Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, which is the oldest existing piece of Christian literature and the first proclamation of the gospel he says, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Of course, there will always be things on which we can work as a congregation, but if we do them in an attitude of gratitude, I'm sure we will be happier in that work. Let's give it a try!

In thankfulness for each of you and in the joy of Christ,



Rev. Julie

**Monthly Worship Attendance:**

**Sunday, October 1st: In Person: 71 / YouTube: 9**  
**Sunday, October 8th: In Person: 75 / YouTube: 18**  
**Sunday, October 15th: In Person: 79 / YouTube: 11**  
**Sunday, October 22nd: In Person: 88 / YouTube: 17**



**First Sunday - November 5th from 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.:**

First Sunday will take place on November 5th from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. We can't wait to see you there!

**Food Locker Distribution (Saturday, November 18th) -  
Volunteers Needed:**



Old Stone is responsible for the upcoming Food Locker distribution scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 18th. If you are available to volunteer to help load the trucks and deliver to the three public housing facilities, please reach out to Molly McMillion. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 a.m. to finish packing the bags before loading. We can use all the help we can get!

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### **Outreach Committee Dinner and Devotion:**

In November our Outreach Committee will host dinner and spend a few minutes getting us up to speed on the fruits of their labor. Pastor Julie will lead a devotion for the adults and there will be separate lessons for your children and youth. As always, these programs work best when you are moved to participate. This is also a great event to invite friends, as each devotion can stand alone and no one will feel behind if they haven't been to the one before!

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### **Blankets for Family Refuge Center:**



Please be reminded that we are collecting blankets for the Family Refuge Center. These blankets will be part of the gift baskets given to those who have sought emergency shelter in 2023. So far FRC has housed more than 100 people fleeing from unsafe homes right here in our own area, as well as in Monroe and Pocahontas counties. We hope that you will consider placing a blanket in the donation bin just inside the education building.

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### **Bluestone Fall Retreat:**

Bluestone in the fall is an enchanting reminder that God's Creation is devastatingly beautiful. Some of our children and youth spent a weekend enjoying nature as well as focusing on prayer stations. They were even brave enough to help lead our final worship. Camp is often pointed to as foundational for the adult leaders of our church universal and these experiences are invaluable to our own children and youth!



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### **Presbyterian Women Thank Offering - November 12, 2023:**

The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. This year the Old Stone Presbyterian Women will collect the Thank Offering on Sunday, November 12, 2023, and invite the congregation to participate in this offering.



The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviewed 28 Thank Offering applications and selected 7 projects for funding this year. Six of the projects serve people in the United States and one is international.

Information about Presbyterian Women can be found at [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org). The “What We Do” tab offers more details about the mission work of PW.

If you’re interested in getting involved with the work of PW at Old Stone by attending a Circle meeting, helping with the Americana, visiting or calling a shut-in, making and delivering a meal, or providing flowers for the sanctuary, please reach out to Lynn Weikle or the church office.

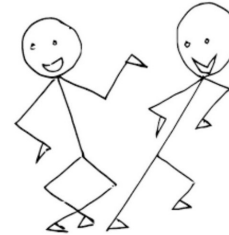
## Life Is Better When You Can Line Dance!

**What:** Beginning Line Dance Lessons

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

- November 1, 8, 15, and 29
- 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:

| <b>Old Stone Presbyterian Church</b>            |                     |                     |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Financial Update September 2023 *UPDATED</b> |                     |                     |
|   | September<br>Actual | Actual to Date      |
| Pledges Received                                | \$25,051.00         | \$234,099.00        |
| Other Offerings                                 | \$5,160.00          | \$41,088.00         |
| Other Income                                    | \$6,075.00          | \$40,895.00         |
|   |                     |                     |
| <b>Total Income</b>                             | <b>\$36,286.00</b>  | <b>\$316,082.00</b> |
|   |                     |                     |
| Expenses  | \$28,826.00         | \$313,429.00        |
|   |                     |                     |
| Net Ordinary Receipts                           | \$7,460.00          | \$703.00            |
|   |                     |                     |

| Old Stone Presbyterian Church<br>Financial Update October 2023 Month-to-Date |                    |                     |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|
|  | October<br>Actual  | Actual to Date      |
| Pledges Received   | \$15,993.00        | \$250,092.00        |
| Other Offerings  | \$4,209.00         | \$45,297.00         |
| Other Income   |                    | \$40,895.00         |
|  |                    |                     |
| <b>Total Income</b>  | <b>\$20,202.00</b> | <b>\$336,284.00</b> |
|  |                    |                     |
| Expenses   | \$26,029.00        | \$339,458.00        |
|  |                    |                     |
| Net Ordinary Receipts  | -\$5,827.00        | -\$5,124.00         |
|  |                    |                     |

### October Birthdays

10/02 Pam Lewis  
 10/02 Brenda Smith  
 10/03 Nixon Brown  
 10/06 Renee Ahern  
 10/06 Mallory Frye  
 10/06 Hayes Hileman  
 10/07 Glenn Lehman  
 10/11 Ellsworth Buck  
 10/11 Brahm Kesterson  
 10/11 Luke Kirkham  
 10/12 Jason Kesterson  
 10/14 Betty Dempsey  
 10/19 Elizabeth "Sissy" Isaac  
 10/21 JoAnn Pearis  
 10/24 Riley Smith  
 10/29 Lauren Rodgers  
 10/30 Vicki Wilson  
 10/31 Mary Jane Gilkerson  
 10/31 John Hofmann  
 10/31 DeWitt Shank

### 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 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

### **Presbytery of WV Season of Discernment Meeting Dates:**

Thank you to those who completed a Landscape Survey. Holy Cow! Consulting received nearly 500 responses from the Presbytery of West Virginia community! Members of the Leadership Team will gather on Tuesday to hear a report from our consultant, Emily Swanson, about the data submitted. The data provides the foundational step in the Presbytery's **Season of Discernment**.

The second step begins with opportunities to hear about, respond to, and expand on the data received as the Presbytery explores what God is calling us to be and do. This will happen in two ways. Emily Swanson will meet with five groups of people in the Presbytery based on their role: active clergy and Commissioned Pastors, retired clergy, members of Presbytery committees, Clerks of Session, and the Presbytery staff. These meetings will take place on Zoom. In addition, the Leadership Team wants to hear from all who want to participate – members of churches, those who are regular attenders of our congregations, Authorized Lay Preachers, and anyone who does not fit into the roles mentioned above. These five sessions will take place in person throughout the Presbytery.

The details of each session are below. Please note that while members of the Leadership Team will be present at each session, the staff will not be present so that all are comfortable sharing freely.

Please contact Leadership Team chair [Randy Fife](#), Moderator [David Lee](#), Moderator Elect [Dawn Adamy](#), or Transitional General Presbyter and Stated Clerk [Maureen Wright](#) with questions, concerns, or if you are uncertain which event to attend.

- **October 23 – Presbytery Committee Members** meet with Emily Swanson on Zoom from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, please [click here](#) for the Zoom link.
- **October 24 – Presbytery Staff** meet with Emily Swanson on Zoom from 1 to 3 PM, please [click here](#) for the Zoom link.
- **October 24 – Clerks of Session** meet with Emily Swanson on Zoom from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, please [click here](#) for the Zoom link.
- **October 26 – Active Clergy & Commissioned Pastors** meet with Emily Swanson on Zoom from 10 AM to noon, please [click here](#) for the Zoom link.
- **October 26 – Retired Clergy** meet with Emily Swanson on Zoom from 1 to 3 PM, please [click here](#) for the Zoom link.
  
- **October 29 – Open, in-person discussion** with members of Leadership Team from 4 to 6 PM at **Clifton Presbyterian Church**, Maxwelton.
- **October 29 – Open, in-person discussion** with members of Leadership Team from 4 to 6 PM at **Kuhn Memorial Presbyterian Church**, Barboursville.
- **November 2 – Open, in-person discussion** with members of Leadership Team from 6 to 8 PM at **First Presbyterian Church**, South Charleston.
- **November 5 – Open, in-person discussion** with members of Leadership Team from 4 to 6 PM at **Fleming Memorial Presbyterian Church**, Fairmont.
- **November 5 – Open, in-person discussion** with members of Leadership Team from 4 to 6 PM at **First Presbyterian Church**, Williamstown.

*\*The information shown above came directly from the Presbytery of WV - to find out more, please visit: <https://wvpresbytery.org/>*

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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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