



Class Opportunity: What Does it Mean to be Presbyterian Today?



What an exciting time it is to be a Christian! Some may reflect upon the present day and mourn the loss of “the good old days.” I’ll admit I’m guilty of this myself at times. But the reality is that we are in the midst of unprecedented times in the life of the church, and while that can be bewildering, it can also be exciting.

In particular, I’m intrigued with how the Presbyterian Church (USA) is navigating within this wilderness experience of American religion. What does the denomination value these days? What vision do the congregations, presbyteries, synods, and national church share with our nation and the world? What new and exciting things are happening in the life of the church? What new stories does God have in mind to write with us Presbyterians?

If such a conversation and discernment sounds interesting to you, then join us in October for our first “Thoughtful Christian” class on Presbyterianism as we ask the question: “What does it mean to be Presbyterian today?” Throughout this six-week program, we will get caught up on current trends and statistics, survey Presbyterian theology and history, learn about the vision of the church moving forward, discuss the decisions of this year’s General Assembly, and listen for how the Spirit is leading us as a denomination moving forward. Stay tuned for class details in the weekly announcements!

Yearning to deepen your faith, but talking about all things Presbyterian is not your thing? Then join one of our other classes or events, including a weekly Sunday School from 9:30-10:30 AM on zoom, an intergenerational dinner and devotion on the first Sunday of each month at 5:30 PM, or any of our ongoing groups including Presbyterian Women, the bereavement group, and for those with a musical passion, our choir! Contact the church office for details.

And, as always, if you have other passions, questions, or interests, I’d love to sit down over coffee and discuss them with you. Just reach out, and we’ll find a time to chat!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Monthly Worship Attendance:

Sunday, August 28th, 2022: In Person: 74 / YouTube: 22
Sunday, September 4th, 2022: In Person: 80 / YouTube: 18
Sunday, September 11th, 2022: In Person: 71 / YouTube: 19
Sunday, September 18th, 2022: In Person: 63 / YouTube: 15
Sunday, September 25th, 2022: In Person: 78 / YouTube: 20



Church Transportation for Sunday Worship Available:

If you are in need of a ride to and from worship, please call Townley at



(304) 646-1352 and she will gladly pick you up or arrange for someone else to pick you up.

COVID Policy Updated at Old Stone:

Session met on September 21st and affirmed that “CDC updates will continue to be provided and communicated. Guidelines associated will be optionally followed.”

What does this mean for Old Stone? Simply put, all practices related to COVID are optional.

While the Reopening Task Force, which is composed of members that are medical professionals among others, will continue to share regular guidance and updates in conjunction with the CDC, there will no longer be mandates as it pertains to programs and events here at Old Stone. We encourage each of you, both individually and as groups, to use your best judgment in staying safe and healthy, while also keeping others safe and healthy.

As a pastoral note, please remember that those who choose to worship from home, social distance, wear face masks, or take any additional precautions are to be treated with the same Christian love and care as everyone else. Each of us will continue to make decisions based on our own priorities and interests.

And as always, stay home if you are feeling sick! Technology today allows us to gather from virtually anywhere with cell phone service, so there's no need to risk spreading an illness.

Thank you for your continued patience and love as we continue to move forward through this pandemic!

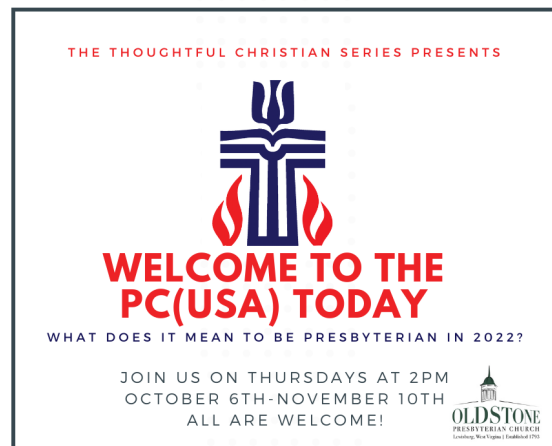
~Pastor Jeff

The Thoughtful Christian:

Pastor Jeff will begin a class on October 6th for anyone wishing to learn more about the Presbyterian Church at large, and how that impacts the way we worship here at Old Stone.

It's a great way to examine what our denomination professes while formulating your own belief system (which we know is a life-long endeavor).

The class will run for six weeks, meeting on October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, and November 3rd and 10th. Each class will meet in the Activity Room at 2:00 pm. If you have questions, please contact Amy Kesterson by calling the church office!



First Sundays:

We are delighted to offer a new program that is designed for EVERYONE! We call it First Sundays because we will meet on the first Sunday of each month! Pastor Jeff will have a devotion for the adults and there will be plenty of time to socialize and build relationships among participants. Amy Kesterson and Debbie Taylor will lead a devotion and activities for children of all ages!

Our first meeting is on October 2nd from 5:30-7:00 pm.



There will be pizza for everyone! If you know you plan to be there, an RSVP to Amy Kesterson would be super helpful. If you decide last minute – come anyway! There is always more food than we can eat!

Spooky PYC Luncheon - Sunday, October 29th:

You are not going to want to miss the Halloween Luncheon planned by PYC that will occur after worship services on October 29th. There will be decorations, crafts for children, and Halloween-themed food. It's bound to be a great time... and there will be an assortment of everyone's favorite Trick-or-Treat Candy!



Fall Retreat for all Middle and High School Students - November 18th & 20th:

This year the Fall Retreat at Bluestone is inviting middle school students as well as high school students. The Presbyterian Youth Council (of which our own John Bicksler currently has a seat) has been diligently planning this retreat since BEFORE COVID! Keynote speaker David LaMotte will lead us through discussions that will no doubt expand our Bible knowledge as well as how to practice what we proclaim. This retreat is very much worth your while. To sign up, contact Amy Kesterson.

Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, August 24, 2022):

The Session met for their Stated meeting on Wednesday, August 24. Rev. Jeff Binder opened the meeting with Elder, Townley Hamilton offering the devotions and opening prayer. In attendance were: Moderator, Rev. Jeff Binder; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; and Elders: Townley Hamilton, Jim Rowe, Stuart Brown, Sara Irons, Karen Leland, Jim Coleman and Joan Montgomery.

Minutes were presented and approval from the Stated meeting held Wednesday, July 27.

Jim Rowe, moderator of the P.N.C. (Pastor Nominating Committee) reported that the committee has held several meetings. They are currently reviewing P.I.F.s (Pastor Information Forms) they have received and are busy listing to sermons by prospective candidates.

The Session also heard and/or read reports from the following committees:

- Christian Education
- Worship
- Stewardship and Finance
- Personnel

Women of the Church's 2023 Proposed Calendar

Reports were given on two recently held Presbytery meetings.

- On Thursday, August 4, the Presbytery held a Called meeting, via Zoom, to hear and approve the report on the sale of the Presbytery office building in South Charleston. Karen Leland served as Ruling Elder Commissioner. The sale and price were approved at the meeting.
- Thursday, August 18 was the Stated meeting, also held via Zoom, with Rev. Binder and Nancy Smallenberger in attendance. A few of the highlighted items were: increase in Per Capita giving for churches, reports were given by three individuals who represented the

Presbytery of WV at the recently held meeting of the General Assembly, along with the Presbytery's proposed budget for 2023.

The Session received and approved items from committee, including:

- The Christian Education committee presented the following curriculum recommendations:
 - **Logos** will be using "The Exodus" from *Growing God's Love*.
 - **PYC** will use "What Are God's Gifts" and "What is the Good News?", both from *Simple Sundays*.
 - **Adult Sunday School** class, that meets via Zoom, will continue using "Present Word".
 - These are all PC(USA) approved publications.

Pastor's Report was presented by Pastor Jeff, which included:

- Pastoral care updates
- How Session sees the church library continuing into the future.
- The Session will be meeting for their Fall Mini-Retreat and continuing their Transitional Conversation on Saturday, September 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the church.
- A larger conversation to be held regarding Covid protocol moving forward. It was recommended to have the Return to Worship Task Force review the current protocols and make recommendations to the Session.

The Clerk's Report included:

- Correspondence
- Worship Attendance

The Session will hold their next Stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, in the Activity Room and on Zoom.

Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk

Stewardship Financial Update:

| Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update Through August, 2022 *UPDATED | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| | August Actual | Actual to Date |
| Pledges Received | \$13,376.00 | \$203,618.00 |
| Other Offerings | \$4,609.00 | \$38,280.00 |
| Other Income | \$0.00 | \$9,497.00 |
| | | |
| Total Income | \$17,985.00 | \$251,395.00 |
| | | |
| Expenses | \$26,853.00 | \$227,155.00 |
| | | |
| Net Ordinary Receipts | -\$8,869.00 | \$24,239.00 |
| | | |

| Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update Through September, 2022 | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| | September | |
| | Actual | Actual to Date |
| Pledges Received | \$28,034.00 | \$231,652.00 |
| Other Offerings | \$3,194.00 | \$41,474.00 |
| Other Income | \$500.00 | \$9,997.00 |
| | | |
| Total Income | \$31,728.00 | \$283,123.00 |
| | | |
| Expenses | \$26,046.00 | \$253,779.00 |
| | | |
| Net Ordinary Receipts | \$5,683.00 | \$29,344.00 |
| | | |

It's Time For STAIR

The S.T.A.I.R. Tutoring Program (Start The Adventure In Reading) has become an important ministry of our congregation and is in partnership with the Lewisburg Elementary School. The program allows students currently in 2nd grade, with low reading skills, a one-on-one tutoring experience every Tuesday & Thursday with the school calendar. Our program is scheduled to run from October through March. The program requires tutors, substitute tutors, coordinators (training provided prior to starting), prayer partners, snack providers and end-of-year party helpers. In order to maintain 7 students, we need 2 more tutors from October thru March and 1 tutor from October thru December. Snacks needed are Protein (cheese, peanut butter, pepperoni), Carbohydrates (crackers or pretzels), Fruits and Water. The Provider will help for a week at a time. A detailed list of snacks will be provided or a monetary gift can be made and we can purchase our snacks in bulk. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources/Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tutors | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute Tutors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Partners | <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> End of Year Celebration | |

Name _____

Telephone _____

Please indicate how you would like to share your time and talents by completing the form and placing it in the Offering Box.

Feel free to call **Debbie Taylor** for any of your questions @ **(304) 483-5090**.

Thank You for your support!

Comfort Care Outreach - Volunteers Needed:

Comfort Outreach is looking for volunteers to help with a monthly program at The Greenbrier Health Care Center. They meet the first Tuesday of the month from 2-3 pm and hold a fun, casual program for their residents that includes music, devotional, trivia, and games! We are in desperate need of a pianist and anyone that wants to spread some cheer!

If you are interested in volunteering with this wonderful program, please feel free to join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, October 4th from 2-3 pm. If you have further questions about this program, please contact Amy Brown.

John Wesley United Methodist Church - Pianist Needed:

John Wesley United Methodist Church is in search of a pianist to play during their 10:00 worship service each Sunday (*pianist needed from 9:30-10:45*). If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in this position, please reach out to Pastor Oliver at (765) 621-5653.

September Birthdays

*09/05 Gary Williams
09/09 Jeb Brown
09/11 Richard Franke
09/12 Gillian Snyder
09/13 Robert Banton
09/14 Carol Bland
09/15 Phoebe Stanley
09/17 Molly McMillion
09/17 Emily Plybon
09/20 Lee Ann Gillilan
09/21 Amy Brown
09/21 Chuck Plumley
09/24 Karen Lee McClung
09/25 Patty Plumley
09/28 Tag Galyean
09/29 Debbie Smith*

October Birthdays

*10/02 Pam Lewis
10/02 Brenda Smith
10/03 Nixon Brown
10/06 Renee Fife 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*
