
Discovering A New Identity:

“Change” might as well be considered a four-letter word for most churches. Congregations don’t seem to embrace change the same way that startup businesses do, or perceive change the same way as young adults.



We like church the way it is; that’s why we’re here in the first place! I’m sure if you went through it in your mind right now, you would be able to describe how the church sanctuary looks, what the organ sounds like, how it feels to sit in the pews, the tastes of the bread and grape juice...even what the rooms smell like. We love our church because it is a familiar, stable place; a second home for many of us where we see people we love, where we can relax, eat, and share in life together.

Change, on the other hand, is uncomfortable. It means we have to stand up and move around... maybe even sit down somewhere that’s not “our” pew! Change involves trying new things, and sometimes failing. It involves risk, uncertainty, and unknowns. It also can be the key to surviving and even thriving in the modern age.

We, as the church, avoid change, just like we do in many other parts of our lives. But here’s the thing: as much as we don’t like to admit it, we are changing all of the time, in all aspects of our lives. Many of the times it may be unintentional or even involuntary. A pastor leaves; a new pastor comes in. Church members come and go. Local communities change, and with it, their needs. Churches are often changing (sometimes begrudgingly) along with the changing times. Just think: it was only a few decades ago when women were not allowed to serve as elders. Go back even further, and people came to worship in wagons, and worship services lasted hours!

And sometimes churches intentionally decide to change with a new mission statement, hiring new staff, or forming new relationships with a community organizations.

Whether we change intentionally or not, the end result is that we eventually embrace a new identity. As the Apostle Paul writes, we become “new creations.”

So who is Old Stone today as opposed to the past? What do we value as a congregation today, that perhaps we didn’t event think about five, ten, or fifty years ago? And who is God calling us to be in the days and years ahead?

The interesting thing, from my vantage point, is that the answer does not need to come from a pastor; and that’s why it’s so important to ask such questions during an interim period. The response should come from the members themselves (that’s YOU): Who is Old Stone today?

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff".

Pastor Jeff

Presbyterian Women:

The Presbyterian Women of Old Stone have continued to participate in community and church activities. Several of our regular outreach programs have been featured in Old Stone’s monthly

newsletters, and an article describing our Scholarship program is below. The STAIR tutoring program will come to a successful end on March 31st with a celebration for our seven students, their families, and the volunteer tutors. Just as that ministry ends, the Americana thrift shop is gearing up for a busy summer season. We placed several beautiful prom dresses with a local shop to sell on consignment, and have new items in the shop regularly. Check the Old Stone Facebook page to see what's new there! Both the Afternoon and Evening Circles continue to meet monthly, sometimes on Zoom and sometimes in person, as we study "What My Grandmothers Taught Me". Mark your calendars NOW for our end-of-year mini-retreat on May 7th . All women of the church and friends are invited to share stories, bring photos and mementos of your grandmothers and other women in your lives, reflect, pray, eat, and perhaps even dress up in period clothes! More details to come.

Presbyterian Women Scholarship Program:

Presbyterian Women began as an organization of women invested in the idea that mission was an integral and important part of the work of the church. This tradition continues to this day in the many mission projects, to which the Presbyterian Women of Old Stone generously contribute and meet a number of community needs.

The Old Stone Presbyterian Women Scholarship Program is one of the mission projects which began in 2003 following a proposal by Betty Dempsey, Barbara Hayes, Roland Layton, Lynn Weikle, and Lois Lively.

This scholarship is awarded to a student of New River Community and Technical College in Lewisburg. Each year, through an application process, a deserving student is awarded a \$2,000 scholarship - \$1,000 per semester. This scholarship is granted through the discernment of the New River Community and Technical College Foundation.

The funds for this scholarship come through the interest of the estate of Mildred McClung Evans. Funds are also received from the Americana Thrift Shop. The students who receive the scholarship may reapply but must maintain a minimum of 12 semester hours and a 2.5 grade point average, while continuing to pursue a career requiring post-high school training or education.

Preference is given to students who are deemed likely to make a positive contribution to the Greenbrier community and come from the Monroe, Pocahontas, or Greenbrier counties.

This P.W. project has proven to be a valuable program to young people in the area. To date, 16 students have received funds from this scholarship. What a wonderful way Old Stone Presbyterian Women have been able to help deserving students begin their life as a contributing member to our community.

Session Highlights - March 16, 2022 Stated Meeting:

The Session of OSPC met for their regularly Stated meeting on Wednesday, March 16. Nine elders were in attendance. Jim Coleman opened the meeting the scripture and prayer.

- Session reviewed, or listened to, the following reports:
 - Clerk of Session
 - Christian Education
 - Fellowship
 - Outreach
 - Pastor
 - Presbytery Commissioners Meeting
 - Property
 - Reopening Task Force
 - Stewardship & Finance

- Session voted in the affirmative on the following:
 - Appointment of Jen Runyon as Clerk pro tem
 - Approval of minutes
 - February 2, 2022 – Stated Session meeting
 - February 16, 2022 – Called Session meeting
 - March 6, 2022 – Congregational meeting

- Christian Education Chili Fundraiser organized by Amy Kesterson for March 27th.
 - PYC Youth will serve traditional chili, vegetarian chili, white chili and peanut butter sandwiches.
 - Members of Session have volunteered to deliver Chili.
 - Fellowship committee requested to participate in the activity and will be preparing cookies and chili.
 - A decision to begin charging the yoga instructor (who charges her customers) a fee for using Old Stone. Note: the original request was approved by the office and not Session.
 - Approval of the Mission Study, sending it to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) and if approved by the COM, Old Stone will provide the required 2 week notice to the congregation for a congregational meeting where we will vote on the Slate of members for the Pastor Nominating Committee: Jim Rowe, Leslie Bicksler, Amy Brown, Jason Long and Becky Kelso.
 - A recommendation from the Reopening Task Force to make an exception for the STAIR program to have its end of the program party for the students, their parents and the tutors if certain metrics are met.
 - Creation of a committee to select a candidate for the Philip Fife Scholarship, which will include Amy Ahern.
 - A special offering on April 3, 2022 to support refugees that have fled Ukraine and are seeking shelter at Arpi Tordai's church or otherwise as he sees fit in providing support for Ukraine. Please mark your checks as Tordai Fund-Ukraine.
 - Approval of a wedding request.
- Annual Review
 - Session reviewed the rolls as required by the Book of Order.
 - Session reviewed the annual statistical report requested by the General Assembly, created and submitted annually by the Clerk of Session.
 - General Discussion
 - Pastor Jeff asked about Adult Bible Study opportunities.
 - Elder Chuck Lewis is enthusiastically returning to teaching Adult Bible Study Sunday mornings at 9:30 in person or ZOOM if needed. The program covers from Exodus to Present Day.
 - Pastor Out of Office
 - As a reminder, Pastor Jeff will be out 18-24 April.
 - Continued thanks to Worship Committee for pulpit supply.

Prepared by Jen Runyon

Stewardship Financial Update:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update Through February, 2022		
	February	
	Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$59,921.00	\$80,140.00
Other Offerings	\$3,013.00	\$6,796.00
Other Income	\$2,010.00	\$2,269.00
Total Income	\$64,944.00	\$89,205.00
Expenses	\$27,581.00	\$55,889.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$37,362.00	\$33,316.00

Chili Take-Out Luncheon March 27, 2022:

This coming Sunday, PYC has joined forces with Fellowship Committee and PW to prepare and serve chili on our church steps immediately following worship. If you have not signed up for a delivery, but would like one, please text Amy Kesterson (304-992-6299) to get on the list! Don't forget to include your name and address in the text.

There will be traditional chili, vegetarian chili, white bean chicken chili, taco soup, and chicken enchilada soup – and possibly a few more! We will also have hot chocolate and cookies available. There will be a tip jar for anyone wishing to support Christian Education.

Communion Supplies Available for Pickup - Friday, April 1st 9am-2pm:

For those of you that worship at home and follow along on the radio or YouTube videos: prepackaged communion bread/juice will be available for you to pick up on the Friday before communion. Please feel free to stop by the church between 9am-2pm on Friday, April 1st to pick up your communion supplies from the basket on the glass display at the front entrance of the Education Building. No appointment necessary.

Bereavement Group Beginning April 7, 2022:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church is resuming the Bereavement Support Group beginning Thursday, April 7th at 3:30pm in the Session Room of the Education Building (adjacent to the church).

Anyone experiencing loss recently or in the past seeking support, advice, and coping skills is invited to join. The group will meet for six weeks and is limited to 15 people. There is no charge.

Please call the church office at (304) 645-2676 to enroll. Amy Wade (Hospice House), Cameron Harkness, and Ike Hughes will be leading the group.

Presbyterian Women Afternoon Circle:

The P.W. Afternoon Circle plans to meet in the Activity Room of the church at 1:00pm on Wednesday, April 13th.

Presbyterian Women Evening Circle:

The P.W. Evening Circle plans to meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Wednesday, April 13th.

Congregational Meeting for the Purpose of Electing P.N.C. 4/10/2022:

A congregational meeting will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, April 10, 2022 for the purpose of electing the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Sunday School:

In-person Sunday school will still take place on Palm/Passion Sunday (April 10th). It will begin at 9:30am. If you would prefer to meet via Zoom, please reach out to Chuck Lewis at (304) 645-6557.

Holy Week at Old Stone

2022

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 10

11:00 In-Person Worship

(or via YouTube or Radio)

Logos "Parade of Palms" During Worship



Maundy Thursday

April 14

12:00-7:00 Interactive Stations of the Cross

3:00-6:00 Holy Week Logos Enrichment

6:00 In-Person Communion service

(or via YouTube)



Good Friday

April 15

10:00 - 3:00 Interactive Stations of the Cross
Inside and outside of the Old Stone sanctuary

There will be activities, scriptures, and prayers
focused on Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.



Easter Sunday

April 17

11:00 In-Person Worship

(or via YouTube or Radio)



*Please plan to arrive around 10:30 to add
live flowers to the outdoor flower cross*

We will sing and worship
to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

March Birthdays

03/02 Cam Harkness
03/02 Ben Kelso
03/04 Georgia Foster
03/04 Anne Staunton
03/05 Melanie Monti
03/05 David Thomas
03/07 Cora Kesterson
03/08 Jim Arbuckle
03/11 Lynn Brody
03/11 David Kucera
03/11 Lynn Weikle
03/15 Kate Lehman
03/17 Rebecca Kinser
03/20 Suzanne Bicksler
03/21 Wiley Irons
03/21 Kathy Smith
03/24 Andy Kelso
03/25 Carroll Crane
03/27 Ed Rock
03/28 Lexanne Meldrum
03/30 James Montgomery

April Birthdays

04/05 Anna Ahern
04/05 Mary Page Nemicik
04/08 Asa Brown
04/08 Chuck Lewis III
04/09 Polley Cunningham
04/09 Jeffrey Rodgers
04/10 Arlen Myers
04/11 Linda Babcock
04/14 Jennifer Huffman
04/14 Karen Leland
04/15 Darlene Hicks
04/15 Amy Kesterson
04/15 Scott McClelland
04/16 Jeff Binder
04/17 Doug Bicksler
04/17 Leslie Bicksler
04/18 Jill Gwinn
04/21 Carol Perkins
04/22 Mary Adeline Bicksler
04/22 John Wilson
04/23 Bob Mareneck
04/25 Ashley Meadows
04/27 William Irons
04/27 Joan Yarid
04/28 Sharon Rowe
04/29 Walter Coffindaffer

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
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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!