

**Invite A Friend for Holy Week and Easter:**

Friends, the long trudge of Lent is nearly complete! We have journeyed through the wilderness, through temptations, and we have discovered new strength and fortitude only found in God's presence.



Beginning April 2nd, we begin to turn the page of our liturgical Christian year as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus with Palm Sunday, we remember the Last Supper of Maundy Thursday, we journey with Jesus to the cross on Good Friday, and we wait with expectation until the good news of the Easter Sunday empty tomb.

This certainly is good news, and it's worthy of sharing! Do you know that there are many children in our town that have never been to church before? I wonder when the last time your neighbor worshiped at a local church. Well, consider this your opportunity as Christians to invite them to hear the good news and to experience the joy of Christian community!

- Wave those palms on Palm Sunday (April 2nd) at 11AM as we celebrate in worship with a children's procession!
- On Maundy Thursday (April 6<sup>th</sup>) at 6PM, the entire community is invited to a simple dinner of soup and salad that will culminate with a celebration of the Lord's Supper for our Maundy Thursday dinner and service. RSVP if you can so we can guess how much food to prepare, but you can certainly show up without!
- On Holy Saturday (April 8<sup>th</sup>) at 7PM, the entire community is invited to a free musical celebration of the Easter Cantata!
- And on Easter Sunday (April 9<sup>th</sup>) at 11AM, the entire community is invited back again for a festive worship service as we celebrate resurrection!

Here are four easy events to invite your friends and loved ones (or strangers...or even church members who haven't been around in a while!) to celebrate this holy season. And if they turn you down the first time, you have four more events to invite them to!

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

**Monthly Worship Attendance:**

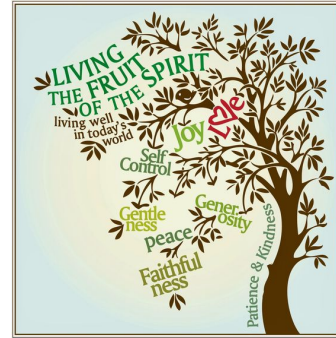
**Sunday, February 26th:** In Person: 69 / YouTube: 15  
**Sunday, March 5th:** In Person: 80 / YouTube: 14  
**Sunday, March 12th:** In Person: 60 / YouTube: 28  
**Sunday, March 19th:** In Person: 73 / YouTube: 19  
**Sunday, March 26th:** In Person: 76 / YouTube: 14



**First Sundays Gathering - April 2nd at 5:30 p.m.:**

First Sundays Gathering will take place on Sunday, April 2nd at  
5:30 p.m.

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!



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### **Friends of Bluestone Special Offering Collections - April 16th and 23rd:**

We will be doing a special offering collection on April 16th and 23rd to support Friends of Bluestone with facility repairs. Please read the letter below to find out more about the project details:



## Friends of Bluestone, Inc.

"On behalf of Bluestone Camp & Retreat"

P.O. BOX 827  
CHARLESTON, WV 25323

36 MIDDLE CAMP ROAD  
HINTON, WV 25951

[bluestone.friends@gmail.com](mailto:bluestone.friends@gmail.com)

[email@bluestonecamp.org](mailto:email@bluestonecamp.org)

[bluestonecamp.org/friends-of-bluestone](http://bluestonecamp.org/friends-of-bluestone)

February 2023

Dear Friends,

This letter is on behalf of Friends of Bluestone, Inc. and presbytery's Bluestone Committee to the Sessions and Congregations of the Presbytery of West Virginia.

In November this past year Bluestone was advised by the WVDHHR Office of Environmental Health Services that our potable water storage tank is in need of maintenance and refurbishment. This news came as the result of their Sanitary Survey which was conducted earlier in October.

The Bluestone Committee met in January and approved a budget that projects \$30,000 of expenditure for repairs to the storage tank. The budget also projects another \$30,000 for deferred maintenance and repairs to our swimming pool filtration facility.

Friends of Bluestone, Inc. normally works to achieve an Annual Fund Goal of at least \$45,000. The bar is being raised to \$60,000 this year in hope that they can raise an additional amount and help camp avoid taking on any more debt than it has to.

Over the years, Bluestone has received special project grants from individual churches at times when there was significant need to fund major repair or improvement at camp. Though we are prepared to take on additional debt via our line of credit with the presbytery (Mission Development Fund) we wanted to advise churches of the work to be done and state simply that Bluestone could use some extra financial support this year.

We ask that you present this letter to your church leadership for consideration. If you'd like more specific project details or have questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me. Thanks very much for your attention to this request.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

***Mark Miller***

Facilities Director  
Bluestone Camp & Retreat  
304-860-8281 (personal cell)  
[mark@bluestonecamp.org](mailto:mark@bluestonecamp.org)

***Daniel Heidt***

Board President  
Friends of Bluestone, Inc.

***Zac Morton***

Bluestone Committee Chair  
Presbytery of West Virginia

*Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.*

*--Philippians 3:13-14*

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### **Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, February 15, 2023):**

The Session held their February Stated meeting on Wednesday, February 15th, at the church and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Jeff Binder and opened with devotions and prayer by the clerk, Nancy Smallenberger.

In attendance were: Moderator, Rev. Jeff Binder; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; Program Coordinator/Educator, Amy Kesterson; Ruling Elders: Renee Ahern, Jim Coleman, Townley Hamilton, Sara Irons, Megan Kirkham, Amy Meadows, Joan Montgomery, Jim Rowe, Jennifer Runyon and Gary Williams; and guest, Rev. Cameron Harkness, representing the Bereavement group.

Minutes from the January 18th Stated Session meeting were presented by the Clerk and were approved as presented.



Rev. Binder welcomed Rev. Cam Harkness who was present to update the Session on the Bereavement group. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to grant Harkness “the floor”.

Committee reports were presented by the following committees/groups:

- Building Use Task Force
- Worship and Music Committee
- Property Committee
- Safety Team
- Stewardship and Finance Committee
- Outreach Committee
- History Committee
- PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)

Committees/groups who presented items for action, and those actions, included:

#### BUILDING USE POLICY UPDATE TASK FORCE

- APPROVED a request from the Lewisburg Garden Club to meet at the church on Wednesday, March 22.
- APPROVED a request for the ALP/CP program of the Presbytery of WV to meet at Old Stone on May 19 and 20 and also on October 13 and 14.
- APPROVED a request from the Daughters of the American Revolution to use fellowship hall on March 16, April 20 and May 18.
- DENIED a request from Goodladd Dog Training to hold workshops at Old Stone.

#### BUILDING USE SURVEY – Amy Kesterson

- Session APPROVED for the survey to be presented at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 26.

#### WORSHIP and MUSIC – Townley Hamilton

- Townley reported that the committee has discussed ways to increase attendance for the Maundy Thursday service. One of the suggestions was to offer a meal for those attending prior to the service. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to have a meal prior to the service. The idea is for those attending to gather in fellowship hall for a meal, followed by the service, also to be held in fellowship hall. Those planning to attend will be encouraged to RSVP to the church office in order to plan the meal.

#### STEWARDSHIP and FINANCE – Jennifer Runyon

- The Stewardship Committee presented the 2023 proposed budget for Session’s approval. There was much discussion and many questions regarding the proposed budget. There was a question concerning a line item under Personnel that prompted a motion being made to move that amount from Personnel to Music. The motion was seconded and APPROVED. Also, during discussion, a motion was made and seconded regarding staff salaries. Following questions and further discussion, the motion was WITHDRAWN. Once all questions were answered and there being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the budget as presented, with the one change; the motion was then APPROVED. A motion was then made, seconded and APPROVED to present the budget to the congregation during the Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 26.

#### PASTOR’S REPORT – Rev. Binder

- Congregational Care updates
- Reminded Session of the Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 26, when the budget, building use survey and PNC report update will be presented.
- Pastor Jeff will be asking participants in the Tuesday Lenten “Thoughtful Christian” group and those attending the 1st Sunday event on March 5th to participate in his doctoral program work. More will be explained at the events.

#### REPORT OF THE CLERK – Nancy Smallenberger

- The 2022 Statistical Report, which had been completed by the Clerk, was presented prior to being submitted to the Presbytery office. A motion and seconded to affirm the report as presented and was APPROVED.

The Session’s next meeting will be Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

There being no other business that required Session's action, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Rev. Binder.

*Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk*

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## **Thank You from the Building Use Task Force:**

Thank you to each and every person who submitted a survey response regarding Old Stone's building use. Together, we received over 47 surveys! Your responses are greatly appreciated. A summary of the responses was shared with Session during their March 15th meeting, and we will continue to reference these surveys when shaping our evolving future building use policy. Should you wish to see a summary of the results, please contact Pastor Jeff.

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## **A Wonderful S.T.A.I.R. Year!**

The STAIR program for 2022-2023 has come to a successful completion. STAIR is an acronym for "Start The Adventure In Reading" & our goal has been exactly that; to make reading an adventure! This has been a mission of Old Stone Presbyterian Church for the past 23 years. Our small thrift shop (The Americana) has been providing funds along with the Church family & friends. We are all volunteers that love what we are doing. We had 7 energetic kids and 13 wonderful tutors. We were, also, supported by 3 substitutes, 1 coordinator, 23 snack providers, 7 prayer partners & 1 PAW dog with his great handler. We could never have this great program without the support of the Lewisburg Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers Ms. Nugen, Ms. Millhbach, Ms. Baker & our liaison, Mrs. Terry Hall & Ms. Amanda Workman.



When asked what the children like about STAIR, they said:

- Reading chapter books
- Games, food and learning more so it can help me
- Games & reading
- Read to the Dog
- Reading
- I learned how to read better & reading to Jasper
- I liked everything about it

When asked about what they would like to do different:

- More reading time
- No changes
- A reading craft
- Nothing – It's good

Every child has made good improvement. Several are on a 2nd grade level where they should be.

Please be a part of this amazing program. We need tutors, substitutes & a substitute coordinator for 2023-2024. Please let Debbie Taylor know if you are interested. We cannot have a successful program without a supportive church family and community.

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# Holy Week at Old Stone

## 2023

### Palm/Passion Sunday (April 2nd)



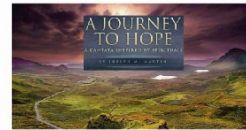
11:00 In-Person Worship  
*(or via YouTube or Radio)*  
Logos "Parade of Palms" During Worship



### Maundy Thursday (April 6th)

6:00 In-Person Communion Service with Soup and Bread (in Fellowship Hall)

### Easter Cantata (April 8th)



7:00 *A Journey to Hope* Presented by the Old Stone Presbyterian Church Community Chorus and Orchestra



### Easter Sunday (April 9th)

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!



**Old Stone Presbyterian Church  
Community Chorus and Orchestra  
present**

# *A Journey to Hope*

**A Cantata by Joseph M. Martin which tells the story  
of Christ's ministry, passion and resurrection  
through treasured songs of faith**

**Saturday – April 8th**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Old Stone Presbyterian Church  
Lewisburg, WV**

## 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  
03/20 Sue Gurley  
03/21 Wiley Irons  
03/21 Kathy Smith  
03/23 David Snyder

## April Birthdays

04/05 Anna Ahern  
04/05 Mary Page Nemicik  
04/08 Asa Brown  
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  
04/19 Madison Snyder  
04/21 Carol Perkins

*03/24 Cam Huffman  
03/24 Andy Kelso  
03/25 Carroll Crane  
03/27 Ed Rock  
03/28 Lexanne Meldrum  
03/30 James Montgomery*

*04/22 Mary Adeline Bicksler  
04/22 John Wilson  
04/23 Robert Mareneck  
04/25 Ashley Meadows  
04/27 William Irons  
04/27 Joan Yarid  
04/28 Sharon Rowe  
04/29 Walter Coffindaffer  
04/29 Joe Taylor  
04/30 Sofia Kelso*

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

This is a reminder to be diligent and watch out for scammers pretending to be the staff of Old Stone Presbyterian Church or of the Presbytery of WV.

In the recent past, a number of people received a phishing email from Gmail accounts pretending to be the General Presbyter or the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of WV. The email did not come from an account ending in "wvpresbytery.org".

If you receive an email or phone call similar to this, DO NOT send the requested gift cards, money, or personal information. Old Stone Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of WV will NEVER ask you for gift cards, money, or personal information. Please reach out to a staff member if you receive email requests such as this and would like to verify whether or not it is a scam.

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