
Monthly Worship Attendance:

Sunday, March 3rd: In Person: 70 / YouTube: 8
Sunday, March 10th: In Person: 61 / YouTube: 17
Sunday, March 17th: In Person: 74 / YouTube: 12
Sunday, March 24th: In Person: 88 / YouTube: 14



**The OSPC Community Choir
and Orchestra**

presents George Frideric Handel's

Messiah



NO Admission Fee – All are Welcome!

**Saturday, March 30th
4:00 p.m.**

**Old Stone Presbyterian Church
Lewisburg, WV**

Easter Flower Cross - March 31st Before Worship (10:30 am):

This year we will once again flower the cross on Old Stone's lawn Easter morning. The flowering of the cross represents the transition from good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to the joyful celebration of his resurrection. The transformation of the barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol of new life in Christ. This symbol bears witness to all who drive past that Christ is risen, indeed! Please consider arriving a few minutes early on Easter morning to add your own flowers to our cross. Flowers from your own garden are perfectly appropriate! We look forward to continuing this new tradition together.

Easter Worship - March 31st at 11:00 a.m.:

Please join us in the sanctuary this Sunday, March 31st at 11:00 a.m. for our Easter Sunday worship service where we will enjoy music and singing by the Old Stone Choir and the Greenbrier River Brass Quintet. We hope to see you there!

First Sunday - April 7th (5:30 - 7:00 PM):

First Sunday will take place on April 7th at 5:30 p.m. Join us as the Outreach Committee hosts a meal and provides updates from their committee. Friends and family are always welcome. We can't wait to see you there!

Church Luncheon - Sunday, April 21st Following Worship:

The Fellowship and Care Committee will host a hot dog luncheon with all the fixings directly following worship on April 21st. Please feel free to bring a side dish or dessert, but it is not a requirement. We are looking forward to spending time together and celebrating our children that will lead worship that Sunday.

New Hope Grief Group - Wednesdays from February 7th to May 1st at 10:00 AM:

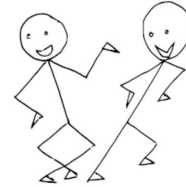
Are you, or someone you know, grieving the death of a loved one? A new grief group "New Hope" is forming at Old Stone Presbyterian Church. Using GriefShare materials, New Hope will meet on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 from February 7th through May 1st at the church. The 13-week session will help you find support and healing during a difficult time. Please call the church office at 304-645-2676 for more information and to register.

Life Is Better When You Can Line Dance!

What: Beginning Line Dance Lessons

When: Wednesdays (April 3, 17, and 24th)
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

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!

Property Committee Update

Look around and you will see that your Property Committee (Joan Montgomery, Chair; Wilson Bland, Carroll Crane, Susan Harkness, Tim Holbrook, Andy Kelso, Mike Leland, Angus Peyton, Jim Seeley) has been hard at work! So far this year, using funds generously provided by Peyton Foundation, several projects have already been completed. Fellowship Hall (including new chair rail) and the kitchen have been painted, as has the woodwork in the pastor's study. And how about our beautiful new Sanctuary cushions! The elevator has been repaired. Ongoing projects include fabrication of a new handrail in front of the education building to continue what is already there and a new drain by the fellowship hall to be installed in the spring. A few faithful snow removers make the buildings accessible for the rest of us. Thank you Wilson, Carroll and Tripp!

Session Highlights (Wednesday, February 21st Stated Meeting):

The Session held their Stated meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Present were: Moderator, Rev. Julie Olt; Clerk of Session, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; and Elders: Renee Ahern, Amy Brown, Andy Kelso, Mike Leland, Amy Meadows, Joan Montgomery, Jim Rowe, Jennifer Runyon, Debbie Taylor, Ann Walker and Gary Williams.

Minutes presented for approval included:

- Sunday, December 17, 2023 – Congregational meeting
- Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – Stated meeting

These minutes were approved as presented.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Julie

- The Lenten Bible study is continuing each Tuesday through Lent.
- The *New Hope* Grief Sharing group has begun meeting.
- Pastor Julie reported on visits she had recently made to individuals in the hospital/rehab center.
- Pastor Julie stated that she is excited to see the Care Group getting reorganized and beginning their work.

Committee reports were included in the Session packet. The only committee report that included action items was:

PERSONNEL – Jim Rowe, Moderator

- The committee recommends Session ratify the 2023 Staff Bonuses that were given by the Trustees. This came as a motion from committee so no second is required; the motion was approved.
- The committee recommended a “cost of living salary increase” for the salaried employees. This came as a motion from committee so no second is required; the motion was approved.

Other committees who included reports in the Session packet were:

- Worship and Music
- Stewardship and Finance

NEW BUSINESS –

- A Building Use request had been received from the Lewisburg Garden Club to hold their meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2024, in the Education Building of OSPC. A motion was made, seconded and approved for the group to hold their meeting in the Activity Room.
- Per the Book of Order, a Congregational meeting needs to be held to approve the Pastor's Call for 2024. A motion was made, seconded and approved to call the meeting for Sunday, March 3, 2024, at the conclusion of the morning worship service.
- Amy Brown, moderator of the Care Committee, requested \$75 a month for the group to use for postage, as they had not been included in the 2024 church budget. A motion was made, seconded and approved to make the funds available to the committee.

There being no other business that required Session action, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Pastor Julie.

The next Stated meeting of Session will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CALLED SESSION MEETING – MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

The Session met for a Called meeting, via Zoom, on Friday, March 1, 2024. Present were:

Moderator, Rev. Julie Olt; Clerk of Session, Nancy Smallenberger; Elders: Andy Kelso, Amy Meadows, Jennifer Runyon and Gary Williams and guest, Rev. Schuyler Olt. Being as there was not a quorum in attendance, there could be no official voting on matters.

Discussion was held pertaining to the ramifications of an advertisement that was in the newspaper by a candidate for office who is planning to host a “tour” event at Old Stone Presbyterian Church. This is in direct conflict with policies for churches to host political events, which could result in the church losing their non-profit status. Following discussion, it was suggested that Pastor Julie, along with Jim Rowe, to contact the president of the group, to make them aware of the issues associated with such an event.

The meeting was then closed with prayer by Rev. Sky Olt.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

The Session called for a Congregational meeting which was held on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at the conclusion of the morning worship service for the purpose of reviewing and voting on the call for Rev. Julie Olt. Following the closing hymn, Becky Williams, Authorized Lay Preacher, called the meeting to order and called on Jim Rowe, moderator of the Personnel Committee, to conduct the meeting. Rowe then called upon Ann Walker, moderator of the Finance and Stewardship Committee and church treasurer, to present to the congregation the recommendation from Session pertaining to Rev. Julie Olt’s terms of call. All those in attendance were given a handout that showed the change and what the change would cost the church.

Rowe then opened the floor for questions and discussion. Following the time for questions/discussion, Rowe called for question and the recommendation was presented to the congregation for a vote. The recommendation was approved.

As there was no other business requiring congregation act, the meeting was declared closed and the Benediction was offered by Becky Williams.

Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk

Pebbles of History About Old Stone:

In 1857, the church vestibule and stairways were created within the original building. The stairs to the right and left lead to the balcony and choir loft. The Bible in the center of the vestibule in the lighted case is a first edition of the King James Version, published in London in 1611. The Bible was a gift of Arthur Dayton. Within the formation of this vestibule, a door was made at each end of the vestibule. The door on the south side is still visible. An inner door was made in the middle for entrance into the original church. By 1910 the two present aisle entrances were in existence. The wooden collection boxes have been used since 1844. The pegged clothing hooks are similar to the originals.



Stewardship Financial Update:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update February 2024 *UPDATED		
	February Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$21,088.00	\$38,813.00
Other Offerings	\$4,782.00	\$10,029.00
Other Income	\$1,030.00	\$52,371.00
Total Income	\$26,900.00	\$101,213.00
Expenses	\$28,940.00	\$50,499.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$2,128.00	\$626.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update March 2024 Month-to-Date		
	March Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$12,960.00	\$51,773.00
Other Offerings	\$4,837.00	\$14,866.00
Other Income	\$681.00	\$53,052.00
Total Income	\$18,478.00	\$119,691.00
Expenses	\$46,635.00	\$97,134.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$28,157.00	-\$27,531.00

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

April Birthdays

04/05 Anna Ahern
 04/05 Mary Page Nemicik
 04/08 Asa Brown
 04/09 Polley Cunningham
 04/09 Jeff 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
 04/17 Doug Bicksler
 04/17 Leslie Bicksler
 04/18 Jill Gwinn
 04/19 Madison Snyder

03/21 Kathy Smith
03/23 David Snyder
03/24 Cam Huffman
03/24 Andy Kelso
03/25 Carroll Crane
03/27 Ed Rock
03/28 Lexanne Meldrum
03/30 James Montgomery

04/21 Carol Perkins
04/22 Mary Adeline Bicksler
04/22 John Wilson
04/23 Bob Mareneck
04/25 Ashley Meadows
04/27 Bill Irons
04/27 Joan Yarid
04/28 Sharon Rowe
04/29 Walter Coffindaffer
04/29 Joe Taylor
04/30 Sofia Kelso

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 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.

Phishing Reminder from the Presbytery of WV:



*A number of people have shared that they received emails this morning from "Rev. Maureen Wright" asking that you return a text sent to you. **These emails are a scam**. Maureen Wright is a ruling elder not a reverend, and the email is from "organizationmission@gmail.com." All staff emails remain the same. Please delete any email coming from this address, do not give any personal information in response to this, and do not purchase or send money to anyone. Presbytery staff will never randomly ask for personal information or request that you purchase items or send money. If you have any questions, please contact the office.*
