



## Stone Chippings Newsletter

August 2023

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### A Note from Rev. Julie Olt:

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful welcome you have given Schuyler and me to Old Stone Presbyterian Church and to Lewisburg. Thank you so much for all your efforts to include us, they are greatly appreciated!

I've been thinking about you all as I try to learn your names (please be patient with me...) and that has gotten me to thinking about names.

Research has shown that one of the most beautiful sounds we hear is someone saying our name. Even if we don't particularly like our name, we like to hear it said. It affirms us and grounds us and helps us to feel like we belong. It also makes us feel like someone cares about us if they take the time to learn, know, and use our name. I love it when Sky calls me by name. I love it now that my grandchildren are all old enough to call me "Minnie" at last! They know that I have a name.

In the Gospel of John, chapter 20, verses 11-18 we read one of the most beautiful stories in the Bible. It is usually read as an Easter text, but I've been thinking about it since arriving here. And the reason I have been thinking about it is because Mary is weeping at the empty tomb and doesn't recognize that the person she thinks is the gardener is actually Jesus. However, when he *calls her by name*, her weeping turns to joy as she realizes who is talking to her.

Jesus knows each of us by name, and calls to us. It is up to us to recognize his voice and to follow him. With all the name calling that goes on in our society today, it isn't always easy to hear our true name and to hear the true name of others. We sometimes forget that we, and others, are children of God who have a name that is called by our Shepherd. When we call other people names that label them, demean them, and are something other than their given name, we dishonor them, and we dishonor our call from Christ to love one another.

What would happen if today you called someone by their name? Your spouse, your child, the checkout person at Walmart, your waitress? I think that the world might just be a gentler, kinder place if we call people by their names. Perhaps someone needs, like Mary at the tomb, for their weeping to be turned to joy and you calling them by name might just help.

As I learn your names and get to know you, I would like you to know that I am here for you. I am (usually) easy to get hold of. My cell number is 606-831-8312 and my email is [Julie.olt@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.olt@gmail.com). If you are interested in getting together over a cup of coffee or lunch, or just visiting in my office or your home, give me a call and we will get it on the calendar.

Also, if you know of any events that I should attend, please let me know and I will do my best to be there. Or, if you know of other ways for me to engage in the community, please feel free to invite me!

I am so happy to be here and to be a part of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church. I'm excited to find out what God has in store for us, and I hope you are, too!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Julie

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## Monthly Worship Attendance:

**Sunday, July 2nd:** In Person: 153 / YouTube: 21  
**Sunday, July 9th:** In Person: 60 / YouTube: 10  
**Sunday, July 16th:** In Person: 69 / YouTube: 7  
**Sunday, July 23rd:** In Person: 90 / YouTube: 22



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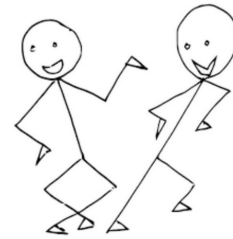
### Life Is Better When You Can Line Dance!

**What:** Beginning Line Dance Lessons

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

- August 2, 9, 16, and 23
- September 6, 13, and 20
- Will continue to meet the first three Wednesdays of each month from October through December

**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.

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. Becky Mahlborg is the ActiveSWV "Captain" for this activity.

So grapevine, shuffle, or cha-cha over and LET'S DANCE!

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### Remembering Chuck Lewis – by Jim Arbuckle:

On May 2, 2022, I contacted Rev. Jeff Binder explaining the reason I had not been to church, due to complications from a fall in August 2021.

Two nights later on May 4, 2022, I saw a light blinking on our answering machine. Pressing the button, I heard this familiar and friendly voice saying, "Jim, this is Chuck Lewis. I just heard and I am very sorry about your accident. I was just wondering if there is anything I can do. You can call me at 667-2---. Thank-you. Good-bye."

I immediately called him back and thanked him, and told him that I was doing okay, and ask how he was doing. He told me that he was alright, but his concern was for me, and again asked if there was anything that he could do, to please tell him. Here was a man, who was suffering health problems far more than I had ever suffered in my life, yet his only concern was the help for a fellow church member and I'm sure other church members as well.

We talked for a long time that night. He invited me to his Sunday school class over Zoom. We talked about which different Bible translations we enjoyed. We also talked about how many cars and trucks I had bought from Bill Lewis Motors in my lifetime. We even talked about attending kindergarten together at St. James Episcopal Church. Before this nice phone call ended, we agreed to do some phone discussion on what the Bible says about the Book of Life and Eternal Life.

Unfortunately, we never got to have that important discussion. I know that I need not tell anyone what a kind and Christian man Chuck Lewis was, but I just wanted to share this time with you. And today, I still have his caring voice on our answering machine.

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### Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, May 17, 2023):

The Session held their Stated meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Rev. Jeff Binder called the meeting to order and Elder, Jim Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.

In attendance were: Moderator, Rev. Binder; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson and Elders: Renee Ahern, Stuart Brown, Jim Coleman, Amy Meadows, Joan Montgomery, Jim Rowe, Jennifer Runyon, Ann Walker and Gary Williams.

The docket was approved as presented, with the addition of a request from Olivia Plybon to become a member of OSPC.

Minutes presented for approval included:

- Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, April 19; and
- Congregational meeting on Sunday, May 7.

These minutes were approved as presented.

Olivia was unable to be present at the meeting as she was participating with the Lady Spartan's Softball team in tournament play. Amy Kesterson read Olivia's Statement of Faith. Pastor Jeff stated that he and Amy had spoken with Olivia and covered all the materials that would be covered by any adult wishing to join Old Stone. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept Olivia into membership of OSPC.

Reports were presented by the following committees/groups:

- Building Use
- Christian Education
- Fellowship
- Worship and Music
- Personnel
- PNC
- Property
- Safety Team
- Trustee
- Stewardship and Finance

None of these committees or groups presented any items that required Session action/approval.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Jeff

- Congregational Care updates
- Pastor Transition conversation continued
- Pastor Jeff expressed his thanks for the work “you all” have done – Session and the church.

REPORT OF THE CLERK – Nancy Smallenberger

- A Ruling Elder Commissioner is still needed for the Presbytery of WV meeting on Saturday, May 20, to be held at 1st Presbyterian Church in Clarksburg. The Presbytery will be experimenting with Commissioners being able to zoom in to the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED for Amy Meadows to serve as Commissioner.
- Worship Attendance was printed in the Session packet.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A question was relayed from a member of the congregation regarding Congregational meetings being broadcast over YouTube (livestreamed). Pastor Jeff stated that congregational meetings are open to all.
- It was mentioned that there are items on the website that should be updated. Pastor Jeff stated that if anyone is aware of such items, they should contact the church office.

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

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

*Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk of Session*

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### **Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, June 21, 2023):**

The Session met for their Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Moderator, Rev. Julie Olt. Attendance was taken by the Clerk and it was determined that there was not a quorum in attendance. Without a quorum, no

official business could be conducted.

PRESENT: Moderator, Rev. Julie Olt; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; and Ruling Elders: Renee Ahern, Sara Irons, Joan Montgomery, Megan Kirkham, Jim Rowe and Amy Meadows.

Amy Kesterson presented devotions and prayer.

Even though there could not be any action taken, reports were given by the following committees and groups:

- Building Use Task Force
- Christian Education Committee
- Fellowship Committee
- Worship and Music Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Property Committee
- Safety Team Task Force
- Stewardship and Finance Committee

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Julie

- Stated that she will be on Study Leave – September 9-16 – pulpit supply will be needed on Sunday, September 10.
- She had attended a Presbyterian Clergy Luncheon with area pastors.

REPORT OF THE CLERK – Nancy Smallenberger

- Correspondence included “Prayer Letters” from churches in the Presbytery; a Thank You from the Williams family and a letter from Carnegie Hall regarding their upcoming 40th anniversary events.
- The next meeting of the Presbytery of WV will be held on Thursday, August 17th at the Fayetteville Presbyterian Church. A Ruling Elder Commission will need to be elected at the next Session meeting.
- Worship attendance had been included in the Session packet.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Amy Meadows gave a report on the May meeting of the Presbytery she had attended.
- Welcome to Rev. Julie Olt.

The next meeting of the Session will be Wednesday, July 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Activity Room of the church.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Julie.

*Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk of Session*

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## **Stewardship Financial Update:**

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update June 2023 *UPDATED		
	June Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$10,980.00	\$151,703.00
Other Offerings	\$3,282.00	\$28,983.00
Other Income	\$20,290.00	\$23,250.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$34,552.00</b>	<b>\$203,936.00</b>
Expenses	\$41,154.00	\$204,392.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$6,601.00	-\$956.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update July 2023 Month-to-Date		
	July Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$12,740.00	\$164,443.00
Other Offerings	\$3,707.00	\$32,690.00
Other Income	\$5,675.00	\$28,925.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$22,122.00</b>	<b>\$226,058.00</b>
Expenses	\$35,083.00	\$239,476.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$12,961.00	-\$13,918.00

### July Birthdays

07/01 Ryan Meadows  
 07/01 Coriann Nemcik  
 07/01 Benjamin Snyder  
 07/01 Bill Snyder  
 07/02 Todd Williams  
 07/06 Pat Bashen  
 07/06 Susan Harkness  
 07/06 Molly Hileman  
 07/06 Mark Smith  
 07/07 Anita Snyder  
 07/08 John Lehman  
 07/10 Yvette Yarid  
 07/15 Stuart Brown  
 07/16 Tom Greenstreet  
 07/16 Zach Hileman  
 07/18 Butch Neal

### August Birthdays

08/02 Jim Rowe  
 08/03 Sue Rock  
 08/04 Norman Ahern, Jr.  
 08/05 Jacqueline Bennett  
 08/08 Bob Perkins  
 08/09 John Wilson Bicksler  
 08/11 Nancy Bulla  
 08/11 Shannon Lehman  
 08/11 Andrew Scarborough-McLaughlin  
 08/17 Wilson Bland  
 08/24 Dorothy Lee  
 08/24 Jen Runyon  
 08/25 Nancy Smallenberger  
 08/26 Bobbi Hoffman  
 08/27 Beverly Johnson  
 08/27 Acie Kesterson

*07/19 Lou Ella Lewis*  
*07/22 Joan Montgomery*  
*07/22 Sharon White*  
*07/22 Dena Williams*  
*07/23 Frank White*  
*07/26 Jim Coleman*

*08/27 Bonnie Marshall*  
*08/30 Linda Hayes*

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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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