



An Invitation to Take Back the Holidays:

The holiday season is upon us! The downtown streets are festively lit! There are gifts to be purchased, meals to be prepared, and decorations to be put up. Students will be rushing to finish school projects and exams before the winter break. Travel arrangements are being made, the last of the outdoor yardwork is being accomplished for the season, ...and don't forget about the holiday parties and entertainment! It can feel like we are out of control!



BREATHE!

There can be a LOT that can go on during this month of December. It is understandable that people become stressed and worn out during this busy time of the year. Instead of enjoying the holidays, we feel beaten up by them.

The season of Advent acknowledges this craziness, and then invites you into a different experience of the holiday season.

Believe it or not, we get the same 24-hour days during December as we do every other month. We have the opportunity to decide how and where we are going to spend our time and energy each day. Yes, some of these end-of-the-year to-do's are essential...but not everything.

Each day we wake up, we have an opportunity to decide how we are going to use the time we have in this world. Each activity we attend, we have an opportunity to decide how we are going to show up to these many programs and events.

So here is my invitation for you: instead of running around like chickens with our heads cut off, take a few moments throughout the season... to intentionally... be... present. Breathe deeply. Find a quiet place. If you are so inclined, read or listen to an Advent devotion for the day. And when the time is right, my hope is that we can re-engage with the world around us, perhaps a bit more grounded and aware of the many blessings that this season can share, instead of becoming a victim of the holiday madness.

If you are interested in learning more about Advent devotionals, please reach out, and I can introduce you to some wonderful ideas. In the meantime, here are a few quick suggestions:

Podcast: *Pray As You Go*

Website: *Presbyterians Today* Advent Devotional
(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/>)

App: *D365*

Reading: *These Days*

And as always, we would love to worship with you here at church each and every Sunday at 11AM, where each person is invited to breathe deeply, to experience some quiet, and to be present with God, as we await the coming of the Messiah.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Monthly Worship Attendance:

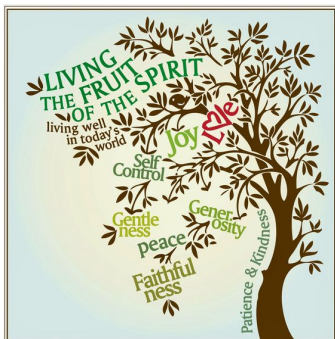
Sunday, October 30th: In Person: 76 / YouTube: 17
Sunday, November 6th: In Person: 73 / YouTube: 19
Sunday, November 13th: In Person: 62 / YouTube: 15
Sunday, November 20th: In Person: 61 / YouTube: 16



First Sunday - December 4th:

First Sunday will take place on December 4th at 12:30 pm. Pastor Jeff will have a devotion for the adults, while Amy Kesterson and Debbie Taylor lead a devotion and activities for children of all ages!

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!



Advent Nursery:

We are excited that a traditional nursery will be available to families for each and every Sunday in Advent. All children will begin in worship and depart for the nursery after Time With Young Church. We can't wait to see you in worship!

Family Refuge Center Blanket Collection:

Our First Sundays class collected blankets to distribute to the Family Refuge Center. We are pleased to share with you that 44 blankets have been passed along to the FRC for their current residents as well as those who receive their services off-site! Thank you Old Stone for making this mission project a successful endeavor!



Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, October 19, 2022):

The Session met for their monthly Stated meeting on Wednesday, October 19. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Jeff Binder, moderator. Opening devotions and prayer, prepared by Sara Irons, were presented by Karen Leland.

In attendance were: Moderator, Rev. Jeff Binder; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; and Elders: Stuart Brown, Jim Coleman, Tag Galyean, Townley Hamilton, Karen Leland, Scott McClelland, Joan Montgomery and Jim Rowe.

Minutes from the Wednesday, September 21, 2022, Stated meeting were presented and APPROVED.

Committee reports were presented by the following committees:

- Nominating
- PNC (Pastor Nominating)
- Personnel
- Property
- Stewardship and Finance
- Worship
- Outreach

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

- Pastoral care updates
- An amendment will be on the November 8th ballot regarding the Incorporation of Churches.

- A traditional Officer Training will be held once the new officers are elected by the congregation.
- The Trustees are reviewing the church's insurance policy which will be due for renewal in January.
- The Transitional Ministry discussion group, "The Thoughtful Christian" continues to meet on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. The "Vital Congregations" sermon series continues.
- The youth of the church will be hosting a Halloween "foods" luncheon following the worship service on Sunday, October 30.

The Clerk's Report was presented, including:

- Church attendance
- Electing Jim Coleman to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioner to the November 12, 2022, meeting of the Presbytery.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Rev. Binder stated that a request had been received to allow a play group/preschool program to meet in one of the rooms of the Education Building. No other information was available. It was determined that more information was needed and the procedural process of submitting the Room Reservation/Room Rental application.
- Technology questions/issues:
 1. Rev. Binder reported that there are still issues with the radio broadcast. Brahm Kesterson is working with the station to resolve the problem and has been told that the station is working on a new app and if that doesn't resolve the problems, the church will need to purchase additional equipment.
 2. One of the video cameras in the sanctuary has been broken for a period of time and has been sent to be repaired. At this time, we are waiting for the return of the repaired camera or a replacement.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Fellowship Committee will sponsor a Covered Dish Lunch following worship service on Sunday, November 13.
- A "Holiday Cookie Decorating" will be held on Sunday, December 11.
- Handel's *Messiah* will be presented on Saturday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rehearsals continue to be held on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

The Session will hold their next Stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, in the Activity Room and via Zoom.

Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk

Stewardship Financial Update:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update Through October 2022 *UPDATED		
	October	
	Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$34,636.00	\$266,288.00
Other Offerings	\$5,347.00	\$47,285.00
Other Income	\$311.00	\$10,578.00
Total Income	\$40,294.00	\$324,151.00
Expenses	\$25,890.00	\$282,356.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$14,404.00	\$39,294.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update Through November 2022		
	November	
	Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$15,704.00	\$281,992.00
Other Offerings	\$4,853.00	\$52,139.00
Other Income	\$100.00	\$10,678.00
Total Income	\$20,657.00	\$344,809.00
Expenses	\$17,333.00	\$299,690.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$3,324.00	\$42,618.00

November Birthdays

11/01 Tracy Morgan
 11/06 Macie Hileman
 11/06 Dawn Huffman
 11/06 Stephanie Williams
 11/13 Ian Burford
 11/14 Brenda Jones
 11/14 Shirley Runyon
 11/16 Dick Marshall, Jr.
 11/16 Lucy (Marshall) Taylor
 11/21 Marley Kesterson
 11/22 Annabelle Galyean
 11/23 Carol Cales
 11/23 Larry Jones
 11/24 Elizabeth Kucera
 11/27 Carter Huffman

December Birthdays

12/01 Amy Ahern
 12/01 Linda Walls
 12/04 Herb Pearis
 12/07 Hallie Nemcik
 12/09 Frances Crane
 12/09 Paige Totten
 12/10 Ben Gurley
 12/11 Betsey Satterfield
 12/16 Townley Hamilton
 12/26 Andrew McClelland
 12/28 Cliff Huffman



Old Stone Advent & Christmas

All are welcome!

November 27 th

9:30 - 10:50 Wreath Making and Activities

12:00 - 1:30 Wreath Making

December 4th

12:00 First Sunday - Pizza and Old Stone Elves - This brand new endeavor will entail small groups paying visits to those who could use some holiday cheer. Contact Amy K. for more details.

December 10th

7:00 Handel's Messiah - Join the Old Stone Choir and Orchestra for a performance of selected parts of Handel's Messiah

December 11th

12:00 PYC Luncheon & Church-Wide Christmas Party - You can expect a delicious meal, cookie decorating, a hot chocolate bar, & crafts!

December 24th

7:30 Christmas Eve Worship Service with Family-Friendly Interactive Nativity

December 25th

11:00 Christmas Day Worship Service



You are invited!

Please join the *Old Stone Presbyterian Church Community Chorus and Orchestra* for a performance of selected parts of

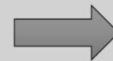
Handel's "Messiah"

*Saturday - December 10, 2022
7:00 p.m. in the OSC Sanctuary*



Rehearsals begin on **Monday, October 17th**
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the OSC Educational Building

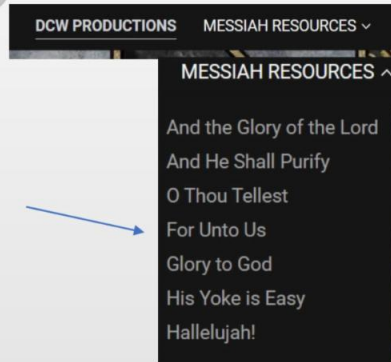
Please see the back of this flier **for contact information and rehearsal support resources.**





*I have no
experience
with
classical
music!*

Rehearsal Support Website
<https://dcwcreativeproductions.com/>



On this website you will find a special page for each chorus. You can download the sheet music and watch a video of the entire chorus which plays the orchestra and other parts while your part is highlighted. This site will open on your phone, tablet or computer so you can practice anytime, anywhere.

Contact Information

If you would like to join us, please contact Brennan Wood, director of music at Old Stone Church:

Brennan Wood
docbrennanwood@gmail.com

or contact the **church office**:
Old Stone Presbyterian Church
644 Church Street
Lewisburg, WV 24901
304-645-2676
office@oldstonechurchwv.com



Please feel free to share this information with others who might be interested.

Watch Out for Scams During the Holidays:

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

Recently, 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 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. Stay safe this holiday season!
