



Our Lenten Journey; Our Wilderness Journey:

There is a great book entitled *Journey in the Wilderness: New Life for Mainline Churches* written by a church consultant named Gil Rendle. The basic premise of the book is that many of our current congregations (just like Old Stone) find themselves living and functioning in a different world than we did fifty years ago. We are experiencing our own metaphorical wilderness moments as the church today.



What about the world has changed since 1973? How about at Old Stone?

The book's quick observation about our churches is this: In many ways, Old Stone finds itself operating from a framework that needs to be updated. It's time to create a plan to journey through the wilderness of the modern age.

Two particular themes emerge when it comes to ruminating upon such an update for the church: *Identity* and *Purpose*.

When churches have a clear understanding of their identity, they can more readily communicate with themselves and the community **who they are**.

When churches have a clear understanding of their purpose, they can more readily communicate with themselves and the community **why they exist**.

During this season of Lent, as we journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, perhaps it's also a great opportunity to journey through the wilderness of articulating our identity and purpose as well.

This leaves us with three important questions as we journey together:

1. Who are we?
2. What has God called us to do?
3. Who is our neighbor?

I'd love to talk with you about these questions sometime this month. Let's grab a meal or some coffee, let's dream together, let's be honest with each other, and let's journey through the wilderness of this Lenten season together as we envision a bright new day ahead for Old Stone.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Monthly Worship Attendance:

Sunday, January 1st: In Person: 47 / YouTube: 21
Sunday, January 8th: In Person: 49 / YouTube: 20
Sunday, January 15th: In Person: 62 / YouTube: 25
Sunday, January 22nd: In Person: 73 / YouTube: 20



OLD STONE FABRIC SALE

Feb 3 10-3 Feb 4 10-4

Expect Moda, Hoffman and MORE!



Use fellowship hall entrance on foster street
644 Church Street Lewisburg WV

EVERYTHING \$6 A YARD!

Fabric Sale - Friday, February 3rd (10 am - 3 pm) and Saturday, February 4th (10 am - 4 pm):

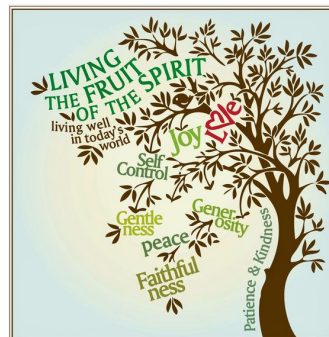
PYC will host a Fabric Sale in conjunction with Tracy Morgan to raise funds for Christian Education from 10 am - 3 pm on Friday, February 3rd and from 10 am - 4 pm on Saturday, February 4th.

Please help us spread the word!

First Sundays Gathering - February 5th at 5:30 p.m.:

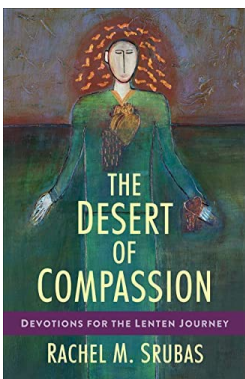
First Sunday will take place on Sunday, February 5th at 5:30 p.m.

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!



Parent's Night Out - February 11th (5:30-9:00):

Hooray! It's our first Parents Night Out post COVID! Children ages infant - 5th grade are invited to join us for an evening of games, crafts and dinner! PYC will babysit for donations toward their 2023 High School Mission Trip. Walk-Ins are welcome, but sign-ups are SUPER helpful. Call or text Amy Kesterson at 304-992-6299 - and don't forget to tell your friends!



The Thoughtful Christian - *The Desert of Compassion* by Rachel M. Srubas - Beginning Tuesday, February 28th at 11:00 A.M.:

The next installment of our weekday Bible study will begin on February 28th and run for six consecutive Tuesdays through April 4th. Pastor Jeff Binder will lead participants through the Lenten Devotional titled, *The Desert of Compassion* by Rachel M. Srubas.

Class will begin at 11:00 and will last roughly one hour. Everyone is invited to join us! Books are available in the Education Building on the glass countertop. Even if you do not wish to join the class but would like to participate in the Lenten Devotion - pick up a book! There is no charge for the book, but if you wish to contribute to the cost, you can simply put \$11.00 in the provided envelope and return it to the office or leave it in the secure mailbox located at the front entrance of the Education Building. For more information contact Jeff Binder or Amy Kesterson.

Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, December 21, 2022):

The Session held their December Stated meeting on Wednesday, December 21st, at the church and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order and opened with devotions and prayer by Rev. Binder.

In attendance were: Moderator, Rev. Jeff Binder; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; Program Coordinator/Educator, Amy Kesterson; Ruling Elders: Stuart Brown, Jim Coleman, Townley

Hamilton, Sara Irons, Scott McClelland and Jennifer Runyon; and guests: newly elected Elders, Class of 2025 – Renee Ahern, Ann Walker and Gary Williams; and Trustee, John Wilson.

Two sets of minutes were presented for approval, including:

- November 16th Stated meeting, approved as presented and amended
- November 27th Congregational meeting approved as presented.

Committee reports were presented by the following committees/groups:

- Trustees
- Fellowship
- Safety Team
- Building Use
- Worship
- Finance

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

- Building Use – Recommended to pause all long-term building use applications (new inquiries) until new policy is approved. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to accept the group's recommendation.

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

- Congregational care updates
- Church Incorporation updates from Presbytery
- Pastor Jeff reported that he will be on vacation from December 25-31. Amy Kesterson will lead worship on December 25. He also reported that he will be out of town, attending his DMin class, January 7-14, 2023. Becky Williams will lead worship on January 8.
- Committees are encouraged to continue meeting and to begin to identify moderators for 2023.
- In the absence of Jim Rowe, moderator of the PNC, Pastor Jeff reported that the PNC continues to meet and interview candidates.

The Clerk's report was presented, including:

- Correspondence from the Presbytery
- Worship attendance
- Finalized work on the active member roll

There was no new business that required Session action.

The next Stated Session meeting will be Wednesday, January 18th, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Activity Room and via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Pastor Jeff.

Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk

What's New with Presbyterian Women:

And then there was December.....church decorations, beautiful poinsettias, cookies for the Food Locker, "breakfast bags" for Angel Tree families, gifts for girls at the McCormick House! Our Americana sale was very successful and proceeds from the shop let us help many, many community organizations. Both circles continue to meet. The Afternoon Circle enjoyed a soup luncheon before our December meeting.

And in the New Year.....Our ongoing programs continue. S.T.A.I.R. tutoring is helping second graders catch up in reading. We support a student at NewRiver Technical College through a scholarship. The Americana Shop offers wonderful bargains (and if you made a New Year's Resolution to clean house, we take donations). The Afternoon and Evening Circles are learning and discussing "Celebrating Sabbath" in person or on Zoom. Gwen's Meals happen several times each year. We visit nursing homes.

If YOUR New Year's Resolution is to participate in church or community activities, to make new friends, or to stay active.....consider giving one or two hours each month to any of our many activities. Help with a meal, provide a snack for S.T.A.I.R., send cards to church members, deliver

flowers, try out a Circle. No experience necessary! No membership requirements! Contact any member of Presbyterian Women or the church office.

Stewardship Financial Update:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update Through December 2022 *UPDATED		
	December	
	Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$20,861.00	\$309,676.00
Other Offerings	\$7,950.00	\$61,061.00
Other Income	\$2,787.00	\$13,790.00
Total Income	\$31,598.00	\$384,527.00
Expenses	\$37,448.00	\$353,733.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$5,851.00	\$28,293.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update January 2023 Month-to-Date		
	January Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$4,870.00	\$4,870.00
Other Offerings	\$1,603.00	\$1,603.00
Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$6,473.00	\$6,473.00
Expenses	\$15,847.00	\$15,847.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$9,374.00	-\$9,374.00

January Birthdays

01/06 Susan Graham
 01/08 Marcia Leitch
 01/08 Corbin Long
 01/11 Miriam "Whickey" Knight
 01/12 Grace Brown
 01/12 Amy Meadows
 01/13 Suzanne Snyder
 01/16 Julia Smith
 01/16 Lauren Smith
 01/17 Rodney Weikle
 01/18 Beverly Kucera
 01/21 Tracy Peyton

February Birthdays

02/01 John Rodgers
 02/02 Katie Buck
 02/03 Paul Kucera
 02/04 Trip Hamilton
 02/06 Becky Neal
 02/21 Charlie Gwinn
 02/25 Bill Cunningham
 02/26 Adam Snyder
 02/27 Mary Scarborough

01/22 Linda Monti
01/23 Hanno Kirk
01/27 Nancy Greenstreet
01/28 Katrina White
01/30 Meg Kirkham
01/30 Olivia Plybon

Americana Thrift Store - Donations Needed:

The Americana Thrift Store is in need of donations of household items, jewelry, clothing, and bedding. If you would like to donate items to the Americana, donations can be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall entrance of the Education Building from 9am - 4pm Monday through Friday. Please place your donations on the table to the right of the steps as you enter Fellowship Hall. If the door is locked, please ring the doorbell or call us in advance and we will let you in.

Thank You from Sharon White:

Thank you to the members of the Church family who sent encouraging cards and prayers during my recent illness.

Sincerely,

Sharon White



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.
