



Stone Chippings Newsletter

January 2023

Called in Discipleship:

This New Year's Day will be a wonderful worship experience here at Old Stone. Sure, many of us may need a little extra rest to make up for a late night as we watch the ball drop, but on January 1st at 11AM we will worship and give praise to God as we recount the Epiphany story, as we ordain and install the new elders of the church, and as we celebrate the Lord's Supper together. What an exciting day!



What does it mean to be called by God today? This month will look into this idea a bit more as we explore discipleship, or what it means to follow Jesus in 2023.

With the new year comes plenty of opportunities to mentally and spiritually re-commit ourselves to God's call in our lives. Yes, our day-to-day existence may seem very similar to how it was in 2022, but I invite you to embrace this moment as an opportunity for a renewed commitment to follow Jesus in your life.

- Join us for our *First Sunday* intergenerational meal and program (meeting on January 8th this month).
- Interested in developing new community? There are groups for all people, all ages—just reach out to the church office to see which group may be a good fit!
- Interested in service and mission opportunities? Let's sit down for coffee or a meal and see how God may be calling you to an exciting 2023 ahead!

I am excited for not only this month of January as we explore God's call in our lives, but for this entire year as Old Stone forges a new path forward, thankful for what has brought us all this way, appreciative for where we find ourselves today, and hopeful for a bright future ahead!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Monthly Worship Attendance:

Sunday, November 27th: In Person: 89 / YouTube: 18
Sunday, December 4th: In Person: 125 / YouTube: 15
Saturday, December 10th (Messiah): In Person: 132 / YouTube: 15
Sunday, December 11th: In Person: 90 / YouTube: 11
Sunday, December 18th: In Person: 94 / YouTube: 20
Saturday, December 24th (Christmas Eve): In Person: 145 / YouTube: 10
Sunday, December 25th: In Person: 45 / YouTube: Not Recorded



First Sunday - January 8th:

First Sunday will take place on the second Sunday in January (1/8/23).

Please note that we will not meet on Sunday, January 1st in honor



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!

Comfort Care Outreach:

Comfort Care Outreach continues to make a difference in the lives of the Greenbrier Health Care Center. Thank you to this ministry for all that you do!



Photos from The Messiah Concert:





Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, November 16, 2022):

The Session held their November Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, November 16th, at the church and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Binder and devotions and opening prayer were offered by Joan Montgomery.

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

Minutes of the Wednesday, October 19, 2022, Stated meeting were presented and APPROVED.

Committee reports were presented by the following committees:

- Worship and Music
- Nominating
- Pastor Nominating
- Personnel
- Stewardship and Finance
- Property
- Outreach

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

- Nominating – To call a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 27, 2022, to elected Elders, Class of 2025; Trustee, Class of 2025 and 2023 Nominating Committee – APPROVED.
- Personnel – To approve the 2023 Interim Pastor Covenant, between the Session and Rev. Jeff Binder – APPROVED.

A report was given by Townley Hamilton and Rev. Binder on the Active Shooter Forum they had attended. A motion was made and seconded to form a Safety Team to review information presented at this forum and to review the safety assessment that was done by the church in 2018. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

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

- Congregational care updates
- Update/review of the PC(USA) Today *Thoughtful Christian* class
- Recap of the Vital Congregation sermon series
- New officer training, scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Revisiting the Building Use Policy and the formation of a task force to look into the policy materials in regards to rental of meeting space by outside groups.

The Clerk's report was presented, including:

- Worship attendance
- Working on the active member roll prior to the annual year-end statistical report.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Advent activities
- Christmas luncheon on Sunday, December 11
- No LOGO program this year – the children and youth will be participating in worship each

Sunday of Advent.

- December 1st, First Sunday – Christmas Elves. Amy Kesterson will be coordinating this event following morning worship (lunch provided for those participating).

The next Stated Session meeting will be Wednesday, December 21st, 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

Stewardship Financial Update:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update Through November 2022 *UPDATED		
	November	
	Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$22,027.00	\$288,315.00
Other Offerings	\$5,417.00	\$53,111.00
Other Income	\$147.00	\$10,823.00
Total Income	\$27,591.00	\$352,249.00
Expenses	\$32,491.00	\$315,622.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$4,899.00	\$34,126.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update December 2022 Month-to-Date		
	December	
	Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$10,235.00	\$298,549.00
Other Offerings	\$5,536.00	\$58,647.00
Other Income	\$2,787.00	\$13,610.00
Total Income	\$18,558.00	\$370,806.00
Expenses	\$14,618.00	\$330,240.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$3,939.00	\$38,065.00

December Birthdays

12/01 Amy Ahern
12/01 Linda Walls
12/04 Herb Pearis
12/07 Hallie Nemicik

January Birthdays

01/06 Susan Graham
01/08 Marcia Leitch
01/08 Corbin Long
01/11 Miriam "Whickey" Knight

*12/09 Frances Crane
12/09 Paige Totten
12/10 Ben Gurley
12/11 Betsy Satterfield
12/16 Townley Hamilton
12/26 Andrew McClelland
12/28 Cliff Huffman*

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

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!
