

Commitment to New Directions in Ministry:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

~from *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost



“Where do we go from here?” is a question I’m hearing more and more these days in the life of the church. This past month I spent a week with colleagues in ministry; all of them experiencing congregational change; all of them a bit worn down by the past few years of strife; and yet, all of them also talking about putting hope into a faithful future.

The last of the five tasks of interim ministry has to do with committing to a new direction in ministry. It’s in this space that the congregation ideally is ready share with potential pastor applicants how God is moving in and through Old Stone as we embrace a new vision and mission ahead.

It would have perhaps been easier for Old Stone to simply decide to move on and hire a new installed pastor, but the leaders of this church understood that that there is value in the interim process, and in the conversations that take place during such a transitional space.

Our church leadership and Session have been discussing these very topics over the past several months. The truth is that the future of Old Stone has not been decided. As the author in the poem experiences a fork in the road, we too, find ourselves with decisions to be made. Just as many of my colleagues with congregations around the country ask the question, “Where do we go from here?” we here at Old Stone realize that we are not alone with such questions.

So, where *do* we go from here? Ultimately, the response is not up to the pastor, or any one individual for that matter. The response, the vision, must come from this congregation as a unified community, listening for God’s word in our lives. Yes, we may not have all of the answers like churches seemingly did decades ago, but one thing is certain: **we can be faithful**. Just as many of our favorite Bible characters did not know exactly how the future would unfold, they trusted in God, and they were faithful. And little by little, God continued to move in miraculous ways!

What is your vision for Old Stone as we move into our next chapter of ministry? What does it mean for you to be faithful in the midst of diverging roads, and more questions than answers?

Together, I’m certain that God continues to speak new visions into the minds and hearts of this community. What things are you hearing?

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff



The 2022 High School Mission Trip is in the books! Our team of 18 people traveled to Johnson County, TN for work, worship, and play. This year each team – we had three – was tasked with outside work. The mission of Appalachia Service Project is to make homes warmer, safer and drier. Each of the three homes we worked on lacked a safe exit. To remedy that our teens and their adult leaders dug holes, set posts, calculated stringers and built steps from scratch. Then the handrails and spindles were added. Some also worked on ramps, decking, and porches.

Each person on the trip brought glory to God by modeling the kind of service that Christ instructed us to perform. There were no easy days, and yet there was an abundance of laughter and encouragement between our participants. This trip is truly not just a teen trip. Thank you Old Stone friends and family for helping to make this endeavor a reality. We will have a mission trip report during worship in August. Please look for the date that is yet to come!





**July 3rd Old Stone Presbyterian Church Choir
and the Greenbrier River Brass Quintet:**

Please Join Us!



Sunday, July 3rd

11:00 Worship & Communion with Rev. Jeff Binder
 Special music by
 Greenbrier River Brass Quintet &
 Old Stone Choir, directed by Dr. Brennan Wood

Immediately following worship, we will gather outdoors
 for refreshments & more music featuring
 Greenbrier River Brass Quintet & Old Stone Choir
 Bring your friends!

Fellowship Committee:

Have an idea for our church picnic? The Fellowship committee will consider any and all suggestions from the congregation. Your input is welcomed! Please contact Karen Leland at (985) 290-0725, or contact any committee member with your ideas.



Mark your calendars: We are planning to have More than Mortar after worship on Sunday, August 28th, and our annual church picnic after worship on Sunday, September 11th. More details will follow.

Stewardship Financial Updates:

2022 Income Analysis - YTD as of 5/31/2022

	2022 Budget	Annualized thru May	Actual thru May	YTD Actual to Budget	%	% of Total Year Budget
Income	351,463	146,443	187,363	40,920	28%	53%
Expenses	351,463	146,443	137,583	(8,860)	-6%	39%

	Actual thru May 2022	Actual thru May 2021	YoY	
Income	187,363	156,792	30,571	19%
Expenses	137,583	153,232	(15,649)	-10%
			46,220	

	2021 YTD	2022 YTD	YTD Incr	2022 Budget	% of Total Year Budget
Pledged	143,613	154,619	8%	316,710	49%
Unpledged/Loose	11,691	29,734	154%	32,453	92%

Trustees Quarterly Report:

Letterhead etc. as in the original

Letter of thanks

We would like to express our gratitude for your help on behalf of our church.

We live in Csongor, Transcarpathia, Ukraine. My wife and I are both reformed pastors. Csongor is a 100% Hungarian village. Many of its inhabitants fled since the beginning of the war in hope of a better and more peaceful life.

Our service has changed a lot since the war has begun. We take in refugees from territories where the frontline happens to be. We have been helping them for the last 3 months, offering them shelter and two hot meals a day. We have taken in elderly and families with little kids, 35 people all together.

We also started a hot meal give-out stand (free hot meals) for the elderly and people with ill health the were left behind. We cook 100 meals twicw a day.

We used your donations to purchase basic kitchen equipment and buy the essentials, ingredients for the meals we prepare.

We organize activities for different groups, for the people who stayed. We try to encourage them to live in fellowship with the Lord and each other.

Although our living circumstances have changed, we face the challenges of the war day by day, we try to stay focused on our Lord, gain strenght form Him. Thank you for your support and prayers.

May God bless and keep your community, so that you remain useful workers of our Lord.

With Christian love, on behalf of the Reformed Church in Csongor.

Names, signatures as in the original.





A Note from Arpi Tordai (6/20/2022):

I hope, this email of mine finds you in good health.

You might have guessed from Facebook, that our church life has been rolling. We had a successful music camp with professional musicians for 94 participants. It has been quite an undertaking, it was also a great success. You can find the final concert video on our Facebook page. Vacation bible school is next, starting in one week, and until then we have a church bazaar, selling goods to the benefit of the church and its programs.

We have been having some problems transferring funds to Ukraine. I will cash some of the Ukraine funds in the following days, transfer them asap to the church in Csongor via an account opened in Hungary.

In case it works with the donors, I intend to use the scholarship funds with the Sunday School fund for our upcoming summer events. I mentioned earlier, that Zsofi and I decided to channel the Scholarship Fund offered for Akos and Magor towards the church programs. We feel confident financially in supporting the education of our children.

Plans of the church this summer:

- 1. June 13-17 - Music camp for 94 children and youth with 14 volunteers (teachers and staff) - done*
- 2. June 28-July 1 - Vacation Bible School for 110 children and about 35 volunteers*
- 3. July 3 - Homecoming celebration in the church - Anniversary of the dedication of the church*
- 4. July 5 - 9 - Change Direction! Christian youth camp and festival - in Zeteváralja (you can look it up under [Válts irányt! IKE Fesztivál](#))*
- 5. July 18 - 22 - English camp for elementary classes in our church facilities.*
- 6. July 24 - 28 - Trip to Hungary with our catechism class to the places of Hungarian reformation, Vizsoly - the town of first Hungarian bible translation etc.*
- 7. July 29 - 31 - Team building for our choir in Praid (salt mines place)*

We have a few activities lined up for August too. Some dates are still not clear there.

Ákos is leaving to go to Manchester on the 23-rd with a group of folk dancers on a tour. Magor is done with his exams, results are to be announced on the 23rd, Zsofi is waiting for a biopsy result about a chest. We are planning to leave on vacation in the 2nd part of August, depending on the political situation, to Croatia or southern Poland (Cracovia).

We pray, that all is well with you and thanks for your ongoing support!

We are too blessed to be stressed!

*TORDAI ÁRPÁD
lelkipásztor/pastor*

June Birthdays

06/02 Tim Holbrook

July Birthdays

07/01 Ryan Meadows

*06/02 Emma McClelland
06/05 Kaye Rodgers
06/07 Gordon Campbell
06/07 Rebecca Kucera
06/07 Laura Montgomery
06/08 Henry Hileman
06/08 Frank Milam
06/10 Staci Banton
06/17 David Hofmann
06/17 Megan Hofmann
06/17 Katy Montgomery
06/18 Sara Graham
06/18 Lawson Hamilton
06/19 Caroline Bachman La Boissiere
06/27 Christy Rodgers*

*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
07/13 Pat Boisvert
07/15 Stuart Brown
07/16 Tom Greenstreet
07/16 Zach Hileman
07/18 Butch Neal
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
07/31 Betsy Hudgins*
