



Stone Chippings Newsletter

March 2023

Experiencing Wonder in the Wilderness and Here at Old Stone:

Would you like to help me with my doctorate research this month?

Go ahead and think about a time when you found yourself in nature's beauty. It might have been a time of vacation at the beach. It might have been on a weekend hike in the woods. It might have been long ago, an earlier stage in your life, when you visited a far-off land. Or it might have been a wonderful recent experience on a nearby walking trail. We are fortunate to live in a place that has so much natural beauty all around us. Every day there is a chance to experience a sense of wonder at what God is doing in the world.



In a different way, our life as a congregation in transition also has moments of closeness with God. Some may refer to the interim period as a "wilderness experience," where there may be more questions than answers when it comes to the future and the direction needed to get us there. Words like "faith" and "hope" are often used, while also recognizing there are moments of loss and uncertainty.

My doctorate project is on these two topics: the outdoors and transitional ministry. Would you be interested in helping me with my research? Throughout the month of March there are opportunities to help share your experience and help tell the story of just how these two seemingly different topics might complement one another!

Our Lenten study book, *The Desert of Compassion*, by Rachel M. Srubas, is a wonderful jumping-off point for such a conversation, as the author connects the wilderness experience with our own spiritual journeys. Our reflections about this book will help pave the way for my doctorate research as well!

How you can get involved:

- A one-time focus group conversation will take place during our "First Sunday event" on March 5th beginning at 5:30PM with dinner, and then a guided conversation about this book and these topics that will conclude at 7PM. You do not need to have read this book to participate.
- Also, we will set aside some time during the "Thoughtful Christian" gatherings centered on this book that will take place through Lent. Participants are asked to read each daily reflection throughout the Lenten season. On February 28th at 11AM this group will gather for the first time. And on March 7, 14, and 21 our conversations will include your input into this doctorate research.
- Finally, if you still want to share your story, but can't attend the focus groups in person, I'm happy to send you the research questions so that you can respond from home.

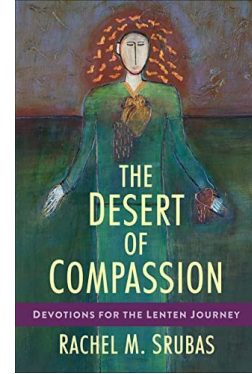
Please read the article below to learn about our Lenten book study, including dates, times, and how to get your own copy of *The Desert of Compassion*.

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 Discipleship 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. This is a really

inspiring read that includes about five minutes worth of reading each day. Here is our discussion schedule:

- **February 28th @11AM**—discuss Ash Wednesday thru Tuesday of Week 1
- **March 7th @11AM**—discuss Wednesday of Week 1 thru Tuesday of Week 2, with Focus Group Session 1 (four questions) for Pastor Jeff's doctorate project
- **March 14th @11AM**—discuss Wednesday of Week 2 thru Tuesday of Week 3, with Focus Group Session 2 (four questions) for Pastor Jeff's doctorate project
- **March 21st @11AM**—discuss Wednesday of Week 3 thru Tuesday of Week 4, with Focus Group Session 3 (four questions) for Pastor Jeff's doctorate project
- **March 28th @11AM**—discuss Wednesday of Week 4 thru Tuesday of Week 5, with Focus Group recap for Pastor Jeff's doctorate project
- **April 4th @11AM**—discuss Wednesday of Week 5 thru Tuesday of Holy Week



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.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Monthly Worship Attendance:

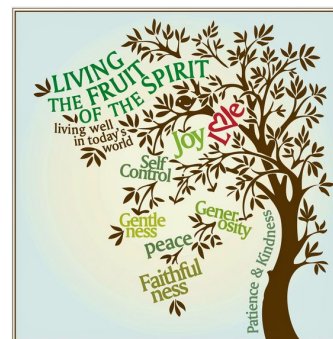
Sunday, January 29th: In Person: 70 / YouTube: 26
Sunday, February 5th: In Person: 76 / YouTube: 19
Sunday, February 12th: In Person: 49 / YouTube: 25
Sunday, February 19th: In Person: 85 / YouTube: 16



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

First Sunday will take place on Sunday, March 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!



Holy Week at Old Stone

2023

Palm/Passion Sunday (April 2nd)



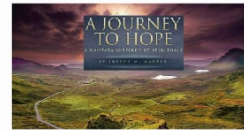
11:00 In-Person Worship
(or via YouTube or Radio)
Logos "Parade of Palms" During Worship



Maundy Thursday (April 6th)

6:00 In-Person Communion Service with Soup and Bread (in Fellowship Hall)

Easter Cantata (April 8th)



7:00 *A Journey to Hope* Presented by the Old Stone Presbyterian Church Community Chorus and Orchestra




Easter Sunday (April 9th)

11:00 In-Person Worship
(or via YouTube or Radio)

Please plan to arrive around 10:30 to add live flowers to the outdoor flower cross

We will sing and worship
to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!



**Old Stone Presbyterian Church
Community Chorus and Orchestra
present**

A Journey to Hope

**A Cantata by Joseph M. Martin which tells the story
of Christ's ministry, passion and resurrection
through treasured songs of faith**

Saturday – April 8th

7:00 p.m.

**Old Stone Presbyterian Church
Lewisburg, WV**

Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, January 18, 2023):

The Session held their Stated meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Rev. Jeff Binder called the meeting to order and Elder, Jennifer Runyon presented the opening devotions and prayer.

In attendance were: Moderator, Rev. Binder, Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger, and Elders: Renee Ahern, Stuart Brown, Jim Coleman, Townley Hamilton, Sara Irons, Megan Kirkham, Amy Meadows, Joan Montgomery, Jennifer Runyon and Gary Williams.

Two sets of minutes were presented for approval, including:

- Stated Session meeting of Wednesday, December 21, 2022; and
- Ordination and Installation Service held on Sunday, January 1, 2023.

With this being the first meeting of the year, it was an organizing meeting. Items covered included:

- Approval of Stated Session meeting dates (Stated Session meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month)
- Election of Clerk of Session – Nancy Smallenberger was elected to serve as Clerk for 2023.
- Election of Church Treasurer – Jennifer Runyon was elected to serve as Church Treasurer for 2023.
- Organization of Session Committees, appointment of moderators and Elder's selecting the

committee they wish to serve on.

1. Congregation Care – Jim Coleman
2. Christian Education – Amy Meadows will serve as moderator; Townley Hamilton will serve on the committee
3. Fellowship and Growth – no moderator at this time; Megan Kirkham will serve on the committee
4. Outreach – Jennifer Runyon will be moderator
5. Personnel – Jim Rowe will be moderator; Sara Irons will serve on the committee
6. Property – Joan Montgomery will be moderator
7. Stewardship and Finance – Jennifer Runyon will be moderator; Jim Coleman and Stuart Brown will serve on the committee
8. Worship and Music – Townley Hamilton will be moderator; Renee Ahern and Gary Williams will serve on the committee.
9. Congregational Nominating Committee – Joan Montgomery and Renee Ahern will serve as co-moderators

Committee reports were presented by the following committees/groups:

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

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Approval of Lenten devotion curriculum, *The Desert of Compassion*.
- For the youth to hold a Fabric Sale on Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4, in partnership with Tracy Morgan.
- For the PYC to hold a Parents' Night Out Fundraiser on Saturday evening, February 11, 2023.
- The PYC to hold a Fundraiser Luncheon following worship on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

All of these items were APPROVED.

WORSHIP and MUSIC

Presented proposed dates to celebrate the Lord's Supper:

- Sunday, January 1
- Sunday, February 5
- Sunday, March 5
- Sunday, April 2
- Maundy Thursday, April 6
- Sunday, May 1
- Sunday, June 5
- Sunday, July 2
- Sunday, August 6
- Sunday, September 3
- Sunday, October 1
- Sunday, November 5 and
- Sunday, December 3

These dates were APPROVED

PASTOR'S REPORT was presented by Pastor Jeff, which included:

- Congregational care updates
- Reminded committee moderators that their reports for the Annual Report are due by February 15.
- He thanked the Session and the church for the time to attend the last class of the DMin program he is enrolled in.

CLERK'S REPORT was given by Nancy Smallenberger, including:

- There was no correspondence.
- Worship attendance
- A Ruling Elder Commissioner is needed to attend the zoom meeting of the Presbytery of WV on Thursday, February 15. It was APPROVED for Renee Ahern to serve as commissioner.

There was no new business that required Session action.

The next Stated Session meeting will be Wednesday, February 15th, 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 January 2023 *UPDATED		
	January Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$29,806.00	\$29,806.00
Other Offerings	\$7,251.00	\$7,251.00
Other Income	\$615.00	\$615.00
Total Income	\$37,672.00	\$37,672.00
Expenses	\$26,704.00	\$26,704.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$10,968.00	\$10,968.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update February 2023 Month-to-Date		
	February Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$31,745.00	\$61,552.00
Other Offerings	\$2,340.00	\$9,591.00
Other Income	\$453.00	\$1,068.00
Total Income	\$34,538.00	\$72,211.00
Expenses	\$16,418.00	\$43,122.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$18,120.00	\$29,089.00

February Birthdays

02/01 John Rodgers
02/02 Katie Buck
02/03 Paul Kucera
02/04 Trip Hamilton

March Birthdays

03/02 Cam Harkness
03/02 Ben Kelso
03/04 Georgia Foster
03/04 Anne Staunton

02/06 *Becky Neal*
02/21 *Charlie Gwinn*
02/25 *Bill Cunningham*
02/26 *Adam Snyder*
02/27 *Mary Scarborough*

03/05 *Melanie Monti*
03/05 *David Thomas*
03/07 *Cora Kesterson*
03/08 *Jim Arbuckle*
03/11 *Lynn Brody*
03/11 *David Kucera*
03/11 *Lynn Weikle*
03/15 *Kate Lehman*
03/17 *Rebecca Kinser*
03/20 *Suzanne Bicksler*
03/20 *Sue Gurley*
03/21 *Wiley Irons*
03/21 *Kathy Smith*
03/23 *David Snyder*
03/24 *Cam Huffman*
03/24 *Andy Kelso*
03/25 *Carroll Crane*
03/27 *Ed Rock*
03/28 *Lexanne Meldrum*
03/30 *James Montgomery*

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.

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.
