



## Stone Chippings Newsletter

March 2024

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### Monthly Worship Attendance:

**Sunday, January 28th:** In Person: 69 / YouTube: 16  
**Sunday, February 4th:** In Person: 72 / YouTube: 15  
**Sunday, February 11th:** In Person: 74 / YouTube: 16  
**Wednesday, February 14th:** In Person: 43 / YouTube: -  
**Sunday, February 18th:** In Person: 70 / YouTube: 16  
**Sunday, February 25th:** In Person: 70 / YouTube: 15



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### Care Teams Coming this Spring:

During the month of March, a member of our Care Committee will be reaching out to you! Each member and friend of our church family has been placed on a Care Team. The Care Team leader that you have been given will be in contact with you starting this month. They will provide their contact information and hope to become a continual source of support for you to share any needs or concerns you may have.

Members of our Care Committee are: Amy Brown and Mike Leland, Co-Chairs, LeeAnn Gillilan, LouElla Lewis, Sue Dyer, Lynn Weikle, Frank Tucker and Kay Simmons.

The Care Committee is planning a special fellowship time in the near future to bring our Care Teams together. We Care for You!

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### Property Committee - Fire Blankets Located in Kitchen Areas:

The Property Committee wants everyone to be aware that there are fire blankets in both kitchen areas now. Please make yourself familiar with the locations of the fire blankets and fire extinguishers so you will be prepared in the event of an emergency. Thank you!

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### Congregational Meeting - Sunday, March 3rd:

There will be a congregational meeting during worship on Sunday, March 3rd for the purpose of reviewing Rev. Julie Olt's compensation package.

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### First Sunday - March 3rd at 5:30 - 7:00 PM:

First Sunday will take place on March 3rd at 5:30 p.m. Join us as the Personnel Committee hosts a meal and provides updates from their committee. Friends and family are always welcome. We can't wait to see you there!

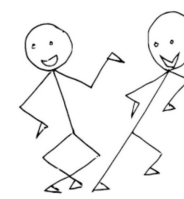
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### Life Is Better When You Can Line Dance!

**What:** Beginning Line Dance Lessons  
**When:** Wednesdays (March 5, 12, and 19th)

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Old Stone Church's Fellowship Hall (enter on Foster Street)



Lessons are sponsored by Active Southern West Virginia....FREE....Open to the community. Emphasis will be on beginning steps and dances from 6-7, with slightly more difficult dances taught during the last half hour. It is NOT necessary to attend all sessions or to stay the entire time. No partners needed, but bring your friends and neighbors. Check out the Facebook page "Beginning Line Dancing with ActiveSWV".

Lessons are geared towards persons 18 and over. Youth must be accompanied by a guardian and the adult must stay with them during the activity. Participants are asked to sign a one-time waiver with **Active Southern West Virginia**.

So step to the right, step to the left, and LET'S DANCE!

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### **Volunteers Needed for Old Stone Food Locker Distribution - March 16th:**

Old Stone will be helping with the Food Locker distribution on **Saturday, March 16th**. If you would like to volunteer to help with the distribution, please reach out to Molly McMillion. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. and divide into three teams to deliver to the three public housing facilities (Lewisburg Manor, Morgan Manor, and Tabor Towers). We should be finished by 9-10:00 a.m. Please call or text (304) 667-4362 to confirm your participation and if you might have a truck we can use.

*Our next date to assist with the Food Locker distribution will be on **Saturday, December 14th** if you'd like to mark it on your calendar. Thank you for your support!*

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### **Easter Messiah:**

Messiah rehearsals began on Monday, January 22nd at 6:30 PM and will continue to meet weekly on Mondays at the same time.

The Easter Messiah will take place on Saturday, March 30th at 4:00 p.m. We hope you are able to join us!



### **New Hope Grief Group - Wednesdays from February 7th to May 1st at 10:00 AM:**

Are you, or someone you know, grieving the death of a loved one? A new grief group "New Hope" is forming at Old Stone Presbyterian Church. Using GriefShare materials, New Hope will meet on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 from February 7th through May 1st at the church. The 13-week session will help you find support and healing during a difficult time. Please call the church office at 304-645-2676 for more information and to register.

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### **Session Highlights (Wednesday, January 24th Stated Meeting):**

Session held their Stated meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. Present were: Moderator, Rev. Olt; Clerk of Session, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; and

Ruling Elders: Renee Ahern, Amy Brown, Sara Irons, Andy Kelso, Mike Leland, Amy Meadows, Joan Montgomery, Jim Rowe, Jennifer Runyon, Debbie Taylor, Ann Walker and Townley Hamilton.

Minutes presented for approval included:

- Wednesday, November 15, 2023 – Stated Session meeting
- Sunday, November 19, 2023 – Congregational meeting

These minutes were approved as presented.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Julie

- Conversation regarding the 2024 budget.
- Session “Star Word” will be *Community* ... how can we, Old Stone, be a community within the building and outside the building.
- Committee assignments were made by Pastor Julie.
- Elder Training will be held Saturday, February 10th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The following committees presented reports which required Session action:

FINANCE and STEWARDSHIP – Jennifer Runyon, 2023 moderator

- Recommended Session adopt the 2021 Financial Review by Suttle and Stalnaker. This came as a motion from committee so no second is required; motion was APPROVED.
- Recommend Session adopt the 2024 proposed budget for 2024. This came as a motion from committee so no second is required; motion was APPROVED.
- Recommend Session pass the necessary resolutions to update any and all financial accounts for Old Stone Presbyterian Church, including but not limited to the bank accounts, credit card, mutual fund account, brokerage account to reflect the 2024 treasurer as well as other Church Members who are fulfilling certain duties. This came as a motion from committee so no second is required; motion was APPROVED.

Committees who had included reports in the Session packet included:

- Care
- Outreach
- Worship and Music

NEW BUSINESS –

- A Building Use Request was received from Janine Lazarus (Goodladd Dog Training) to use Fellowship Hall to conduct dog handling and training. Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to allow the group to use Fellowship Hall on a 6-week trial basis.
- Elect Clerk of Session – A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to elect Nancy Smallenberger to serve as Clerk for 2024.
- Elect Church Treasurer – A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to elect Ann Walker to serve as Treasurer for 2024.
- A Ruling Elder Commissioner is needed for the February meeting of the Presbytery of WV. The meeting will be held via ZOOM on Saturday, February 17, 2024. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED for Ann Walker to serve as Commissioner.
- Joys and Concerns were covered.

There being no other business that required Session action, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Pastor Julie.

The Session will hold their next Stated meeting on Wednesday, February 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

*Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk*

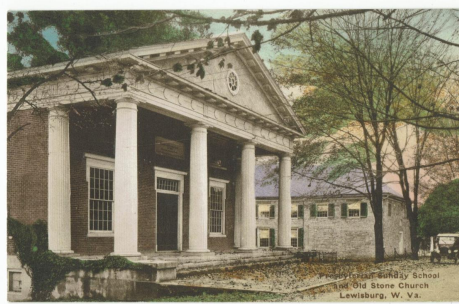
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### **Pebbles of History About Old Stone:**

Congregation organized by "Old Hanover"  
Presbytery, 1788. Present building erected, 1796.  
Private school opened by Rev. John McElhenny,  
D.D., 1808. Lewisburg Academy, to which  
Greenbrier College and Greenbrier Military School  
trace their beginning, opened, 1812. Greenbrier



Presbytery formed in this church, 1888. Greenbrier Presbytery met in this church, 1840, 1842, 1845, 1847, 1850, 1855, 1864, 1871, 1878, 1883, 1887, 1889, 1899, 1905, 1913, 1928. Synod of Virginia met in this church, 1843, 1857, 1896. "Semi-Centenary Service", marking the fiftieth year of the pastorate of Rev. John McElhenny, D.D., 1858. Dr. McElhenny served this church as pastor for sixty-two years. "One of the first, if not the very first, Sabbath-schools organized in Virginia was in Lewisburg" - Dr. John McElhenny. Centennial of the organization of the churches at Lewisburg, Union, and Spring Creek observed in joint celebration in the church, 1883. Semi-Centennial of the formation of Greenbrier Presbytery celebrated in this church, 1889. General Assembly met in this church, 1910. Synod of West Virginia formed in this church, 1915. Synod of West Virginia met in this church, 1921, 1928. Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the formation of Greenbrier Presbytery, and One Hundredth Anniversary of the opening of Lewisburg Academy, celebrated in this church, 1913. One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the building of Old Stone Church celebrated, 1921. For a number of years after the organization of the churches at Lewisburg, Union, and Spring Creek there was at no time more than one Presbyterian minister located in this region, and "there was no Presbyterian minister nearer on the east than Lexington, none on the west this side of the Ohio River, none north or south for a distance of at least one hundred miles". Many churches in southern West Virginia and the border counties of Virginia trace their origin to the labors of those pioneer preachers who ministered here.



From One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization of Old Stone Church, August 12-13, 1933.

### Stewardship Financial Update:

<b>Old Stone Presbyterian Church</b>		
<b>Financial Update January 2024 *UPDATED</b>		
	January Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$17,725.00	\$17,725.00
Other Offerings	\$5,247.00	\$5,247.00
Other Income	\$50,339.00	\$50,339.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$73,311.00</b>	<b>\$73,311.00</b>
Expenses	\$19,238.00	\$19,238.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$4,072.00	\$4,072.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update February 2024 Month-to-Date		
	February	
	Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$21,088.00	\$38,813.00
Other Offerings	\$4,782.00	\$10,029.00
Other Income	\$477.00	\$50,816.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$26,347.00</b>	<b>\$99,658.00</b>
Expenses	\$28,331.00	\$47,569.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$2,072.00	\$2,000.00

### February Birthdays

02/01 John Rodgers  
 02/02 Katie Buck  
 02/03 Paul Kucera  
 02/04 Trip Hamilton  
 02/06 Becky Neal  
 02/12 Craig Boisvert  
 02/21 Charlie Gwinn  
 02/25 Bill Cunningham  
 02/26 Adam Snyder  
 02/27 Mary Scarborough

### March Birthdays

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

### **Scam Emails/Phone Calls Reminder:**

This is a reminder to be diligent and watch out for scammers pretending to be staff of Old Stone. We've already had at least six reported instances this year of a scammer sending fake text messages to our church members pretending to be Rev. Julie. We ask that you reach out to us if you receive any texts, emails, or phone calls pretending to be a staff member so that we can notify church members when this is happening.

If you receive an email, text, or phone call and you aren't sure if it is legitimately from a staff member, please call the church office at (304) 645-2676 to find out. Do NOT reply to the person's text, email, or phone call. We want everyone to be safe and not fall victim to these types of scams.

Just as a reminder, we will NEVER reach out to you asking you to purchase gift cards, request any type of monetary exchange, or request personal information, so you can be sure it is a scam if you are asked for any of these things.

While there is no way for us to prevent this from happening 100%, we are taking additional steps to try to reduce the likelihood of this happening in the future.

In the meantime, Rev. Julie has recommended that you report and then block the phone number that sent you the scam text. You can report the text by forwarding the message to 7726. After you block the number, you shouldn't receive any more scam texts from that phone number.

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