



Stone Chippings Newsletter

May 2022 UPDATED

Leadership Changes During an Interim:

What does healthy leadership look like within a Christian community? We read of an idealization of such living in the fourth chapter of the book of Acts:

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 4:32-35)



Admittedly, this type of living is hard to do in today's society; there are many structures in place that hinder such a community. Over the years, Presbyterians have adjusted their leadership styles to better pair the ideals of the church with contemporary cultures. And what started it all off? Theologian John Calvin celebrated a word from the biblical Greek: presbyteros, meaning "elder," from which we get our Presbyterian name, and from which can in turn be understood to mean "rule of elders."

Old Stone Presbyterian Church is organized to be led by the elders of the church, or the session, but they do not lead all by themselves. Over the years, Presbyterians have evolved to form wonderful relationships of leadership between elders, pastors, staff, and members, so that the biblical ideals of caring for each and every child of God can be realized today, inspired by those days of the Early Church.

During this transitional chapter in the life of Old Stone, we have a unique opportunity to re-frame how we understand leadership for the church moving forward once again, just as churches have done for generations. How is the church being called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world today? And what type of leaders are needed moving forward? How can our structure of committees be more responsive to the needs of this community, both within and outside the walls of the church? What qualities are important in the next pastor or with our staff to partner with us in leadership ahead? How can our members and friends identify and embrace the God-given gifts for leadership within each and every one of us?

Are you feeling called to join in the leadership of the church today? If so, I'm sure we can find a wonderful fit based on the gifts God has given you! Feel free to reach out so we can discuss how God may be calling you into leadership in the bright days ahead for Old Stone!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Congratulations, Anna!

We are so proud of Anna Ahern, who will graduate this May from WVU with her undergraduate degree in Marketing and Digital



Media Promotions. After graduation she will work one more summer at Bluestone Camp and Conference where our own campers will benefit from her experience! After Bluestone, Anna has plans to move to Ashville, NC where she will work at Skyland United Methodist Church. While working with that congregation, she will be in Seminary taking hybrid classes at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary where she will travel every couple of months for in-person classes, with the goal of ultimately earning her Masters in Youth Ministry Training. When asked her hopes for the future she replied, "I hope that one day I will make a difference in children's lives the way Old Stone did for me as I was growing up, and give them the loving support and security I got from my home church!"

What A S.T.A.I.R. Year!

Because of logistical issues, we started our year by having to move our STAIR curriculum and library two different times. Due to school issues and the COVID-19 mandates, we couldn't begin our program until the middle of December 2021. We needed to change the way we handled our snacks and everyone had to wear masks.

As it worked out, we now have a wonderful new space. We were blessed to have seven 7 students, 12 tutors, 2 substitutes, and an amazing "PAWS" dog (Jasper) and his fantastic handler, which every student loved.

All of the students made great progress and we celebrated with a wonderful party on March 31, 2022. This ceremony included our Lewisburg Elementary Students, their families, 2nd Grade teachers, Pastor Jeff Binder, Jen Runyon and all of our tutors. We enjoyed pizza and a beautiful cake provided by

The Greenbrier Resort donated by Mrs. Cathy Justice. We want to thank all who sent donations for snacks, prayed for our students and tutors and gave lots of moral support.



What's New with Presbyterian Women:

The Presbyterian Women of Old Stone have been active! They prepared and served approximately 900 chocolate treats - chocolate tarts and ancho chili dark chocolate cookies - during Lewisburg's Chocolate Festival! *Thanks to Lynn Weikle for coordinating this.* They also provided birthday gifts and snacks for residents of The Greenbrier Health Center, stock and sell items at the Americana shop, and celebrated a short but successful season of the S.T.A.I.R. tutoring program with seven students, their families and teachers, and our volunteer tutors. If you are interested in learning more about this program - if you might want to volunteer next year - contact the church office. *Thanks to Debbe Taylor for coordinating this.* We continue to support many community organizations with volunteer help and financial donations, and as in previous years will support Project Graduation. And finally, all women of the church AND your friends are invited to a Mini-Retreat on Saturday, May 7th. See the article(s) in this and future newsletters for more information.



Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering - Sunday, May 15th, 2022:

Sunday, May 15th, Old Stone Women will celebrate this year's BIRTHDAY OFFERING! **Special envelopes will be provided.*

This annual spring offering celebrates a century of mission giving for Presbyterian Women. Projects to benefit women and children in United States and abroad are selected to receive your gifts.

This offering began by asking women for only 1 cent for each year God blessed them with a birthday. Now, we offer men, children, and youth the opportunity to join the women of Old Stone in celebrating in this tangible way their many blessings by contributing generously to help others improve their lives.

Remember: Each BIRTHDAY WE CELEBRATE IS A GIFT FROM GOD!

Session Highlights - April 12, 2022 Stated Meeting:

The Session of OSPC met on Wednesday, April 12. Six elders were in attendance. Rev. Jeff Binder opened the meeting with scripture and prayer.

Two sets of minutes were presented for Session approval, including:

- Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, and
- Congregational meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2022.

The minutes were approved as presented.

Session reviewed, or heard, the following reports:

- Christian Education
- Music and Worship
- Property
- Reopening Task Force
- Pastor
- Clerk of Session
- Fellowship

The following action items, requiring Session approval, were presented and approved:

- Christian Education committee recommended that the Sunday morning nursery be open only the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month (due to lack of children attending); closing the nursery during the summer (June-September) with the nursery being available on holidays. The committee will continue to search for volunteers to assist with the nursery.
- Worship and Music committee presented the 2022 schedule for the celebration of the Lord's Supper along with any additional home communion celebrations.
- Reopening Task Force – following discussion of the newest recommendations, the Session approved to do away with the "Yellow" category and go with "Green" and "Red" in regards to worship services and activities in the building.
- Jennifer Runyon was elected to serve as Ruling Elder Commission for the upcoming Presbytery meeting on Thursday, May 19, at the Beckley Presbyterian Church.
- Adding eight names back to the Active Roll that had previously been moved to Inactive Roll, per the individual's request.

The Session's next meeting will be Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in the Activities Room.

Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk

Fellowship Committee:

Sunday, April 24th marked the return of an Old Stone custom of covered dish dinners following church. It was a refreshing delight, marking new beginnings after a two year hiatus. A hearty number of people created and shared delicious food and wonderful fellowship together. Here's a

big "Thank You" for all of you that attended, and for all of the helping hands that made this such a successful event. We are looking forward for more of the same in the months ahead.

Announcements:

- Dinners for Eight: We have been enjoying our Dinners for Eight and wanted to extend an opportunity for all newcomers or those returning from winter vacations to join in on the fun. If interested in joining Dinners for Eight please call the church office and leave contact information with Allyson. She has agreed to compile a list.
- Bridge lessons: The same applies for those interested in bridge lessons. We are looking for teachers and students alike.
- I have another idea brewing, more on that later ... Let us know of any suggestions you might have for new activities. You can always call me: 985-290-0725

Submitted by Karen Leland, Fellowship Committee

Stewardship Financial Updates:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update Through March, 2022		
	March Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$30,336.00	\$110,475.00
Other Offerings	\$14,732.00	\$21,528.00
Other Income	\$259.00	\$2,985.00
Total Income	\$45,327.00	\$134,988.00
Expenses	\$24,776.00	\$81,689.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$20,551.00	\$53,299.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update Through April, 2022		
	April Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$23,292.00	\$133,768.00
Other Offerings	\$4,834.00	\$26,362.00
Other Income	\$5,516.00	\$8,501.00
Total Income	\$33,642.00	\$168,631.00
Expenses	\$24,571.00	\$106,261.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$9,071.00	\$62,370.00

Communion Supplies Available for Pickup - Friday, April 29th 9am-2pm:

For those of you that worship at home and follow along on the radio or YouTube videos: prepackaged communion bread/juice will be available for you to pick up on the Friday before communion. Please feel free to stop by the church between 9am-2pm on Friday, April 29th to pick up your communion supplies from the glass display at the front entrance of the Education Building. No appointment necessary.

Bereavement Group for Those Experiencing Loss:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church resumed the weekly Bereavement Support Group on Thursday, April 7th. If you have experienced loss recently or in the past and are seeking support, advice, and coping skills you are invited to join. The group will meet for six weeks and is limited to 15 people. There is no charge.

(Weekly meetings begin April 7th and run through May 12th. Meetings are held in the Session Room of the Education Building at 3:30pm.)

Please call the church office at (304) 645-2676 to enroll. Amy Wade (Hospice House), Cameron Harkness, and Ike Hughes will be leading the group.

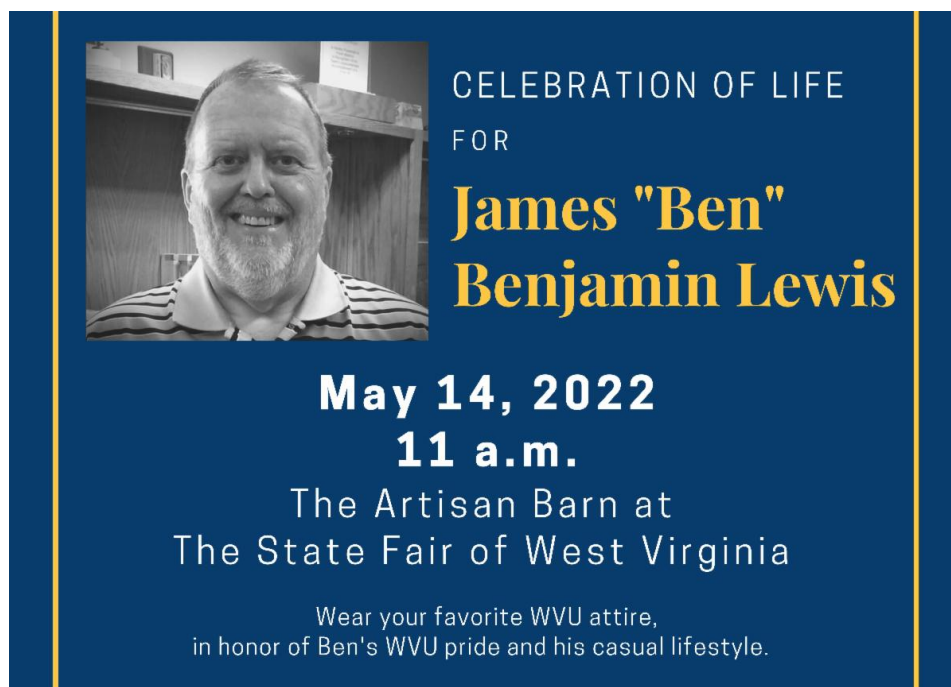
Presbyterian Women Afternoon Circle:

The P.W. Afternoon Circle plans to meet in the Activity Room of the church at 1:00pm on Wednesday, May 11th.

Presbyterian Women Evening Circle:

The P.W. Evening Circle plans to meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 11th.

Celebration of Life for Ben Lewis - May 14, 2022 at 11:00AM:



CELEBRATION OF LIFE
FOR
**James "Ben"
Benjamin Lewis**

**May 14, 2022
11 a.m.**

The Artisan Barn at
The State Fair of West Virginia

Wear your favorite WVU attire,
in honor of Ben's WVU pride and his casual lifestyle.

April Birthdays

04/05 Anna Ahern
04/05 Mary Page Nemcik
04/08 Asa Brown
04/08 Chuck Lewis III
04/09 Polley Cunningham
04/09 Jeffrey Rodgers
04/10 Arlen Myers
04/11 Linda Babcock
04/14 Jennifer Huffman
04/14 Karen Leland
04/15 Darlene Hicks

May Birthdays

05/01 Frances Layton
05/03 Amelia Monti
05/04 Mike Leland
05/04 Bill Satterfield
05/05 Rhodes Irons
05/05 Herbert Montgomery
05/06 Sara Irons
05/07 Stephanie Bachman
05/07 Michael Meadows
05/10 Janice Milam
05/11 Lyn MacCorkle

04/15 Amy Kesterson
 04/15 Scott McClelland
 04/16 Jeff Binder
 04/17 Doug Bicksler
 04/17 Leslie Bicksler
 04/18 Jill Gwinn
 04/21 Carol Perkins
 04/22 Mary Adeline Bicksler
 04/22 John Wilson
 04/23 Bob Mareneck
 04/25 Ashley Meadows
 04/27 William Irons
 04/27 Joan Yarid
 04/28 Sharon Rowe
 04/29 Walter Coffindaffer
 04/29 Joe Taylor
 04/30 Sofia Kelso

05/12 Ves Burford
 05/12 Grace Coffindaffer
 05/14 Becky Kelso
 05/14 Gail Marshall
 05/15 Dee Brown
 05/16 Carson Banton
 05/19 Polly Smith
 05/20 Sandi Hofmann
 05/21 Jacquelyn Marshall
 05/24 Kathy Snyder
 05/25 Victoria Monti
 05/29 Debbie Taylor

CDC Covid-19 by County as of Thursday, April 28th:

☐ **Low** - In Greenbrier County, West Virginia, community level is Low.

[\[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html\]](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html)

	Low/Green or Medium/Yellow	High/Red
Masks	Optional	Strongly recommended
Indoor Food/Drink	Yes	No
Group Meetings	No restrictions	Groups of up to 25, also consider room size to allow for social distancing (6ft)
Plexiglass on pulpit	No	Yes

Virtual Worship Links and Information:

- Live Video from the Old Stone Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Begins at 11:00am: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OldStonePresbyterianChurch>
- Live Broadcasting on the Radio Begins at 11:00am: 103.1FM or <https://www.facebook.com/103.1BearCountry> or <https://tunein.com/radio/The-Bear-103-1031-s30113/>
- In-Person Worship Guidelines are Available Here: www.oldstonechurchwv.com



Just a reminder:

You will NEVER get an email or text from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.



If you receive one of these messages, it will come from an email other than @oldstonechurchwv.com or a phone number not in use by a church staff member. Simply report it to the church and delete. Do not respond. We are so sorry for the inconvenience these fraudulent activities (that have been happening for years to churches everywhere-not just here) continue to cause!

Center for Rural & Community Health - WVSOM:

The Center for Rural & Community Health (CRCH) recently started a new program in partnership with Mountain Transit Authority through a grant provided by the WV Department of Health & Human Resources.

This program provides **free transportation** for Greenbrier County residents over the age of 18 or accompanied by a legal guardian to any **non-emergency medical appointment**. We ask that folks give us a call a week in advance of their medical appointment to schedule their ride.

To schedule transportation, please call 304-793-6588.



Free transportation to non-emergency medical appointments

A new program by the WVSOM Center for Rural and Community Health in partnership with Mountain Transit Authority provides free transportation for Greenbrier County residents who are 18 or older or accompanied by a legal guardian to non-emergency medical appointments.

To schedule transportation, call 304-793-6588



Please note that this is an updated version of the May newsletter. The original included an error in the title of Pastor Jeff's article. ("Anthem" should have been "Interim") My sincerest apologies for any confusion this may have caused. ~Allyson