



A New Chapter Begins!

Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ of the Old Stone community, Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, who continually calls us forward in life to follow him in faith and grace. I write to you today with a variety of emotions. The exciting news is that your Pastor Nominating Committee team (PNC) has extended a call to someone to become your next Pastor (more information to come)! I am inspired by the efforts of the Pastor Nominating Committee in helping to make such a pastoral call a reality. Together, you and this next person begin a spiritual journey to realize God's kingdom work at hand.



And while this news is certainly exciting, this also means that my time is coming to an end here at Old Stone. We knew this from day one; my time as an intentional interim minister was to help meet the pastoral needs of the congregation during this season, all the while preparing Old Stone for a bright new chapter in ministry ahead with the future installed pastor. I have forged many wonderful relationships with this congregation over the past 19 months, for which I will be eternally grateful. Together, we have celebrated with joy and laughter, mourned and grieved losses, and have prayed fervently for the Spirit's guidance in discerning God's future plans. I am thankful for each and every family and individual who has been part of this journey with me along the way.

So what is next? Well, as preparations are being made for the next pastor's entrance, we will also make preparations for my departure. Session has called for a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 7th, to introduce the new candidate, and for the church to vote on the PNC's choice. My last day will be on Sunday, May 28th, and I will move on to my next chapter of ministry and life. We anticipate there will be a few Sunday worship services following my departure where you will have the opportunity to hear guest preaching as final preparations are being made. And then, on June 18th, your next pastor begins! (Of course, this all depends if everything goes according to plan.)

In all of this, I give thanks to God for the time we have been able to share in ministry, and I look forward to continuing to be a friend of the congregation as I will continue to pray and support you all however I can in the days ahead.

May these words from the Apostle Paul help to articulate the overwhelming joy I have in serving as your Interim Pastor these months, and the hopes I have for you moving forward: And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

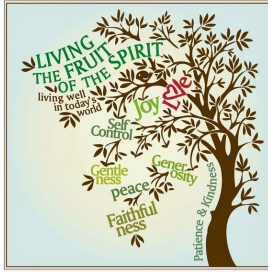
In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Monthly Worship Attendance:

Sunday, April 2nd: In Person: 82 / YouTube:16

Thursday, April 6th: In Person: 55 / YouTube: 0
Sunday, April 9th: In Person: 154 / YouTube: 20
Sunday, April 16th: In Person: 88 / YouTube: 19
Sunday, April 23rd: In Person: 97 / YouTube: 15



First Sundays Gathering - May 7th at 5:30 p.m.:

First Sundays Gathering will take place on Sunday, May 7th 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!

Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering - May 21, 2023:

One way the Presbyterian Women support the mission of the church worldwide is through the spring Birthday Offering, a PW tradition of mission giving preserved since its inception in 1922 when women were asked to donate one cent for each year of life. On May 21, Old Stone members will have the opportunity to participate in this tangible way of celebrating life's blessings while providing much-needed financial assistance to projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Visit www.presbyterianwomen.org to read about the 2023 recipients of this offering.



Luncheon Following Worship - May 28th:

There will be a luncheon after worship on Sunday, May 28th in celebration of Pentecost. We hope to see you there!

High School Mission Trip 2023 - June:

It's official! Our team of High School students and adult volunteers will be serving in Floyd County, Kentucky in June! Now that we have our placement, we anxiously await the job assignments that will be headed our way closer to the departure date. Please begin including this group, and the homeowners we will work with, in your prayers now. Specifically, we pray that our actions and words will bring glory to God and Old Stone and that the homeowners will see real improvement because we served.

Summer Bulletins - June 4th to September 3rd:

As has become our tradition, the children and youth have worked to create art for the bulletin covers for 14 Sundays over the summer. When we all work together to serve in whatever ways we know how God smiles...and so will you each Sunday that one of these bulletins is in your hand in the sanctuary! Summers are busy, but we are wise not to take a vacation from worshiping God. And in this way, the children are leading us.

PYC and Logos Prayers:

Because several of you have asked, here are the prayers written by PYC and Logos which they shared during worship in April. They are definitely worth praying again!

Prayers for the People (Written by PYC)

Let us pray.

God, we come before you with prayers that are sometimes so big that we don't even know the words to pray them. In a world where things can and do go very wrong, we want to take a minute to acknowledge that you are bigger.

Today we pray for people struggling with homelessness - whether they are in a shelter, a domestic violence center, on the streets, or bouncing from place to place.

We live in a state where our foster care is overrun and the system is not perfect. We pray for foster children, foster parents, and social workers.

In a world where there is enough food for everyone to eat, we have people who are hungry. Please teach us how to meet the needs we can meet.

We ask your blessings on people who have suffered abuse of all kinds, and we pray that you would also heal abusers who don't know any other way to live.

Where there should be only peace, there is war. Teach us the ways of peace that only you know while we strive to care for our veterans as well as those still in active duty.

In the beginning and the end we know that there is only you, but we still mourn for loved ones we have lost. Please comfort those who are grieving.

Being healthy is a gift we often take for granted. We ask for your healing touch for those who suffer from physical and mental illnesses, as well as addiction.

Because change is hard, even when it's a good change, we pray for graduates and their families as they face uncharted waters.

Please guide us as we try to be faithful and Godly people. We ask that we would be good examples of the title, "People of God".

Amen.

Prayers for Peace (Written by Logos)

Dear God,

We pray for people who are poor and for families that are really kind. Please be with people at war and people who love.

We pray for our friends, and for people who love you.

We pray for families that love people who have died.

Please be with those who have experienced natural disasters and who don't have a home.

We pray for people who have lost their pets.

Please heal people with cancer and who have addictions.

We pray for families with new babies.

We pray for all sick people.

We pray for kids at college.

We pray for hungry people.

Amen.

Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, March 15, 2023):

The Session held their Stated meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Rev. Jeff Binder called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

In attendance were: Moderator, Rev. Binder; Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; and Ruling Elders: Renee Ahern, Stuart Brown, Townley Hamilton, Sara Irons, Amy Meadows, Joan Montgomery, Jim Rowe, Jennifer Runyon, Ann Walker and Gary Williams.

Minutes presented for approval included:

- Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023; and
- Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 26, 2023.

Reports were presented by the following committees/groups:

- Building Use Request

- Building Use Task Force
- Worship Committee
- Personnel Committee
- PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)
- Property Committee
- Safety Team
- Stewardship and Finance
- Outreach

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

BUILDING USE REQUEST:

- REAFFIRMED APPROVAL of an email vote for a request for Building Usage Request

PERSONNEL:

- Presented a motion regarding a salary issue for a member of staff; the motion was APPROVED.

PROPERTY:

- The committee presented a motion to replace the carpet in the sanctuary, using the funding received through the Peyton Grant. The low bid was from Neathawk's. The motion was APPROVED.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Binder

- Congregational Care updates
- Update of the February Presbytery meeting
- Doctorate updates – Pastor Jeff stated that he is in the midst of conducting focus groups to gather information for his doctorate program. He is gathering information from the Tuesday Lenten group and the 1st Sunday group and will be meeting with the PYC to obtain information.

REPORT OF THE CLERK: Nancy Smallenberger

- A letter was received from The Friends of Bluestone, Inc. In November 2022, they received a letter from the WVDHHR Office of Environmental Health Services advising them that the potable water storage tank is in need of maintenance and refurbishment.
- Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to have a Special Offering for The Friends of Bluestone, Inc. on Sunday, April 16 and Sunday, April 23.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A request has been received from Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of WV to hold a Clerk's Review on Sunday, April 30, at Old Stone, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVED to host the Presbytery's event.

The Session's next Stated meeting will be Wednesday, April 19, at 6:00 p.m.

There being no other business to be addressed by Session, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Rev. Binder.

Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk

Stewardship Financial Update:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update March 2023 *UPDATED		
	March Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$38,111.00	\$105,802.00
Other Offerings	\$4,075.00	\$14,005.00
Other Income	\$100.00	\$1,168.00
Total Income	\$42,286.00	\$120,975.00
Expenses	\$33,819.00	\$88,198.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$7,967.00	\$32,277.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update April 2023 Month-to-Date		
	April Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$13,395.00	\$119,197.00
Other Offerings	\$5,656.00	\$19,661.00
Other Income	\$100.00	\$1,268.00
Total Income	\$19,151.00	\$140,126.00
Expenses	\$27,039.00	\$115,237.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$7,888.00	\$24,389.00

Friends of Bluestone Special Offering Collection Grand Total:

We collected a grand total of \$1,415 during the 4/16 and 4/23 worship services to support Friends of Bluestone with facility repairs. A check will be disbursed and mailed to them as early as next week. This is a tremendous help to Friends of Bluestone so we would like to thank each of you for your generosity!

If you haven't had a chance to read about the project details, please read the letter below:



Friends of Bluestone, Inc.

"On behalf of Bluestone Camp & Retreat"

P.O. BOX 827
CHARLESTON, WV 25323

36 MIDDLE CAMP ROAD
HINTON, WV 25951

bluestone.friends@gmail.com

email@bluestonecamp.org

bluestonecamp.org/friends-of-bluestone

February 2023

Dear Friends,

This letter is on behalf of Friends of Bluestone, Inc. and presbytery's Bluestone Committee to the Sessions and Congregations of the Presbytery of West Virginia.

In November this past year Bluestone was advised by the WVDHHR Office of Environmental Health Services that our potable water storage tank is in need of maintenance and refurbishment. This news came as the result of their Sanitary Survey which was conducted earlier in October.

The Bluestone Committee met in January and approved a budget that projects \$30,000 of expenditure for repairs to the storage tank. The budget also projects another \$30,000 for deferred maintenance and repairs to our swimming pool filtration facility.

Friends of Bluestone, Inc. normally works to achieve an Annual Fund Goal of at least \$45,000. The bar is being raised to \$60,000 this year in hope that they can raise an additional amount and help camp avoid taking on any more debt than it has to.

Over the years, Bluestone has received special project grants from individual churches at times when there was significant need to fund major repair or improvement at camp. Though we are prepared to take on additional debt via our line of credit with the presbytery (Mission Development Fund) we wanted to advise churches of the work to be done and state simply that Bluestone could use some extra financial support this year.

We ask that you present this letter to your church leadership for consideration. If you'd like more specific project details or have questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me. Thanks very much for your attention to this request.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

Mark Miller

Facilities Director
Bluestone Camp & Retreat
304-860-8281 (personal cell)
mark@bluestonecamp.org

Daniel Heidt

Board President
Friends of Bluestone, Inc.

Zac Morton

Bluestone Committee Chair
Presbytery of West Virginia

Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.

--Philippians 3:13-14

Fellowship Activities Survey:

If you need a printed copy of the survey, it will be included as an insert in the 4/23/2023 bulletin as well as the 4/30/2023 bulletin. Printed copies will also be available for pickup from the narthex. Once completed, please return your survey to the offering basket or drop it off in the secure mailbox located on the front porch of the Education Building. If desired, please feel free to mail your completed survey to the church office or send your responses to the office via email at office@oldstonechurchwv.com.

Fellowship Activities Survey

Please place a checkmark next to the activities listed below that you would be interested in:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cookie Exchange _____ | Board Games _____ |
| Family Night Movie _____ | Card Games _____ |
| Walking Group _____ | Bridge Lessons _____ |
| Bicycling Group _____ | Crafting _____ |
| Dinners for 8 _____ | Crochet/Knitting Group _____ |
| Souper Soups _____ | Paint Night _____ |
| Men's Group _____ | Paint Ball _____ |
| Women's Coffee or Lunch _____ | Rock Climbing/Climbing Tower _____ |
| Fellowship After Church _____ | Welcome a Guest Speaker _____ |
| Greeters _____ | |

Other Suggestions: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

If you have questions or would like to share additional thoughts, please contact Sara Irons at (304) 646-4358 or Ann Walker at (434) 465-0029.

Please place your completed survey in the offering basket or in the secure mailbox located on the front porch of the Education Building.

April Birthdays

*04/05 Anna Ahern
04/05 Mary Page Nemcik
04/08 Asa Brown
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 Herb Montgomery
05/06 Sara Irons
05/07 Stephanie Bachman
05/07 Michael Meadows
05/10 Janice Milam*

04/15 Amy Kesterson
04/15 Scott McClelland
04/16 Jeff Binder
04/17 Doug Bicksler
04/17 Leslie Bicksler
04/18 Jill Gwinn
04/19 Madison Snyder
04/21 Carol Perkins
04/22 Mary Adeline Bicksler
04/22 John Wilson
04/23 Robert 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

05/11 Lyn MacCorkle
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

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.
