



## Stone Chippings Newsletter

November 2022

### For Such A Time As This:

With the month of November and the fullness of the Autumn season comes a sense of thanksgiving and gratitude for all that God has provided us this past year. I'm thankful for you all at Old Stone, as we have now served alongside one another with me as your Interim Pastor for a year. Just think about how much has happened in the past year. Many of our neighborhood and town celebrations have returned with wonderful turnouts and excitement! We have returned to in-person worship each and every Sunday here at Old Stone. Church programs and ministries have returned, including new opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Our Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work seeking the next Pastor to lead Old Stone into its next chapter of life and mission. These are exciting times!



On the flip side, there have been moments this past year that have left us challenged and grieving. We have lost beloved family and friends. There is still violence, injustice, and disaster throughout the world. It's important to recognize these things as part of our lived experience as well.

And yet, with all that has gone on here at church, in our personal lives, and around the world, God is still speaking to us words of hope. There are still amazing opportunities that lie ahead. There is a future that is yet to be written.

There is a story in the Bible about Esther, who was a young Jewish girl called to leadership as her people were being oppressed. Yes, she found herself in a position of royalty, but she also understood the struggles of her people. And yet, when speaking with her uncle Mordecai, she was emboldened to take a courageous step in leadership to ultimately save her people. What did Mordecai say? He shared how God was moving in Esther's life, and invited her to take a step in action: "Who knows? Perhaps you have been called for... such a time as this." (Esther 4:14)

*What are you thankful for this year? How has God blessed you in your life?  
How is God calling you to live in faith and action at such a time as this?*

During this stewardship season, you are invited to join us in responding to God's invitation for gratitude and action as we are thankful for the many blessings in our past, and hopeful for a bright future ahead. You will be receiving a separate letter and pledge card in the mail inviting you to make a commitment to an exciting next year, as individuals in worship will also share how God is calling us for such a time as this. As we reflect on our spiritual practice of stewardship, we are reminded that our pledges to the church of our time, our talents, and our treasures, are in response to all that God provides in our lives, and promises for the future. Join us for such a time as this!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

### Monthly Worship Attendance:

**Sunday, October 2nd:** In Person: 73 / YouTube: 10  
**Sunday, October 9th:** In Person: 66 / YouTube: 14  
**Sunday, October 16th:** In Person: 121 / YouTube: 23



### Spooky PYC Luncheon - Sunday, October 30th:

You are not going to want to miss the Halloween Luncheon planned by PYC that will occur after worship services on October 30th. There will be decorations, crafts for children, and Halloween-themed food. It's bound to be a great time...and there will be an assortment of everyone's favorite Trick-or-Treat Candy!

### Request for Names for All Saints' Bulletin - Due November 1st:

We are formally requesting the submission of names of loved ones who have passed in 2022 for the All Saints' Sunday bulletin (November 6th).

Please turn in names no later than November 1st via email ([office@oldstonechurchwv.com](mailto:office@oldstonechurchwv.com)), by calling the church office at (304) 645-2676, or simply include the name(s) on a piece of paper with your offering during Sunday worship.

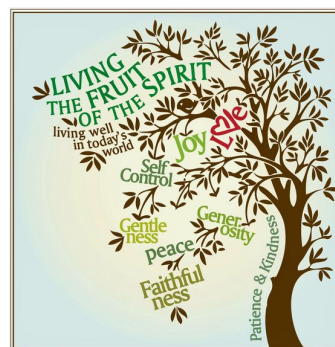


In addition, all worshippers are invited to bring a picture of a loved one with them to worship on November 6th, where the pictures will be displayed in the sanctuary in their memory.

### First Sunday - November 6th:

First Sunday will take place on November 6th at 5:30 pm. Pastor Jeff will have a devotion for the adults, while Amy Kesterson and Debbie Taylor lead a devotion and activities for children of all ages!

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 Thank Offering - November 13, 2022:

The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. This year the Old Stone Presbyterian Women will collect the Thank Offering on Sunday, November 13, 2022 and invite the congregation to participate in this offering.

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviewed 24 Thank Offering applications and selected 10 projects for funding this year. Eight of the projects serve people in the United States and two are international. To read about the selected projects, go to [www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank).

### Fall Retreat for all Middle and High School Students - November 18th & 20th:



This year, Bluestone is inviting middle school students as well as high school students to attend the annual Fall Retreat. The Presbyterian Youth Council (*of which our own John Bicksler currently has a seat*) has been diligently planning this retreat since BEFORE COVID!

Keynote speaker David LaMotte will lead us through discussions that will no doubt expand our Bible knowledge as well as how to practice what we proclaim.

This retreat is very much worth your while. To sign up, contact Amy Kesterson.

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### **Food Locker Distribution Volunteers Needed - Saturday, November 19th:**

Old Stone Presbyterian Church is scheduled to assist the Lewisburg Fairlea Food Locker distribution on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-10:00 am.

We are in need of volunteers to help distribute groceries, so if you are interested in assisting please contact Molly McMillion at (304) 667-4362 or Gloria Martin at (304) 645-7842.



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### **What's New with Presbyterian Women:**

We have started the 2022-23 year with enthusiasm, starting with a table filled with snacks and cookies at More Than Mortar in late August, and we provided cookies for the Fellowship Committee during T.O.O.T. In September, the Americana Shop's Mega Sale was very successful. If you haven't met our newest addition, our "Americana Annie" mannequin, be sure to visit the shop and check out the clothes, books, household goods, and much more that we have to offer. And, with sadness yet gratitude from all, Lynn Weikle has "retired" as head of the Americana Shop. Jill Gwin will serve as chairperson of this service project now.

We are also delighted to announce that Linda Hayes has volunteered to coordinate our participation in Gwen's Meals. Be sure to thank Lynn, Jill, and Linda for their service.

Finally, the S.T.A.I.R. tutoring program for local second-grade students has begun with a full roster of students and tutors. If you would like to substitute, provide snacks, or help in any way, contact Debbie Taylor.

Both circle groups have begun our new study titled "Celebrating Sabbath". All women of the church and your friends are invited to join us for a monthly time that is much more than Bible study....we chat, make and renew friendships, send cards to church members, learn about our roles in the world, and discuss. Oh, and often we eat!!! The Afternoon Circle meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m., usually in the Activities Room at church, and the Evening Circle meets on the same day at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. Zoom is also available for the Afternoon Circle.

Contact Marcia Leitch (466-0982 or 660-5392) or Lou Ella Lewis (645-6557, 667-8267) for the Afternoon Circle; contact Pam Lewis (646-0412) or Carol Bland (661-2400) for the Evening Circle, or call the church office for more information.

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### **Session Highlights - Stated Session Meeting (Wednesday, September 21, 2022):**

The Session met for their Stated meeting on Wednesday, September 21. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Jeff Binder, moderator, and opened with prayer and devotions by Elder, Megan Kirkham. Those present for the meeting were: Rev. Binder, moderator; Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk; Amy Kesterson, Educator/Program Coordinator; Elders: Townley Hamilton, Jennifer Runyon, Jim Rowe, Sara Irons, Karen Leland, Jim Coleman, Tag Galyean, Joan Montgomery and Megan Kirkham; and guest, Becky Williams.

Minutes from the Wednesday, August 24, 2022, Stated meeting were presented and APPROVED.

Rev. Binder welcomed and introduced Becky Williams, who is wishing to become a member of OSPC. Williams gave a brief summary of her faith journey. All in attendance introduced themselves and tell where in the church they serve. A motion was made, seconded and APPROVE to welcome Ms. Williams into the membership of Old Stone by Letter of Transfer from Edgewood Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg.

Members of Session had received the minutes of a recent meeting of the Return to Worship Task Force. As medical professionals, members of the task force suggest no changes in the recommendations but understand Session is wanting to continue Outreach and Fellowship activities. Following discussion, the following motion was made, seconded and APPROVED: **“CDC updates will continue to be provided and communicated. Guidelines associated will be optionally followed.”**

Along with the report from the Return to Worship Task Force, committee reports were provided from the following committees:

- Christian Education
- P.N.C.
- Stewardship and Finance
- Worship

There were no action items presented by any committee.

Pastor’s Report was presented by Pastor Jeff, which included:

- Pastoral care updates
- Pastor Jeff thanked all who helped plan and host the recent church picnic.
- Pastor Jeff also thanked all who had attended the recent Session Mini-Retreat, for their gifts and skills identified during their time together.
- Session/Officer training will be held in November.

The Clerk’s Report consisted of worship attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Request from the family of Art Mashburn to hold a Celebration of Life on Saturday, October 22 or Saturday, October 29. Rev. Binder will be in contact with the family.
- Fellowship Committee did not have a printed report in the Session packet. Karen Leland, moderator, stated that the committee, along with the Women of the Church, will host a booth at T.O.O.T. and the committee is planning a Cookie Exchange for after morning worship on Sunday, December 11.

The Session will hold their next Stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in the Activity Room and via Zoom.

*Submitted by Nancy Smallenberger, Clerk*

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**Stewardship Financial Update:**

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update Through September 2022 *UPDATED		
	September	
	Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$28,034.00	\$231,652.00
Other Offerings	\$3,194.00	\$41,938.00
Other Income	\$541.00	\$10,267.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$31,769.00</b>	<b>\$283,857.00</b>
Expenses	\$26,301.00	\$254,034.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$5,469.00	\$27,323.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update Through October 2022		
	October	
	Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$19,696.00	\$251,348.00
Other Offerings	\$4,820.00	\$46,758.00
Other Income	\$311.00	\$10,578.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$24,827.00</b>	<b>\$308,684.00</b>
Expenses	\$23,481.00	\$277,514.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$1,346.00	\$28,669.00

### October Birthdays

10/02 Pam Lewis  
 10/02 Brenda Smith  
 10/03 Nixon Brown  
 10/06 Renee Fife Ahern  
 10/06 Mallory Frye  
 10/06 Hayes Hileman  
 10/07 Glenn Lehman  
 10/11 Ellsworth Buck  
 10/11 Brahm Kesterson  
 10/11 Luke Kirkham  
 10/12 Jason Kesterson  
 10/14 Betty Dempsey  
 10/19 Elizabeth "Sissy" Isaac  
 10/21 JoAnn Pearis  
 10/24 Riley Smith  
 10/29 Lauren Rodgers  
 10/30 Vicki Wilson  
 10/31 Mary Jane Gilkerson  
 10/31 John Hofmann

### November Birthdays

11/01 Tracy Morgan  
 11/06 Macie Hileman  
 11/06 Dawn Huffman  
 11/06 Stephanie Williams  
 11/13 Ian Burford  
 11/14 Brenda Jones  
 11/14 Shirley Runyon  
 11/16 Dick Marshall, Jr.  
 11/16 Lucy (Marshall) Taylor  
 11/21 Marley Kesterson  
 11/22 Annabelle Galyean  
 11/23 Carol Cales  
 11/23 Larry Jones  
 11/24 Elizabeth Kucera  
 11/27 Carter Huffman



# Old Stone Advent & Christmas

All are welcome!

## **November 27 th**

9:30 - 10:50 Wreath Making and Activities

12:00 - 1:30 Wreath Making

## **December 4th**

12:00 First Sunday - Pizza and Old Stone Elves - This brand new endeavor will entail small groups paying visits to those who could use some holiday cheer. Contact Amy K. for more details.

## **December 10th**

7:00 Handel's Messiah - Join the Old Stone Choir and Orchestra for a performance of selected parts of Handel's Messiah

## **December 11th**

12:00 PYC Luncheon & Church-Wide Christmas Party - You can expect a delicious meal, cookie decorating, a hot chocolate bar, & crafts!

## **December 24th**

7:30 Christmas Eve Worship Service with Family-Friendly Interactive Nativity

## **December 25th**

11:00 Christmas Day Worship Service