

A Note from Rev. Julie Olt:

“One day, a western anthropologist went to Africa to study the social behavior of an indigenous tribe. He proposed a game to the children, and they willingly agreed to be part of it. He put a basket filled with fruits underneath a tree and told the children that whoever reached the basket first would win the whole basket and could eat the fruits all by him- or herself.



He lined them all up and raised his hand to give the start signal. Ready. Set. Go!

The children took each other’s hands and started running together. They all reached the basket at the same time. Then they sat down in a big circle and enjoyed the fruits together, laughing and smiling all the time.

The anthropologist could not believe what he saw, and he asked them why they had waited for each other as one could have taken the whole basket all for him- or herself.

The children shook their heads and replied, “Ubuntu, how can one of us be happy if all the others are sad?”^[1]

I love this story and I love the concept of everyone working together for the common good. It causes me to stop and think about how I practice ubuntu. Am I out for myself, or am I a team player?

I also think about this in relationship to our congregation. As we work toward a common vision for the future of Old Stone, I hope we will practice ubuntu. I hope that we will consider the wants and needs of everyone as we move into God’s preferred future for us. Sometimes I know it will be difficult, but in the long run, it is going to be worth it. We will all have to compromise along the road, but if we want to make some positive changes, that’s what it will take. We will need to not think just of ourselves and our own comfort, but also of others we are hoping will want to join us on this journey of discipleship.

Let’s work on practicing ubuntu not only in our personal lives, but in the life of our congregation. We are all in this together, thanks be to God!

[1] Source unknown

Grace and peace,



Rev. Julie

Monthly Worship Attendance:

Sunday, July 30th: In Person: 80 / YouTube: 10

Sunday, July 30th (Pastor Installation Service):

In Person: 73 / YouTube: 3

Sunday, August 6th: In Person: 73 / YouTube: 13

Sunday, August 13th: In Person: 57 / YouTube: 14



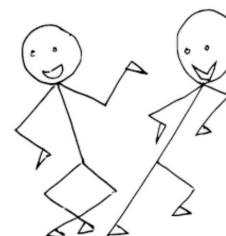
Life Is Better When You Can Line Dance!

What: Beginning Line Dance Lessons

When: Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

- September 6, 13, and 20
- Will continue to meet the first three Wednesdays of each month from October through December

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.

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. Becky Mahlborg is the ActiveSWV "Captain" for this activity.

So grapevine, shuffle, or cha-cha over and LET'S DANCE!

Stewardship Financial Update:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church Financial Update July 2023 *UPDATED		
	July Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$14,750.00	\$166,453.00
Other Offerings	\$4,158.00	\$33,141.00
Other Income	\$5,675.00	\$28,986.00
Total Income	\$24,583.00	\$228,580.00
Expenses	\$37,106.00	\$241,499.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	-\$12,523.00	-\$13,418.00

Old Stone Presbyterian Church		
Financial Update August 2023 Month-to-Date		
	August Actual	Actual to Date
Pledges Received	\$42,595.00	\$209,048.00
Other Offerings	\$2,787.00	\$35,928.00
Other Income	\$5,000.00	\$33,986.00
Total Income	\$50,382.00	\$278,962.00
Expenses	\$27,088.00	\$268,587.00
Net Ordinary Receipts	\$23,294.00	\$9,876.00

August Birthdays

08/02 Jim Rowe
 08/03 Sue Rock
 08/04 Norman Ahern, Jr.
 08/05 Jacqueline Bennett
 08/08 Bob Perkins
 08/09 John Wilson Bicksler
 08/11 Nancy Bulla
 08/11 Shannon Lehman
 08/11 Andrew Scarborough-McLaughlin
 08/17 Wilson Bland
 08/24 Dorothy Lee
 08/24 Jen Runyon
 08/25 Nancy Smallenberger
 08/26 Bobbi Hoffman
 08/27 Beverly Johnson
 08/27 Acie Kesterson
 08/27 Bonnie Marshall
 08/30 Linda Hayes

September Birthdays

09/05 Gary Williams
 09/09 Jeb Brown
 09/11 Richard Franke
 09/12 Gillian Snyder
 09/13 Robert Banton
 09/14 Carol Bland
 09/15 Phoebe Stanley
 09/17 Molly McMillion
 09/17 Emily Plybon
 09/20 Lee Ann Gillilan
 09/21 Amy Brown
 09/21 Chuck Plumley
 09/24 Karen Lee McClung
 09/25 Patty Plumley
 09/28 Tag Galyean
 09/29 Debbie Smith

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.
