

STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 CHESTNUT STREET
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM

Address Service Requested



*Stone Presbyterian Church
April 2024 Newsletter*



Stone Presbyterian Church
140 Chestnut Street Watertown NY 13601

Page 1

April 2024 Newsletter

Pastor's Pondering...

The song "The Holy City" has still been resonating in my mind since my mother passed away three weeks ago at the age of 95. It goes:

"I saw the Holy City beside the tideless sea; The light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide— No need of moon or stars by night, or sun to shine by day. It was the New Jerusalem, that would not pass away— Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Sing, for the night is o'er! Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna forevermore!"

I believe she entered the Holy City of the New Jerusalem, where Jesus Christ reigns with all the saints, triumphantly through her faith in Jesus Christ.

We often talked on the phone via video calls. I always prayed for her at the end of every conversation. The day before she died, I prayed for her, knowing that we wouldn't know when it was God's time, but whenever it happened, she would be called by God peacefully, faithfully, and graciously. Then, as usual, she said, "Amen" with a very loud voice.

The next day, my brother informed me of her passing. I cried, but I was also thankful to God that she had entered the Holy City of the New Jerusalem, where there is no more sickness and weakness. My hometown church graciously officiated my mother's funeral. She was buried next to my father, who participated in the Korean War and was buried in the Korea National Cemetery.

Though I couldn't participate in the entire funeral service, I led the graveside service via a video call from the US and visited in person the next day upon arrival in Korea. Sang and I, along with some relatives, visited my mother and father's tomb, where I led a service on the third day after the burial. I was grateful for my mother's funeral and everything that God had done for her entire life and our family.

She was a very active member of my hometown church before moving to a nursing home. She was also a great partner in my ministry as a wise woman and a person of prayer. She was very proud of my ministry.

She was here in the US and raised my two children, helping my family for over 10 years while I was studying at seminary and during my early church ministry. After my children grew up, she returned to her hometown in Korea. She is my hero and a great missionary who raised a faithful minister, me, I believe.

I miss her very much, but we can meet in our prayers and someday in heaven. May God give her eternal rest and peace until we meet again! Amen.

Pastor, Rev. Sarah Young Ju Lee

Session Meeting Review

The Session met on March 19, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes: The minutes of the regular stated session meeting on February 13th were approved.

Financial: The profit and loss statement for February 2024 was presented by Angelo Guarino. A motion was made to approve the report; motion carried.

Music & Worship: The average attendance for February was 28. The last communion was celebrated on March 3rd; 19 people received communion. The next communion will be served on March 28th (Maundy Thursday), and again on April 7th. The bell choir plans to ring on Palm Sunday. The women's choir will sing on that day also. Guest Commissioned Preacher Pieter Visscher led worship on March 17th. Our women's choir sang "Lonesome Valley" on February 25th. On February 18th we heard Stuart Price play "Standing on the Promises" on the organ.

Building & Grounds: Our building will be a polling place for the April 2nd Presidential Primary Election (6AM – 9 PM). A garbage disposal has been installed in our kitchen. T.C. Roofing has been approved to remove the old shingles from the garage and replace the roof, as soon as they can schedule the work. Hyde Stone has been approved to install programmable Wi-Fi thermostats that can be adjusted from a cell phone app. NYTRIC Electrical Services has ordered two sets of track lighting (a total of six new lights) for the sanctuary. The library ceiling has been repaired and a new coat of paint added. A new door-closer system will be installed at the top of the entrance door off the parking lot. A big SHOUT-OUT to Deb & Don Sholett for all their work cleaning and uncluttering throughout the church building. It was an enormous amount of work, but Deb is a wizard when it comes to cleaning.

Nurture: Our church women hosted a Presbyterian Women meeting on February 22nd. The group will meet again on April 25th at our church.

On Easter Sunday (March 31) we will have a continental breakfast at 9:30 AM before worship. Easter flowers are to be delivered to homebound or in assisted living. A fellowship hour is planned for April 21st. Our Bible study is now focusing on *The Bethel Series*. If you wish to be added to the Stone Prayer Line, please sign up in Friendship Hall.



Session Meeting Review

Mission/Outreach: Maxine and Chris visited the new Senior Center on Polk St, and got ideas for outreach to seniors. We will look into having someone come to teach computer & cell phone basics at our church. The committee will meet to discuss ideas for the spring and summer. All will be invited! Some ideas were: Ice cream social in parking lot, along with hot dogs! We will be on the lookout for musical groups to entertain (will come inside if it rains). We will get an estimate of the cost to include our church on the Newzjunky site called "NNY's Premier Churches." Please keep in mind that the Urban Mission food pantry is always in need of donations.

Stewardship: Bob Siver distributed the church contribution breakdown through March 17th, along with an overview of the invested funds. As of March 17 we have collected \$494 for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering will continue through Easter. The session will decide where to donate the Easter offering at the April meeting.

Pastoral Care: Kathie has ordered begonias for Easter (Price Chopper). Kathie visited Esther Branche, who recently broke a hip.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Lee mails bulletins and copies of her sermons to members who missed services, does hospital and home visits, and also visits residents of Summit Village. She has begun mailing birthday cards from our members & friends list. She updates our Facebook page regularly. Please say prayers for our church's continued outreach for new visitors, families and children. Rev. Lee would like each person who attends church to invite a friend or family member to worship in 2024 !

Interesting fact: Pastor Sarah was an intern under Rev. Bruce Smith many years ago, and was with our church for a whole summer!

The next session meeting will be on April 16, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.

Clerk of Session, Christine Dear



Presidential Primary Election Day—Tuesday, April 2nd
Voting time at Stone Presbyterian Church will be from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm.

Bible Study



Bible Study Group meets Wednesdays at Noon.

on April 3, 10, 17, 24 —

Pastor Sarah Lee invites all to join the group.

Stone Presbyterian Church Choir Rehearsals

Under the direction of Jeannie Greenwood, the Choir will rehearse at 10:00 am on April 7, 14, 21, 28



Stone Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir Rehearsals

Under the direction of Nancy Boynton, meetings will be each Wednesday from 5-6 pm.



The Lord's Supper will be celebrated Sunday, April 7th during our 10:45 am



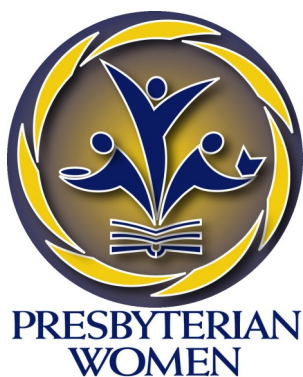
We will have a **Session Meeting on Tuesday, April 16th,**
at 3:00 pm.



APRIL MEETINGS & EVENTS



After worship service on Sunday, April 21st, join us for a Fellowship hour.



The Presbyterian Women

They will meet at Stone Presbyterian Church at 11:00 am on Thursday, April 25th. Lunch after meeting with soup and dessert provided—bring a sandwich if you wish.

Stone Church Prayer Line

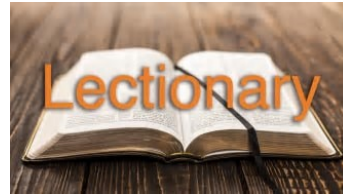
Would you like to be notified when anyone has given us a request to pray for someone? A sign-up sheet is in Friendship Hall with name, phone number, e-mail address. Indicate if you want to be notified by email or phone.



If you or your children want to be baptized or join our church membership, please inform our session members or the pastor about your interests. We will have a welcoming ceremony on a Sunday.



April Lectionary



April 7 **2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35 and Psalm 133 or
Isaiah 65:17-25 and Psalm 3;
1 John 1:1-22; John 20:19-31

April 14 **3rd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19 and Psalm 4 or
Isaiah 6:1-9a and Psalm 40:1-5;
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 21 **4th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12 and Psalm 23 or
Zechariah 10:1-12 and
Psalm 80:1-7;
1 John 3:16-24;
John 10:11-18

April 28 **5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8:26-40 and
Psalm 22:25-31 and
Exodus 19:1-6 and
Psalm 118:19-25;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8



June Calhoun	April 1
Chris Jennison	April 8
Richard Williams	April 10
Rev. Bruce Smith	April 10
Brendan Hall	April 11
Joshua Young	April 12
Matthew Siver	April 21
Jeannie Greenwood	April 23
Harrison Dalton	April 29



Corey & Shelly Reed
April 26
Donald & Debra Sholett
April 26

Outside Church Groups Meetings



Northern Blend Chorus

will meet at Stone Church on Mondays, April 1, 15, 22 from 6:45—9:45 pm and on Sundays, April 7, 28 from 12:30-3:00 pm

The Garden Club will meet at Stone Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, April 3rd from 6:30—9:00 pm.



QUILTING MEETINGS

Quilters Group

Saturday, April 6th
8:30 am—4:30 pm

North Country Quilting Guild

Tuesday, April 16th
6:30—9:00 pm



Quilting Class Wednesday, April 17th 9:00 am—4:00 pm

The Bird Club will meet at Stone Church on Wednesday, April 10th from 7:00—9:00 pm.



Worship Ministers

Pastor

The Reverend Sarah Lee
(Text/ Call/ Message:
315-788-8286)

Organists

Chris Hyde-Hall and
Ghilyana Dordzhieva

Choir Director

Jeannie Greenwood

**Handbell Choir
Director**

Nancy Boynton

Church Staff

Secretary Linda White



**Stone Presbyterian
Church**

**140 Chestnut Street
Watertown NY 13601**

REMINDER:

Our monthly Newsletter
deadline of the 15th
needs to be adhered to
for newsletter accuracy.
Submit all meeting
dates and information to
the secretary by then.
Thank you.

**Ruling Elders
on the Session**

Class of 2025

Kathie Strader
Jeannie
Greenwood
Stuart Price

Class of 2027

Robert Siver Jr.
Roxanne Young

Clerk of Session

Chris Dear

Newsletter Contents

Pastor's Pondering 1

Session Meeting Review 2, 3

April Meetings & Events 4, 5

Lectionary, Birthdays,
Anniversaries 6

Outside Church Groups 7

Contents, Ministers,
Contacts 8

Prayer Calendar

**Caring for the
Congregation**

The Pastor and the
spiritual leaders place a
priority on visiting
hospitalized members of
the congregation.
Please notify the church
office if someone you
know should be visited in
the hospital or while
recovering at home or at
a care center. Also, if
you or someone you
know would enjoy a visit
from Pastor Sarah Lee or
a Ruling Elder, or would
appreciate receiving
communion at home,
please phone the church
office (788-5630),
e-mail the church office
(Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com),
or place a note in the
collection plate on Sunday.

**Sunday Worship
10:45 am**

**Email
Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com**

**Facebook
StonePresbyterianChurch**

**Website
www.stonepreschurch.com**

**Office Hours
9:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.
Tuesday - Friday
315-788-5630**