

STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 CHESTNUT STREET
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
Sunday Worship 10:45 A.M.

Address Service Requested



STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
August 2023 Newsletter



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Stone Presbyterian Church 140 Chestnut Street Watertown NY

Pastor's Pondering

In my prayer life, I have come to realize that God's blessings do not simply occur automatically; instead, they require sincere asking and listening. God desires to understand how much we genuinely need these blessings and how we intend to utilize them for God's glory and the well-being of others. We have the right to be blessed because we will also be a blessing to others. God has a plan for each of us, with well-being, not harm, and a future filled with hope (Jeremiah 29:11). However, without asking and listening, they would not be ours.

Here is a short story from a book titled "Jabez's Prayer" about John's experience in heaven. When John arrived in heaven, Peter was waiting for him to show him around the kingdom. They walked on golden streets, and John was shown beautiful mansions and so many fantastic places. They could hear songs sung by angels. John was filled with ecstasy!

During the tour, John noticed a large building with no windows, only one door. However, Peter passed by that building. John became very curious. When the tour of heaven ended, John asked Peter about the building. Peter responded, "It's better if you don't see it." John wondered why. Despite that, he insisted on going inside, and eventually, Peter decided to let him enter the building.

Cont'

Inside the building, there were many orderly shelves filled with small boxes. Each box had a name on it. John found the box with his name on it and opened it. After looking inside, John sighed, much like many others that Peter had heard before. The box was filled with numerous blessings that God had intended to give John during his life on earth. However, John had never asked for them or had given up on them without much praying.



Jabez, a biblical figure mentioned in 1 Chronicles 4: 9-10, prayed to God saying, "Oh God, bless me and expand my horizons. Let Your hand be with me and keep me from harm." And God granted his requests." What a simple prayer with God's approval!

How much do we ask of God, and how much do we appreciate God's blessings every day? Pray without ceasing! God wants to help you live a blessed life. We may have already missed out on many blessings from God that could have been ours. Come to God and ask, seek, and knock! You will experience miracles every day! May it be so for you and me! Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Sarah Lee

Minutes: The minutes of the June 14, 2023 meeting were approved.

Financial: The profit and loss statement for June 2023 was presented by Angelo Guarino. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

On July 25th the session met at the home of Rev. Lee and her family. Then all members and friends were invited to a backyard picnic, complete with food from the grill, pizza, wonderful Korean dishes, and much more from those who brought a dish to pass. The kids enjoyed playing in the pool (with Bob Siver), and Camden led us in a patriotic sing-along. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed it so much!

Personnel: Motion made and carried to renew Rev. Lee's contract (full-time) for another year. We are blessed!

Music & Worship: The average attendance for June was 27. The last communion was on July 2nd; 22 people received communion. The next communion will be served on August 6th. Jeannie told us that the Molto Brass Quintet will perform in our sanctuary on August 20th.

Building & Grounds: An Emergency Knox Box rapid access system for first responders will be installed at our location. This box contains a key to our church so that firefighters and other first responders have immediate access in an emergency.

Nurture: We have drivers for our trip to Rudy's Lakeside Drive-In in Oswego for lunch on August 4th. Meet here at 10:00 A.M. There is still time to sign up!

Mission/Outreach: Our donations at the election day bake sale totaled \$631.00. The annual school backpack drive is coming up. Items will be accepted through August 11th. Post a reminder on your refrigerator! Please keep in mind – our shopping cart is waiting for donations to the Urban Mission Food Pantry.

Stewardship: A record/breakdown of 2023 church contributions through the current week of July was presented by Bob Siver. He also provided a report on our invested funds.

Pastoral Care: Kathie Strader has continued to make visits to our shut-ins, as well as mailing cards. We are always in need of people to sign up for flowers on the sign up sheet in the hallway.

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. They are vital to the future of our church !

Next meeting will be August 23rd at 3:00 A.M.

Looking Ahead...




**Rudy's
Lakeside
Drive-in
August 4th
78 County Route 89
Lake Ontario,
Oswego, NY 13126
(315) 343-2671**



Everyone is invited to enjoy an outing to
Rudy's Lakeside Drive-in,

It's the perfect spot, with beachfront picnic tables and wonderful lake views! Bring the kids/grandkids/dogs and go for a swim.

There are thousands of flat rocks for skipping on the water or to take home and paint. They serve hamburgers, fries, and fresh seafood, even lobster mac & cheese.

After Rudy's we're going to **Ontario Orchards** (2 miles down the road). They carry fruits and veggies, delicious baked goods, jams and jellies, flowers and plants, everything under the sun.



There will be a sign-up sheet, and drivers will be determined for a caravan to leave our parking lot at 10:00 A.M.



THE MORE THE MERRIER!



COMMUNION SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH

During 10:45 am Worship Service we will have Communion the first Sunday of each month. Our summer worship time remains 10:45 am throughout the year.



The Northern Blend Chorus Rehearsal Schedule for August

<u>Monday, August 7</u>	from 6:45-9:45 pm.
<u>Sunday, August 13</u>	from 12:30-3:30 pm.
<u>Monday, August 21</u>	from 6:45-9:45 pm.
<u>Monday, August 28</u>	from 6:45-9:45 pm.

There are NO Handbell Choir or Church Choir
Rehearsals during the month of August.



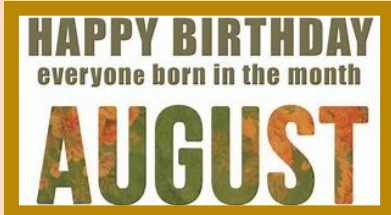
BACKPACK PROGRAM Watertown **Urban Mission School Supply Drive**



Once again this year we will be participating in the School Backpack Program. Children returning to school this year will need lots of school supplies as well as backpacks. Let's collect as much as we can to help them return to a normal school year. Items may be placed in front of the sanctuary.

We will accept donated items up to August 11th,
the delivery date to the Urban Mission. Thank you.





Helen Emeline Hall	August 4
Brianna Jaspersohn	August 7
Donald Dear	August 10
Justin Reed	August 18
John Remus Greenwood	August 27
Brian Draper	August 29
Sharon Charlebois	August 29



Dan & Joanne Woodward
August 8
Mike & Lisa Quirk
August 16
Jimmy & Kathie Strader
August 19
Bruce & Lori Robinson
August 26



The Bible Study

Stone Presbyterian Church will resume the Bible Study on September 13, every Wednesday, at 12 noon.

We will use **"The Present Word"** as the textbook. This book offers an in-depth Bible study for adults, delving deep into God's Word.

It has been designed by an ecumenical collaborative, ensuring that participants from multiple denominations study the same passages together.

The goals of *"The Present Word"* curriculum are to engage in a serious study of Scripture, aiming to discover its deeper meaning and relevance to our world today.

The textbook costs \$8.00. Participants are asked to pay a **\$5.00 donation**, and the church covers the remaining \$3.00 and plus.

August Meetings & Events



Second Chances

The much celebrated television series "*The Chosen*" is now available on the **CW network (channel 14)**. The series revolves around the life and times of Jesus and has met with rave reviews.

The first of three episodes will be shown **at 8:00 pm on Sundays**. This beautifully crafted production is now available at no charge as was not previously the case.

This is not to be missed. —this is your second chance.

P.S. Episode one has already aired.

Trinity Summer Concert Series 2023 Season

At Trinity Church

227 Sherman St Watertown

PERFORMERS

7/27 Avalanche (Fort Drum Rock Band)

8/3 KEX

8/10 Oceans Below

8/17 Frank Sacci Band

FREE ADMISSION



August Lectionary

(as shown on the
Presbytery calendar)



August 6

Genesis 32:22-31 and
Psalms 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 55:1-5
and Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 13

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and
Psalms 105: 6, 16-22, 45b;
1 Kings 19:9-18 and
Psalms 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15;
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20

Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalms 133;
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalms 67;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32;
Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

August 27

Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Psalms 124;
Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalms 138;
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday Sanctuary

Flowers Sign-Up



They are delivered to those not able to attend Sunday worship. After making your choice, let the office know who you'd like to remember/honor for print in that Sunday's bulletin, with the fee.



Fee \$12.00

**Hall sign-up
for open Sundays available.**

Worship Ministers

Pastor The Reverend
Sarah Lee

Organists
Chris Hyde-Hall and
Ghilyana Dordzhieva

Choir Director
Jeannie Greenwood

Hand bell Choir Director
Nancy Boynton

Church Staff

Secretary Linda White
Sexton Francis Conti



Stone Presbyterian Church

140 Chestnut Street
Watertown NY 13601

Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Office 315-788-5630

Email
Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com

Facebook
StonePresbyterianChurch

Website
www.stonepreschurch.com

Office Hours
Tues—Friday
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**Ruling Elders
on the Session**

Class of 2024

Chris Dear

Max Perkins

Class of 2025

Kathie Strader

Jeannie
Greenwood

Stuart Price

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**NOTICE:
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

**Our monthly
Newsletter Deadline
for your articles is the
15th of the month to
be turned in.**



**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.*