

STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
140 CHESTNUT STREET  
WATERTOWN, NY 13601

Address Service Requested



# **Stone Presbyterian Church December 2023 Newsletter**

# Stone Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship  
Service 10:45 am

140 Chestnut Street  
Watertown NY  
13601

## December 2023 Newsletter



### ***Pastor's Pondering***

Christmas is approaching! It is the most joyously celebrated day worldwide, even in non-Christian countries. There is no story more cherished than the tale of Christmas. This season is not "Santa-mas," "Happy Holidays," or even "X-mas," but CHRIST-mas, CHRISTMAS. "WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST, THERE IS NO CHRISTMAS." Instead of saying "Holiday season," let us refer to it as this Christmas season, or simply, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

In Dr. Seuss's story "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," the Grinch despised Christmas. He devised and executed a plan to steal all the Christmas decorations, food, and presents, hoping to prevent people from celebrating on Christmas day. However, the entire village gathered on Christmas morning to sing and celebrate Christmas, extending a warm welcome even to the Grinch. Moved by the spirit of Christmas love, the Grinch underwent a transformation and decided to return everything he had stolen.

On Christmas day, God forgives us and chooses to be with us. Christmas is about love. Regardless of external circumstances, nobody and nothing can steal Christmas from people's hearts because God's love resides within us, not in the tangible things we possess.

Stone Presbyterian Church wishes to share this love with you. We extend an invitation to all of you to join our special Christmas Eve Sunday morning service at 10:45 AM and the evening musical candlelight service at 4:30 PM. Bring your family and friends, please!

Let us celebrate Christmas together with the spirit of Jesus' love. May we share this love with others, and may Christ's love, joy, peace, and hope shape our relationships, allowing us to experience the very presence of Christ Jesus. Peace on earth and goodwill to everyone! **Merry Christmas!**

***Pastor Sarah Lee***



## Session Meeting Review

The session met on  
November 15, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 2023 meeting were approved.

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

**Music & Worship:** The average attendance for October was 27. Communion was celebrated on October 1 and November 5. The committee met on November 6. The next communion will be served on December 3. Rev. Toby Schilling was unable to preach on October 22<sup>nd</sup> (due to a broken hip!) and Commissioned Preacher Pieter Visscher stepped in as guest preacher for us that day. The new handbells were received and the choir played on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The choir will play again on November 26<sup>th</sup>. The church will be decorated for Advent on November 26<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas Eve service is in place. The Christmas Eve service will begin at 4:30 PM this year. If the Christmas Eve service is canceled due to inclement weather, it will be held on the following Sunday worship (December 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Building & Grounds:**  
Additional track light in sanctuary was discussed.

**Nurture:** There will be a Harvest Dinner after worship on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Presbyterian Women will hold a Christmas brunch at 1st Presbyterian Church on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Our annual Memory Tree dedication will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Completed Memory Tree order forms should be turned in to the church office by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you wish to have a poinsettia in the sanctuary, in honor or memory of a loved one, please drop it off to church by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bible study continues weekly on Wednesdays at noon.

(continued)



## Session Meeting Review

The session met on  
November 15, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.

**Mission/Outreach:** The quilt show held here on October 14<sup>th</sup> was very well attended, and the raffle baskets were very successful. The election day bake sale on November 7<sup>th</sup> was our most profitable to date. On November 21 the First Presbyterian Church will hold an Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service. It starts at 6:00 PM with a dessert fellowship hour and a worship service at 7:00 PM. We will resume caroling this year on December 10<sup>th</sup> after worship.

### **Stewardship:**

Bob Siver distributed the church contribution breakdown through November 12<sup>th</sup>, along with an overview of the invested funds.

### **Pastoral Care:**

Kathie Strader continues to visit shut-ins and those in nursing homes, and getting the altar flowers each Sunday for her visits. She also has cards to mail regularly, and many times in Friendship Hall so that we can all sign them. This is especially important during the holidays. Greeting cards are a great way to send some cheer and let people know you are thinking of them.

**Pastor's Report:** We were very happy to see Rev. Lee's slide show of her trip to Korea! 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 mails 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. We would like to see our Sunday School thrive and be part of our weekly worship! Children are vital to the future of our church !

The next meeting will be on December 13, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

***Clerk of Session, Christine Dear***

# ENJOYING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

## December 3, 2023 is the 1st Sunday of Advent



During Sunday  
Worship Service  
We celebrate  
the Lord's Supper  
with Communion.



We will have Advent Candle Lighting during worship  
on each of the four Sundays in December.

## Sunday, December 10th



Lighting of the Memory Tree  
during worship service. Names of  
those honored and remembered  
will be read by Kathie Compeau  
and Barbara Williams.

Join in for Christmas caroling after worship on  
December 10th to Centennial Apartments, Samaritan  
Keep Home, and Samaritan Summit Village.



**POINSETTIA PLANTS**  
**TO DECORATE THE**  
**SANCTURY**

Poinsettias to be purchased individually; purchased at business of choice and brought in by December 10th. You may start bringing them in December 3rd. Don't forget to put your name on the plant.

Poinsettia will stay in place until Christmas Eve service is over. Please take yours to a friend or loved one if you choose not to take yours home. Remember that poinsettias are harmful to pets.



**Election Day Bake Sale**  
**On Tuesday, November 7th**  
**Final Total \$918.93**

**Thank you all for contributing, baking for, and supporting this successful outreach effort.**  
***The Bake Sale Committee, Max, Chrissy and Pat***

# Christmas Services

**Christmas Eve Worship  
Service is at 4:30 pm Sunday,  
December 24th.**

If it is cancelled because of inclement weather, the Christmas Eve service will take place on the next Sunday morning service (December 31st).



**Christmas Joy Offering will be collected on Sunday,  
December 24th at our 10:45 AM worship service, and our  
evening service on Sunday at 4:30 PM.**

The Christmas Joy Offering supports church workers and their families in the PC(USA) who need critical financial assistance. Your congregation has the opportunity to make an impact. You can be the difference between financial hardship and a blessed breath of relief.

In addition, the Christmas Joy Offering is committed to helping promote educational opportunities and leadership development, in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Your congregation can enable these institutions to provide students with a transformative education. Give the gift of education and the gift of relief of financial burden this giving season by supporting the [Christmas Joy Offering](#).



**Nativity of the Lord  
Christmas Day  
Monday, December  
25, 2023**

## December Lectionary

### December 3

1st Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 64:1-9 and  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9;  
Mark 13:24-37

### December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11 and  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;  
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

### December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and  
Psalm 126 or  
Luke 1:46b-55;  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and  
Luke 1:46b-55 or  
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26;  
Romans 16:25-27;  
Luke 1:26-38

### Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 and Psalm 96;  
Titus 2:11-14;  
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

### December 31

1st Sunday of Christmas  
Isaiah 61:10-62:3 and  
Psalm 148; Galacians 4:4-7;  
Luke 2:22-40

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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<b>Elizabeth Smith</b>	<b>December 2</b>
<b>Colin Charlebois</b>	<b>December 3</b>
<b>Drew Newby</b>	<b>December 4</b>
<b>Kathie Strader</b>	<b>December 4</b>
<b>Andrea Reed</b>	<b>December 15</b>
<b>Linda Rohde</b>	<b>December 18</b>
<b>Jimmy Strader</b>	<b>December 19</b>
<b>Thelma Reardon</b>	<b>December 28</b>
<b>Dorothy Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>December 30</b>
<b>William Milton</b>	<b>December 31</b>





# Stone Presbyterian Church

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140 Chestnut Street  
Watertown, New York 13601

Office (315) 788-5630  
Email  
stonep@centralny.twcbc.com

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## Stewardship 2024

November 19, 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Once again, another year has raced by. The Session is busy planning for 2024. I am very pleased with the progress our Church has made in 2023. A big thank you goes to Reverend Sarah Lee for her leadership, her inspiration and her sharing of her strong spirituality.

We still have a lot of work to do. A lot of God's work in our Church, in our community and in our World. As many other churches we find ourselves struggling with budgets and expenses. We walk a fine line between our mission outreach and self-support. We watch our local and world news reports and are bombarded with the needs of people locally and worldwide.

We are a small church how can we possibly make a difference? We have to know God will be with us in all things we do. Our Church is a place of peace for our members. We come together on Sunday mornings to hear God's message and to support each other. We help each other with our short comings and life's challenges. We are also a beacon of God's word and work for our community. We pray for world peace and for mankind to be compassionate and respectful to each other. We leave the Church spiritually rejuvenated and ready for the week to come.

We may be a smaller church but we are a church of doers. We support our local Urban Mission, the Food Pantry as well as many other outreach activities in our community and our Church is used by many local groups both non profits as well as community groups. We support missions outside of our community, like the One Great Hour of Sharing missions, the Peace offering and the Joy Offerings.

How do we manage? With your time, talents and your financial support. Each one of us makes a difference. Often it is easy to say I can't give much or they won't miss my offering. Each one of us can help make a difference in our Church's life. We need everyone's help. Our Church is more than a building. It's our members and friends that make up Stone Presbyterian Church not the building. We need your time, talents and financial gifts to our Church,

Come worship with us and be a part of our ministry. Each and every one of us shows our Church, our community missions and our world missions God's love. Each one of us carries on God's work. Everything is possible with God at our sides.

Please support our 2024 Stewardship Campaign.

May God Bless you.  
Bob Siver Jr

# STEWARDSHIP

**Stone Presbyterian Church**  
140 Chestnut Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

**2024 Pledge Card or Donation Card – (Please Return to Church)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ 1 time \_\_\_

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**Stone Presbyterian Church**  
140 Chestnut Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

**2024 Pledge Card or Donation Card - (Retain for Your Copy)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ 1 time \_\_\_



## Stone Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir Rehearsals

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



## Stone Presbyterian Church Choir Rehearsals

Under the direction of Jeannie Greenwood,  
the Choir will rehearse at 10:00 am. on Sundays.





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

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

**Facebook**  
**StonePresbyterianChurch**

**Website**  
**www.stonepreschurch.com**

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



**Stone Presbyterian  
 Church**

**140 Chestnut Street  
 Watertown NY 13601**

**Worship Ministers**

Pastor The Reverend  
 Sarah Lee

Organists  
 Chris Hyde-Hall and  
 Ghilyana Dordzhieva

Choir Director  
 Jeannie Greenwood

Handbell Choir Director  
 Nancy Boynton

**Church Staff**

Secretary Linda White  
 Sexton Francis Conti

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**Ruling Elders  
 on the Session**

**Class of 2024**

Chris Dear  
 Max Perkins

**Class of 2025**

Kathie Strader  
 Jeannie  
 Greenwood  
 Stuart Price

**Clerk of  
 Session**

Chris Dear

**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.*

**REMINDER:**  
**Our monthly  
 Newsletter Deadline  
 for your articles is  
 the 15th of the  
 month.**

# DECEMBER 2023 PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Rev. Marti Montovani	2 Jillian, Drew, Elizabeth, William & Katherine Newby
3 Rev. Gail Parsons	4 Maxine Perkins	5 Stuart Price	6 Thelma Reardon	7 Andrew, Andrea & Ian Reed	8 Corey & Shelly Reed	9 JoAnne Reed
10 Justin, Elizabeth, Aubrey & Harper Reed	11 Linda Rohde	12 Rev. Leon "Toby" Schilling	13 Robert Schweitzer	14 Don & Debra Sholett	15 Wendy Shultis	16 Jordan & Camden Siver
17 Matthew, Vanessa & Celeste Siver	18 Robert & Debra Siver	19 Re. Bruce & Elizabeth Smith	20 Re. Adele Spencer	21 James & Kathie Strader	22 Jamie Strader	23 Jane Tabolt
24 Bruce & Patricia Tyrrell	25 Andrew Varga	26 Christine Visscher	27 Robert Wallace	28 Linda White	29 Richard & Barbara Williams	30 Daniel & Joanne Woodward
31 Jean Woolsey						