

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

Address Service Requested



Stone Presbyterian Church

February 2024 Newsletter

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Watertown NY 13601

Pastor's Pondering...

Preparing for the 2023 Congregational Annual Meeting this month, I reflected on the events of the past year. They brought back vivid scenes and exciting feelings, making it feel as though I am reliving those moments. I express our gratitude to God for all the blessings in the past year.



As I reminisce, I recall that we began the year 2023 by reading the entire Bible with a daily Bible chart, following "The Year of the Bible" in January. Three people successfully completed the entire Bible reading using the chart and were rewarded with certificates and small gifts. Additionally, two people informed me that they are in the process of finishing. It marked a great success.

As the Lenten journey commenced, we discovered the power of meditation and silent prayers on Ash Wednesday, providing a profound way to communicate with God. Our Palm Sunday worship was grand, featuring a performance by the Molto Brass Quintet (twice a year), and an impressive Easter worship followed.

We extend our gratitude to our elders Stuart Price, Bob Siver, and Kathie Strader for preaching and leading our Sunday worship as pulpit supplies last year. We hope they will continue spreading the gospel from the pulpit.

May brought a bittersweet moment as we bid farewell to our beloved brother and elder, Richard Zehr, who passed away. While we miss him, we hold onto the hope of seeing him someday. Additionally, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our new church building at 140 Chestnut St. with a grand banquet. The Primary Election Bake Sale in June was a success, generating significant profit for our outreach mission.

In July, my family hosted a house fellowship in our backyard, inviting church members and friends. We enjoyed a potluck, grilled sausages and hamburgers, and a refreshing swim in our pool. Notably, our outing in Oswego, NY, was a memorable celebration of God's creation at Rudy's Lakeside and Ontario Orchard in August.

September marked the beginning of our weekly noon Bible Study with "The Present Word," aiming to discover its deeper meaning and relevance to our world today.

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We also collected around 160 school supplies for the Back-to-School season and delivered them to Urban Mission. The Quilt Show was another enjoyable event filled with fun and laughter.

In October, I traveled to South Korea with my husband for vacation and a travel seminar. Despite the 14-hour time difference, we visited my 94-year-old mother in a nursing home, connected with siblings, and explored my hometown church. The trip concluded with souvenirs and joyful memories.

November brought another successful Election Bake Sale, generating \$918.93. Thanksgiving Sunday Fellowship was celebrated with a sumptuous feast. As Advent began, we adorned our sanctuary and church for the Christmas season.

During the festive Christmas season, we engaged in caroling at senior citizen apartments and nursing homes, creating joyful noises. Our Catherine Martin Mitten Manager received numerous donations of winter accessories, such as hats and mittens, which we delivered to the Urban Mission. The Christmas Eve Musical Candlelight Service was a true blessing, featuring performances by professional musicians, faithful liturgists, children's carol songs, and a memorable child rapper presenting 66 Bible names. The timeless message of 'Emmanuel' - "God is

with us" resonated, and we eagerly await a dedicated professional Sunday School teacher for our children.

Gratitude extends to our Stone Choir directed by Jeannie, Handbell Choir directed by Nancy, and also our organists, Chris and Ghilyana, providing professional Christian music. I enjoyed being a member of the two choirs. Monthly fellowship hours by our fellowship committee allowed us to welcome newcomers and build relationships.

Having welcomed many newcomers in the past year, we encourage everyone to help them feel welcomed and give them a sense of belonging among us. The goal for this year is for everyone to bring or serve at least one newcomer to our church, where the gospel is proclaimed, and to help them become part of our community. If anyone has ideas to accomplish this project, please share them with us.

Our mission and task for the year are to bring people to Jesus, serving and loving them as Jesus has loved and served us first. I appreciate everyone's joyful service; without your faithful dedication, we would not be here. Let us go out and dedicate our lives to God, bringing and serving people for Jesus! Amen.

Pastor, Rev. Sarah Lee

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, February 11, 2024

In the Gospel accounts, after foretelling Jesus' death and Resurrection, Jesus and his three disciples went to "a high mountain" to be away from the crowds. There, Jesus' face began to shine like the sun and his clothes became miraculously white. As the disciples looked on, Elijah and Moses suddenly appeared in glory and talked with the transfigured Jesus. Peter then offered to make three dwellings, one for Jesus and one for each of the two supernatural guests, but was interrupted by a voice from a bright cloud that said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5). Having collapsed in fear, the disciples were comforted by Jesus, who then urged them to keep silent about these events until after his Resurrection.



Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 11, 2024

We will have the election of the new class of elders.



Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024 4:30—5:30 PM

Lent begins this Ash Wednesday. Stone Presbyterian Church will host a drop-in Ash Wednesday service on February 14. You are welcome to join anytime between 4:30 PM and 5:30 PM. Please gather silently. Any procession should be conducted in silence. Upon entering the sanctuary, we may have quiet background music, but please refrain from talking. You will receive printed Scripture readings along with prayers. Meditate on them with prayer, and you are invited to come forward to receive Communion and the imposition of ashes. Feel free to return to your seat, sit, or kneel on the floor, praying for your prayer requests. Stay as long as you desire.

Let us all participate in this meaningful Lenten Season and follow in Jesus' footsteps. Amen!





Session Meeting
Tuesday,
February 13,
2024
at 3:00 pm

1st Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024



Installation/
Ordination of
Class of Elders

Installation

Will be Sunday,
February 25, 2024,
and during worship the Stone
Church Choir will perform.




The church choir
will rehearse
Sundays at
10:00 am
February 11, 18,
and 25.



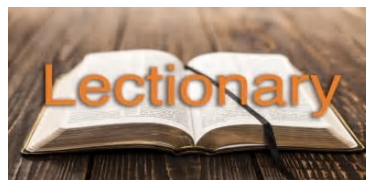
Noon Bible Study

Bible
Study

February
Wednesday
7, 14, 21, 28



February Lectionary



FEBRUARY 4

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 and
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1
Corinthian 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

FEBRUARY 11

Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12 and Psalm 50:1-6;
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

FEBRUARY 18

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 and Psalm 25:1-10;
Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

FEBRUARY 25

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and
Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25;
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Fellowship Sunday **February 25th after** **worship**



February Birthdays and Anniversaries



Chris Hyde-Hall
February 5

Andrew Reed
February 5

Sang Lee
February 11

Re. Marti Montovani
February 11

Bob Wallace
February 11

Rev. Sarah Lee
February 12

Debra Sholett
February 24

Don Sholett
February 25

Bruce & Patricia Tyrrell
February 9

Robert & Debra Siver
February 19

Presidents' Day—Monday, February 19, 2024



Catherine Martin Mitten Manger—Donated Winter Accessories: hats, scarves, mittens given to the Watertown Urban Mission for distribution.



This year's generous totals were: 30 pair of mittens/gloves, 32 warm and cozy hats, 5 mitten and hat combos. These were brought in and laid gently in the manger for a total of 67 items that were given to the Mission. Catherine would be so grateful. Thank you all for spreading comfort and joy!! God Bless You. The Outreach Committee.

Winter Weather Services Cancellation Policy

When our North Country winter weather is deemed "frightful" by the Clerk of Session and Pastor, Stone Church will not hold Sunday worship services.

You will find notices of the cancellation on WWNY (channel 7), Time Warner Cable News (channel 10), Newzjunky (internet), and radio station WTNY.





NORTHERN BLEND CHORUS

February meetings at Stone Church will be :

Monday from 6:45—9:45 PM
on February 5, 12, and 26.

Meeting on Sunday, February 18
will be from 12:30—3:00 PM



QUILTING GROUP

They will meet in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 3 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

QUILTING GUILD MEETING

Will be Saturday, February 17 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETING—will be at Stone Presbyterian Church Thursday, February 22nd from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.



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.

Worship Ministers

Pastor

The Reverend Sarah Lee
(315-788-8286)
text/message/call

Organists

Chris Hyde-Hall and
Ghilyana Dordzhieva

Choir Director

Jeannie Greenwood

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

Email

Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com

Facebook

StonePresbyterianChurch

Website

www.stonepreschurch.com

**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

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Our Mission

*Called by God to welcome,
nurture, and serve in the
name of Christ.*



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