

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

Address Service Requested



Stone Presbyterian Church January 2024 Newsletter



Stone Presbyterian Church
140 Chestnut Street Watertown NY 13601

Pastor's Pondering...

New Year blessings to all of you! The year 2024 has begun! Hallelujah! We are immensely thankful that God has granted us another year and another opportunity to be successful and faithful. Emmanuel God, whose eyes are like a flame of fire (Rev. 2:28), has promised to keep us neither slumbering nor sleeping in the year 2024 (Psalm 121:4).

Do you know the legend of "the Cherokee Indian Youth's Rite of Passage"? The boy's father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him, and leaves him alone. The boy is required to sit on a stump throughout the night, not removing the blindfold until the morning sunlight shines through. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Upon surviving the night, he is considered an adult, yet he cannot share this experience with other boys, as each must come into manhood on his own.

Naturally, the boy is terrified. He hears various noises, and the presence of wild beasts or potential harm from humans seems imminent. The wind blows the grass and earth, shaking his stump, but he sits stoically, never removing the blindfold. This is the only way he can transition into adulthood.

After a challenging night, the sun finally appears, and he removes his blindfold, only to discover his father sitting on the stump next to him. His father had been keeping watch the entire night, protecting him from harm.

Even an earthly father watches over and protects his child; how much more will our heavenly Father watch over and protect us! We are never alone; even when unaware, God is watching over us with eyes resembling flames of fire, sitting beside us on the stump. Just because we can't see God doesn't mean God is not there, for "we walk by faith, not by sight!"

Regardless of where we find ourselves in life or our condition in the year 2024, Emmanuel, God is with us today and always! I hope you can discover God in your everyday life and strive to do your best to be successful and faithful in 2024. May God guide our journey throughout the year! Amen.

Pastor Sarah Lee



New Year's Day

Monday, January 1, 2024

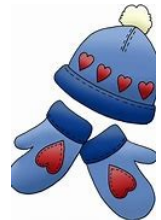


**Epiphany of the Lord is
Saturday, January 6th.**



**The Baptism of the Lord is the
feature on Sunday, January 7th.**

Mitten Manger - Our Catherine Martin Mitten Manger is set up in the sanctuary to receive your donations of winter accessories such as hats and mittens. Your contributions will be **delivered to the Urban Mission mid-January.** Thank you all!



We will have a
**Session Meeting on Wednesday,
January 17th, at 3:00 pm.**



**The Annual PER CAPITA
For 2024 will be \$33.00**

**Keep in mind when you are making
your stewardship giving.**

Bible Study



**Bible Study Group meets
Wednesdays at Noon.**

**On January 3rd — “Lesson 5:
The Faith of the Wise Man”**

Pastor Sarah Lee invites all to join the group.



January Dates

Call Nancy Boynton (Head Ding-a-Ling): 315-782-3934.

- January 3
- January 10
- January 17
- January 24
- January 31

Rehearsals Wednesdays from 5–6 pm

January 7, 2024

We will take down the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 7th following Worship Service. All those who can help would be appreciated!!



The Church Choir
will rehearse at 10:00 am
on January 14th, 21st, and 28th.



Join us for fellowship in Friendship Hall after our worship service on Sunday, January 28th. Following the fellowship we will watch a movie with popcorn.

Birthdays of the Month

Ian Olley January 12
 Carrie Hall January 16
 Jon Hall January 18
 Andrew Varga January 22
 Elizabeth Hall January 23
 Fay Babineau January 31



Donald & Chris Dear
 January 18

JANUARY 14

Matthew 25: Dismantle
 Structural Racism—

Racial & Intercultural
 Justice Presbyterians—

Affirm Black Lives Matter

January Liturgy



JANUARY 7

Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5 and Psalm 29;
 Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

JANUARY 14

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) and
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

JANUARY 21

3rd Sunday after Epiphany Per Capita Sunday

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and Psalm 62:5-12;
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

JANUARY 28

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 and Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13;
 Mark 1:21-28



Stone Presbyterian Church

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140 Chestnut Street
Watertown, New York 13601

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

Stewardship 2024

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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140 Chestnut Street
Watertown, NY 13601

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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
in January on January 14th, 21st, and 28th.



Outside Church Groups Meetings



Northern Blend Chorus

Sunday, January 7

12:30—3:00 pm

Monday, January 15, 22, 29

6:45—9:45 pm



MEETINGS

Quilters Group

Monday, January 1

8:30 am—4:30 pm

and

Saturday, January 6

8:30 am—4:30 pm



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women Meeting at Stone

Presbyterian Church

Bring a sandwich; soup and
dessert will be provided.

Thursday, January 25

Meeting at 11:00 am,
then lunch to follow.

North Country Quilting Guild

Saturday, January 20

9:00 am—4:00 pm

Quilting Class

Saturday, January 27

8:30 am—4:00 pm

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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Church
140 Chestnut Street
Watertown NY 13601**

**Sunday Worship
10:45 am**

Email
Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com

Facebook
[StonePresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StonePresbyterianChurch)

Website
www.stonepreschurch.com

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

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

**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.

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