**STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
**140 CHESTNUT STREET**
**WATERTOWN, NY 13601**

**Address Service Requested**

# Stone Presbyterian Church
# July 2020 Newsletter

# STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

140 Chestnut Street, Watertown, NY 13601
Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am—1:00 pm

## JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Office
315-788-5630
Email
Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com
Website
www.stonepreschurch.com
Facebook
StonePresbyterianChurch


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

Worship Ministers

Pastor
The Reverend
Elizabeth (Libby) Moses

Organist
Chris Hyde-Hall
Ghilyana Dordzhieva

Choir Director
Jeannie
Greenwood

Handbell Choir
Director
Nancy Boynton

Church Staff

Secretary
Linda White

Sexton
Francis Conti

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## *Pastor's Pondering*

Inquiring Minds are wanting to know…. 🤔 When will Stone Presbyterian Church begin having worship in the sanctuary?

Last evening the Session spent significant time discussing what needs to happen to make this possible. Know that the Session is being cautiously optimistic and wants what is best for the greater good. We are called to care for all. The Session is hoping that in early August worship can take place in the church. It is also looking at maybe an outdoor worship service in late July. (No promises…. We are watching what is happening in regards as we move through the following phases and pray that major resurgence does not occur.) The Session is keeping CDC and other guidelines in consideration.

The Session is having an additional meeting on June 30 to start putting things in place so we can worship in the building. Various things must be considered. What doors will people come in and leave by? Hand sanitizer out in several places. Everyone wearing masks and signing in so, if there needs to be any contact tracing, it can be done. Various rooms will be closed off for use such as the social room, classrooms, kitchen, library and nursery. There will be a sign asking that only one person be in the bathroom at a time.

In terms of the worship service…. What to do about bulletins? There is a good chance you will have to sit in a different area of the sanctuary due to social distancing. No choir and no singing of hymns. No hymnals or Bibles in the pews. The passing of the peace will be done by staying in place and people signing or waving peace to each other. The Session is looking at a safe way for communion to be served and how people can share joys/concerns to be included in the Prayer of the People.

Lots to consider…. Along with the fact once we go back to in-person worship we still need to provide online worship and sending out a paper copy of the service to those who for what ever reason can't or chose not to come to the building.

As pastor, I want to thank the Session for all it's hard work in thinking through all this and then making it happen. We will be needing volunteers to help with this process. Watch out for ways you can assist.

Know that you are loved and prayed for regularly by me and other members of the congregation. You are a beloved child of God.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Libby

# CHURCH at HOME

## Worship is Still Happening…

No, we are not gathering in the sanctuary for worship but it is still happening.

On a weekly basis Pastor Libby is video taping worship which includes music, thanks to our organists and handbell director. With the technology help of Nell Moses, it is posted on YouTube. For those with email, a "link" is sent out late Saturday for the Sunday's service; so you can watch it at your convenience.

YouTube Broadcast Yourself™

For those who do not have an email address, we are mailing a paper copy of the service (sorry no music) during the following week. If you are not getting the worship service either way please call the office and let Linda or Pastor Libby know, so that we can make sure you receive it one way or another.

## Stewardship Giving

I hope and pray everyone is doing well. In last month's newsletter I announced that we have started on-line giving through the Presbyterian Foundation. We have had a couple of people sign up for this service to make their offering to the Church. You can access on-line giving by going to the Church's website and select the Giving tab. This selection will take you to the on-line giving account set up or to log into your account. If you would like to use this service and have any questions you can call the Church office or can call Bob Siver at 315-788-8943.

During this time of social distancing the Church is still operating. I hope you have been able to join in on the Worship on-line services, the Bible studies, or the prayer groups. We are continuing to do God's work.

Please remember the Church with your pledges and gifts. You can use the on-line service or mail in your pledge envelope or send you donations to:

Stone Presbyterian Church,
140 Chestnut Street, Watertown, NY.

*Bob Siver*

# Pastor Elizabeth Moses invites you to a Zoom meeting.

**Topic:**
**Gatherings for Prayer/Scripture**

**When:**
**Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. or Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m.**

**This is a "big conference call" using your home phone or via the internet (Ipad, computer, cell phone).**

During this time, we read/meditate on the daily lectionary scripture and share in a time of prayer.

## HERE'S HOW

1. To join either gathering via computer/Ipad/Iphone:
   Please contact Pastor Libby (618-294-6878 or pastorlibbymoses@gmail.com). She will send you a link.
2. To join either gathering via phone (landline or non-smart phone):
   Call 646-876-9923
   Then enter meeting id 707 020 3553
   Password 140

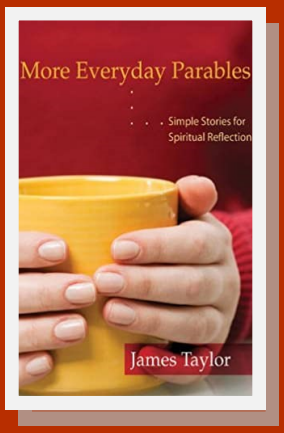
In all cases there will be a delay while you are "let in" to the meeting… hang tight. If you have a problem call Pastor Libby at 618-294-6878.

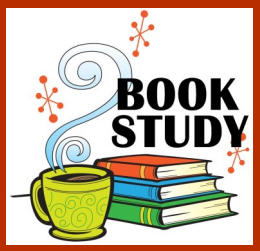
## JULY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**Our church meetings and activities have not resumed this July 2020, due to the unprecedented occurrence of the COVID 19 pandemic.**

**July's celebratory day:**
**Independence Day — Saturday, July 4th**

# On-line Bible Study on Modern Parables




The Wednesday Noon time Bible/Book Study group is now discussing the book "More Everyday Parables" by James Taylor.

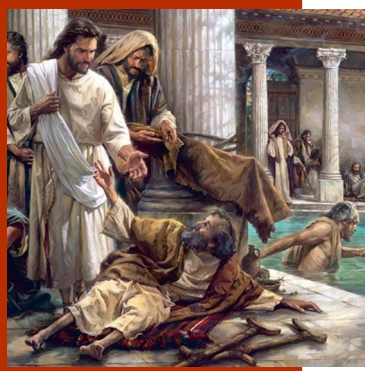
The Bible contains two kinds of parables: those that have a clear meaning, and those that are ambiguous. In this, his second book of modern parables, author James (Jim) Taylor has chosen to write the latter kind. Instead of explaining his parables, he invites the reader to reflect on how his stories speak to them.

A master at finding God in ordinary life, Jim offers these 'parables without explanation' as an opportunity for the reader to draw closer to God. And so he writes about horses and dogs and pears to remind us that God speaks to us through the world around us and in everything we do. In this way 'More Everyday Parables' re-enacts Jesus' own method of teaching.

Anyone wanting to join in contact Pastor Libby to get a book.

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## The UPPER ROOM



These bimonthly prayer booklets contain inspiring stories of people, with bible readings, thoughts of the day, written by authors in the US and around the world. These stories you'll find relevant to your daily lives. They are displayed on the church's hall desk on a regular basis.

Since there is lack of church visiting, we are offering you the mailing of the July-August 2020 issue of The Upper Room booklet. If you wish to have one mailed to your address, call this request to the office, 315-788-5630.

# Lectionary for July

**July 5**

**5th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Scripture:**
**Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;**
**Psalm 45:10-17 or**
**Song of Solomon 2:8-13;**
**Romans 7:15-25a;**
**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

**July 12**

**6th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Scripture:**
**Genesis 25:19-34;**
**Psalm 119:105-112;**
**Romans 8:1-11;**
**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**July 19**

**7th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Scripture:**
**Genesis:28-10-19a;**
**Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;**
**Romans 8:12-25;**
**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

**July 26**

**8thSunday after Pentecost**

**Scripture:**
**Genesis 29:15-28;**
**Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or**
**Psalm 128;**
**Romans 8:26-39;**
**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

**We will have on-line Communion the first Sunday of the month, July 5th. View the sacrament then, with Rev. Libby Moses.**

# Session Meeting Summary

The Session met on Tuesday, June 16th via Zoom.

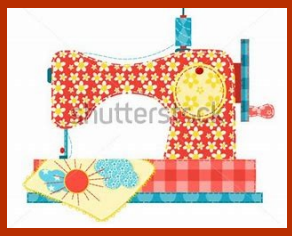
Kathie Strader opened it with a prayer and devotion.

During the meeting...

* The minutes from the May Session meeting and May financial report were approved.
* Chris Dear and Pastor Libby shared about two Presbytery meetings. One was held on June 6 and one held on June 7, which was the ordination of Zoe Guerry.
* The Elders spent a great deal of time discussing when and what needs to be done in preparation for worship to start back up in-person. (see article on front page).
* It was approved to renew the agreement for the building to be used as an emergency shelter for Sherman Elementary School.
* Noted that the purchase of the Yard Signs was approved via a telephone vote the previous week.
* Mission and Outreached reported about continuing outreach by the Helping Hands group. (see article on page 6).
* Session approved buying edging to put around the "beds" in the Prayer Garden. Thank you so much for Chris Dear and Pat Conti's hard work.

Meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Libby

*"A Group of Like-Minded People who Enjoy Crafting"*



Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, Inc.

CARE BAGS

# Face Masks made by Helping Hands

Thank you to the helping hands who have crafted the face masks for our community during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The masks are available for pick up in the basket in our church hallway, available in several sizes.

The Session is asking all those entering the church building to wear a face mask. We want all God's beloved to feel safe. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**ALSO:** The Helping Hands group, with their many crafts, have given their creations to different organizations in the community. Our thanks to them.

MAKE EVERY DAY MATTER ask about Hospice of Jefferson County jeffersonhospice.org • 315.788.7323

Even though our **Helping Hands Group** is not meeting, our members are still sewing at home and doing all sorts of things to benefit those in need. We are continuously making masks, not only for our church but for places like Hospice and Victims Assistance. We took a large amount of items to Victims Assistance. The gals had made adult and children blankets. We added some in stock items such as stuffed animals and children's toy bags. Dick and Elsie Zehr shopped and we made Personal Care Bags that included soap, toothpaste, brushes, tissues, shampoo and deodorant. They also included disposable containers for food. We rounded out our donation with some kitchen hand towels, pot holders, kitchen hand soap and masks for adults, children and toddlers. All was much appreciated.

All three of our sewers work diligently at home and there is a steady flow of homemade items to Hospice to help make patients and visitors more comfortable.

I would like to thank all those that have donated material, elastic and pipe cleaners for our masks. It was much needed and we are very thankful.

*Maxine Perkins*

Outreach

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---|---|
| Bob Siver | July 4 |
| Rev. Gail Parsons | July 8 |
| Emily Renee Ciscell | July 11 |
| Cathy Commeret-Whitcomb | July 15 |
| Rev. Adele Spencer | July 16 |
| Randall J. Bell | July 17 |
| Karen Hall | July 18 |
| Robert Jaspersohn | July 19 |
| Jillian Draper | July 25 |

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Andrew & Andrea Reed | July 3 |
| Alicia & Joshua Dalton | July 9 |
| John & Kim Murray | July 10 |
| John & Jeannie Greenwood | July 13 |
| Robert & Brianna Jaspersohn | July 29 |
| Richard & Barbara Williams | July 29 |
| Randall & Susan Bell | July 31 |

## FREE YARD SIGNS

These outdoor signs are for display at your homes, at no charge, available for pickup at Stone Presbyterian Church.

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**We're on the Web!**
**www.stonepreschurch.com**

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

## Caring for the Congregation

*The Pastor and the spiritual leaders place a priority on visiting hospitalized members of the congregation. While Samaritan Medical Center Chaplain calls when he knows someone from Stone Presbyterian Church is in this facility, as a general rule hospitals no longer provide information on admissions and dismissals.*

*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 Libby 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.*

## Prayer Chain

Stone Church has an email Prayer Line to inform our members of special church news and prayer requests.

Please e-mail (stonep@centralny.twcbc.com) or phone (788-5630) the office if you would like to be part of our prayer ministry or if you have a prayer request.

**Don't forget your summertime stewardship.**

## Ruling Elders on the Session

**Class of 2021**
Orvis Calhoun
Chris Dear
Maxine Perkins

**Class of 2022**
Kathie Strader

**Class of 2023**
Bob Siver
Roxanne Young

**Clerk of Session** Chris Dear

**Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month.**