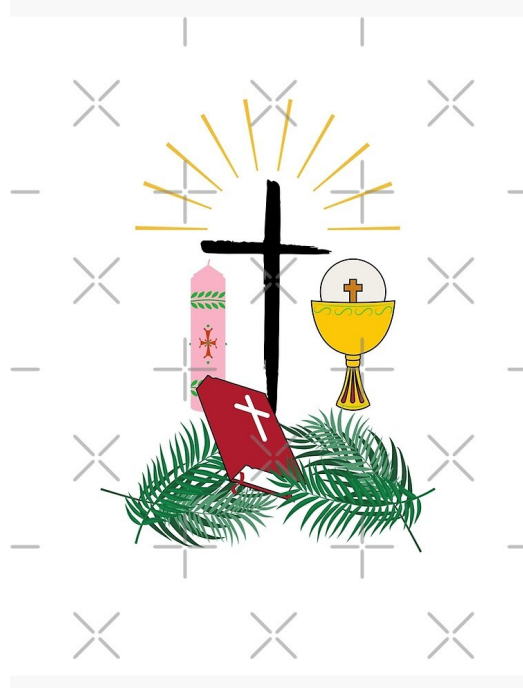


STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
140 CHESTNUT STREET  
WATERTOWN, NY 13601  
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM

Address Service Requested



## **Stone Presbyterian Church March 2024 Newsletter**



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

Page 1

**March 2024 Newsletter**  
***Pastor's Pondering...***

Approximately ten years ago, there were periods in my life where I encountered hardships without a church to serve or stable employment, resulting in several years of financial struggle. In the midst of these trying times, while actively seeking a church to serve, I diligently pursued numerous job opportunities and turned to prayer for guidance, questioning my calling to ministry within a church setting.

However, none of the jobs I pursued proved successful, leading me to believe that indeed God had called me to minister in a church. During this painful period, I clung to my faith in God, trusting that God would not forsake me and that God's plans for me were better than my own.

Recently, while revisiting my old prayer journal from 2015, I recalled the agony I experienced, finding solace at that time in reading Psalms: "O Lord, why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? How long, O God, will You hide Your face? Will you forget me forever? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord for God has been good to me" (Psalms Ch. 10, 11, 13, 25).

Despite the uncertainty of the path in those days, my desire was to live according to God's Word, to worship regularly, meditate on Scripture, and continually seek God's will. And I repented for whatever I remembered. Ultimately, God made the impossible possible, miraculously guiding me onto the right path. God has never abandoned me; God is my source of pride, life, and hope!

March falls in the middle of Lent, a forty-day period leading up to Easter, which begins on Ash Wednesday. During Lent, we prepare for the glorious celebration of Easter on the final day of March. It is a time to deepen and strengthen our faith, engaging in self-examination, fasting, prayer, and repentance, seeking God's forgiveness and grace to avoid repeating past mistakes. With God's help, we can achieve this!

Faith is not easily attained; it requires effort and wrestling with God, experiencing God's power to establish a solid foundation. This Lenten season, let us discern God's desires for us, growing in mature faith through worship, Scripture, deep prayer, and good deeds. May we uncover God's will as we follow Jesus' journey to the cross and experience the God who makes the impossible possible. Blessed be God, day by day! Amen.

*Pastor Sarah Lee*

# Session Meeting Review

**The Session met on February 13, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.**

**Minutes:** The minutes of the regular stated session meeting on January 23 and the minutes of the Annual Meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> were approved.

**Financial:** The profit and loss statement for January 2024 was presented by Angelo Guarino. A motion was made to approve the report; motion carried.

**Music & Worship:** The average attendance for January was 23. The last communion was celebrated on February 2nd; 27 people received communion. The next communion will be served on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stuart showed the new candles for the sanctuary, which burn with candle oil rather than wax. The bell choir plans to ring on Palm Sunday. Our Ash Wednesday service (February 14) will be a 'drop-in' service from 4:30 to 5:30.

**Building & Grounds:** T.S. Roofing will submit an estimate for replacing the garage roof this spring. Doyle Security will give us a cost to install a video doorbell on the side entrance. Hyde Stone has quoted a price for two Wi-fi thermostats that can be adjusted from a smart phone. Our snow blower's motor (crank shaft) is broken; Burrville Power Equipment will give us a cost for a new blower. NYTRIC Electrical Services will give us a quote to install additional track lighting in the sanctuary. Bob Siver will have someone look at the ceiling in the library (water damage). We will have an estimate to repair the painting "His Presence" in the narthex in the coming year.

**Nurture:** The movie we watched after church on January 28<sup>th</sup> was well attended. The title was "I Can Only Imagine." On January 28<sup>th</sup> the women's choir sang "Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven." A fellowship hour on February 25<sup>th</sup> will be to welcome Bob Siver and Roxanne Young, who will be installed during the worship service. On Easter Sunday (March 31) we will have a continental breakfast. Look for a sign-up sheet in friendship hall.

# Session Meeting Review

**Mission/Outreach:** the committee will meet in a few weeks to brainstorm about ideas for the spring and summer. *Everyone* will be invited!

**Stewardship:** Bob Siver gave us a brief overview of how our invested funds grew in 2023.

**Pastoral Care:** We are grateful to Shirley Fay's family for bringing her to worship. Rehba Clarke continues to convalesce at her daughter's home. Please keep our members and friends in your prayers, and send a card, make a call or pay a visit.

**Nominating Committee:** Kathie Strader will chair the committee in 2024. Members are Pat Conti and Kathie Compeau

Motion made and carried to have Chris Dear remain in the clerk's position, and Bob Siver as Treasurer and assistant clerk.

**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. Rev. Lee would like each person who attends church to invite a friend or family member to worship in 2024!

**The next meeting will be on March 19, 2024 at 3:00 PM.**



# MARCH HOLY WEEK EVENTS



Palm Sunday

**Palm/Passion Sunday—  
Holy Week Begins  
March 24, 2024**



Holy Week



**Maundy Thursday  
March 28, 2024  
Service at 5:30 pm**

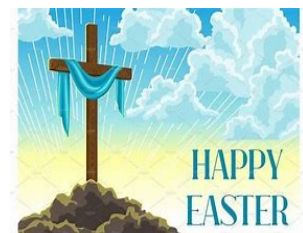


**Good Friday  
March 29, 2024**

**Great Vigil of Easter  
Saturday,  
March 30, 2024**



**Easter Day/Resurrection of the  
Lord Sunday, March 31st . We will  
serve an Easter  
Continental Breakfast at  
9:30 am before our  
10:45 am worship**



## MARCH MEETINGS & EVENTS



*The Lord's Supper will be celebrated Sunday, March 3rd during our 10:45 am worship service.*

**Bible Study**



**Bible Study Group meets Wednesdays at Noon.**  
**on March 6, 13, 20, & 27 —**  
**Pastor Sarah Lee invites all to join the group.**



### **Stone Presbyterian Church Choir Rehearsals**

Under the direction of Jeannie Greenwood, the Choir will rehearse at 10:00 am on March 3, 17, 24, & 31.

They will sing for the worship services on March 24th and March 31st.



### **Stone Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir Rehearsals**

Under the direction of Nancy Boynton, meetings will be each Wednesday from 5-6 pm. They will ring on Palm Sunday



We will have a **Session Meeting on Tuesday, March 19th,**  
**at 3:00 pm.**



## **One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Sunday, March 31st.**

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Offerings will be received until  
Easter Sunday, March 31st.



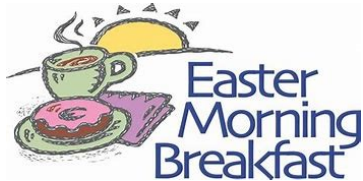
Page 6

**Daylight saving  
time begins  
Sunday,  
March 10, 2024.**

**Maundy Thursday  
Service will be on  
March 28, 2024,  
5:30 PM.**

(More details will be  
available on our bulletin).

## **Easter Morning Breakfast**



**Sunday, March 31st**

**at 9:30 am**

**Before our 10:45 worship service.**

Please sign up if you are able to contribute items such as muffins, quick breads, coffee, cake, doughnuts, egg strata, quiche, or a fruit bowl or tray. Coffee, tea, milk and juices will be provided. Sign up sheet in Friendship Hall for the Continental Breakfast.

Come and gather together to rejoice in the miracle of Easter!

Contact Chris Dear with any questions.



# Birthdays of the Month

Glenn Chapman	March 6
Joanne Woodward	March 8
Elsie Zehr	March 14
Aubrey Reed	March 15
Harper Reed	March 16
JoAnne Reed	March 16
Patricia Tyrrell	March 25
Bruce Tyrrell	March 27
Robert Schweitzer	March 29



Brendan & Elizabeth Hall  
March 17



**Presbyterian  
Women will not  
meet in March.**

The next meeting will be held on April 25th at Stone Presbyterian Church. 11:00 am meeting, then lunch.

## March Liturgy



Page 7

### March 3

#### 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 and Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

### March 10

#### 4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 and  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;  
1 Epiphany 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

### March 17

#### 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Psalm 51:1-12  
or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10;  
John 12:20-33

### March 24

#### Palm/Passion Sunday Holy Week Begins

Psalms Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:2-16  
And Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;  
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a and  
Psalm 31:9-16; Philipians 2:5-11;  
Mark 14:1-15:47 or  
Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

### March 31

#### Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 and  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or  
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or  
Mark 16:1-8;  
*Easter Evening:*  
Isaiah 25:6-9 and Psalm 114: 1  
Corinthians 5-6b-8; Luke 24:13-49



# Outside Church Groups Meetings



## **Northern Blend Chorus**

will meet at Stone Church on  
Mondays, March 4, 11, & 18  
from 6:45—9:45 pm  
and  
on Sunday, March 24 from  
12:30-3:00 pm



## **MEETINGS**

### **Quilters Group**

Saturday, March 2  
8:30 am—4:30 pm

### **North Country Quilting Guild Meeting**

Saturday, March 16  
9:00 am—4:00 pm

### **Quilting Class**

Saturday, March 23  
9:00 am—4:00 pm



### **The Bird Club**



will meet at  
Stone  
church on  
Wednesday,

March 13 from  
7:00—9:00 pm.

**Worship Ministers**

**Pastor**

The  
Reverend Sarah Lee  
(Text/ Call/ Message:  
315-788-8286)

**Organists**

Chris Hyde-Hall and  
Ghilyana Dordzhieva

**Choir Director**

Jeannie Greenwood

**Handbell Choir  
Director**

Nancy Boynton

**Church Staff**

Secretary Linda White



**Stone Presbyterian  
Church**

**140 Chestnut Street  
Watertown NY 13601**

**REMINDER:**

Our monthly Newsletter  
deadline of the 15th  
needs to be adhered to  
for newsletter accuracy.  
Submit all meeting dates  
and information to the  
secretary by then.  
Thank you.

**Ruling Elders  
on the Session**

**Class of 2025**

Kathie Strader  
Jeannie  
Greenwood  
Stuart Price

**Class of 2027**

Robert Siver Jr.  
Roxanne Young

**Clerk of Session**

Chris Dear

**Newsletter Contents**

<u>Pastor's Pondering</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Session Meeting Review</u>	<u>2, 3</u>
<u>March Holy Week Events</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>March Meetings &amp; Events</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>One Great Hour of Sharing, Easter Breakfast, Maundy Thursday Service</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Lectionary, Birthdays, Anniversaries</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Outside Church Groups</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Contents, Ministers, Contacts</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Prayer Calendar</u>	

**Sunday Worship  
10:45 am**

**Email  
[Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com](mailto:Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com)**

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

**Website  
[www.stonepreschurch.com](http://www.stonepreschurch.com)**

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

**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](mailto:Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com)), or place a note in the  
collection plate on Sunday.