

STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
140 CHESTNUT STREET  
WATERTOWN, NY 13601  
Sunday Worship 10:45 A.M.

Address Service Requested



**STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**September 2023 Newsletter**



# September 2023 Newsletter



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

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

I enjoy having Quiet Time (QT) with God at dawn during the early morning hours. Engaging in morning meditation and prayer can greatly enhance my mental clarity and focus. By calming my mind and creating a moment of stillness, I can enhance my ability to concentrate on my ministry. Thanks to my habit of early morning prayer, I have developed the practice of rising early for prayer and study.

The Psalmist who sought solace in dawn's embrace encountered God amidst his despair. He would rouse himself early to seek the Lord, proclaiming, "I will awake the dawn" (Psalm 57:8). Also, Jesus set an example by praying, "In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed" (Mark 1:35).

During dawn, I endeavor to attune myself to the voice of God after reading the Bible, closing my eyes in stillness. Consistently, God begins to communicate with my heart using peaceful and tranquil words, "My beloved child, don't worry, I am with you, I will help you and I will give you what you are praying for." I firmly believe that as long as I remain devoted, God will bless me. I have resolved to live for the Lord and die for the Lord (Romans 14:8).

When do you set aside Quiet Time (QT) with God? If you are new to these practices, consider starting for a few minutes each morning and gradually extending the duration as your comfort level increases.

By immersing ourselves in the Word of God, we can attune ourselves to the voice of God more distinctly. I also make it a practice to study the Bible at dawn. Our Bible Study sessions will recommence on September 13, taking place every Wednesday at 12 noon.

We invite and hope that many individuals will join us in deepening our devotion to Christ. Through these sessions, we will discover the Bible's profound significance and its relevance to our lives today. "Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Amen. *Rev. Sarah Lee, Pastor*

# Session Meeting Review

The session met on August 23, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.



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

**Financial:** None.

**Personnel:** Rev. Lee signed the Pastor Contract with Presbytery of Northern NY, full-time, for the next 12 months. Stone Presbyterian Church is truly blessed!

**Music & Worship:** The average attendance for July was 24. The last communion was on August 6<sup>th</sup>; 21 people received communion. The next communion will be served on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The session approved the purchase of a new set of hand bells (three octaves). Jeannie will have a choir on the first Sunday in October; contact her if you would like to sing.

**Building & Grounds:**

The Knox Box has arrived and we will be meeting with Captain Little of Watertown Fire Dept. to decide the location of the box.

**Nurture:** Our trip to Rudy's Lakeside Restaurant was very well attended. Great food and great company! There will be a fellowship hour after church on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Mission/Outreach:**

The session voted to send a donation to Rhian Winn, a local teenager whose family would like to get a service dog to assist her.

**Stewardship:**

Bob Siver distributed the church contribution breakdown through August 20<sup>th</sup>, along with an overview of the invested funds.

**Pastoral Care:**

Kathie Strader told us that 13 backpacks and 91 school supply items were collected for the Urban Mission. Thank you to all who donated.

**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 sends birthday cards to 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 September 20, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

*Clerk of Session, Christine Dear*

# Stone Presbyterian Church September Meetings & Events



**Season of Peace  
begins Sunday  
Sept. 3rd  
Communion will  
be during worship**



**Labor Day  
Monday,  
Sept. 4th**



**Fellowship  
Sunday,  
Sept. 10th  
after worship**



**MEETING  
Session  
Meeting  
Wednesday,  
Sept. 20th,  
at 3:00 pm**



FALL 2023  
GOD'S LAW IS LOVE  
PARTICIPANT'S BOOK

Page 3

**Bible Study Meetings—  
Wednesdays  
Sept. 13th, 12:00 Noon  
Sept. 20th, 12:00 Noon  
Sept. 27th, 12:00 Noon**

We will use "*The Present Word*" as the textbook. This book offers an in-depth Bible study for adults, delving deep into God's Word.

It has been designed by an ecumenical collaborative, ensuring that participants from multiple denominations study the same passages together.

The goals of "*The Present Word*" curriculum are to engage in a serious study of Scripture, aiming to discover its deeper meaning and relevance to our world today.

The textbook costs \$8.00. Participants are asked to pay a **\$5.00 donation**, and the church covers the remaining \$3.00 and plus.

## **Stone Church Choir Rehearsals**

under the direction of Jeannie Greenwood,  
will meet **Sundays**  
**September 17th & 24th at 10:00 am.**

## **Handbell Choir Rehearsals**

under the direction of Nancy Boynton, will meet  
**Wednesday, September 13, 20, 27**  
**from 5—6 pm.**

## Watertown Urban Mission School Supply Drive



Once again, **thank you to all** who donated items to make this years' backpack drive a success!



Max Perkins delivered the items collected at Stone Presbyterian Church to the Watertown Urban Mission on August 15th. These were 13 backpacks and 91 school supply items. The kids will be happy, and their families too, who appreciate this program.

## “The Offerings”

We provide tithes, offerings, and donations during Sunday worship.  
You can contribute via mail or electronically using this QR code.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries in September 2023

Page 4



Roxanne Young	September 2
David Lee	September 3
Jamie Strader	September 11
Jane Tabolt	September 14
Debra Siver	September 14
Stuart Price	September 16
Elizabeth Alice Newby	September 21
Camden Siver	September 21
Kim Murray	September 26
Barbara Williams	September 28



**Justin & Elizabeth Reed**  
September 3

**Justin & Andrea Hall**  
September 14

# Summer Blessings

Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

PSALM 97:11-12

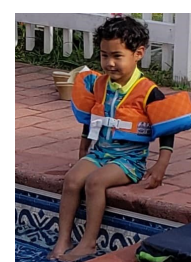
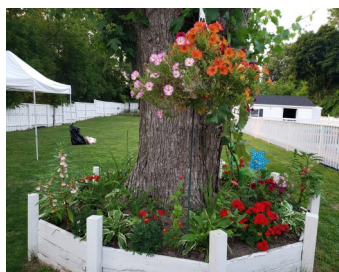


## SESSION/FELLOWSHIP PICNIC

Page 5

On July 25<sup>th</sup> the session met at the home of Rev. Lee and her family. Then all members and friends were invited to a backyard picnic,

complete with food from the grill, pizza, wonderful Korean dishes, and much more from those who brought a dish to pass. The kids enjoyed playing in the pool (with Bob Siver), and Camden led us in a patriotic sing-along. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed it so much as you will see from the pictures below!



# Rudy's Lakeside Drive-in August 4<sup>th</sup> Outing

Everyone enjoyed an outing to **Rudy's Lakeside Drive-in**, with beachfront picnic tables and wonderful lake views!

After Rudy's they went to **Ontario Orchards**.



# September Lectionary

(as shown on the  
Presbytery calendar)



I love to read   
the Scriptures

## September 3

Exodus 3:1-15 and  
Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;  
Jeremiah 15:15-21 and  
Psalms 26:1-8;  
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

## September 10

Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalms 149;  
Ezekiel 33:7-11 and  
Psalms 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14;  
Matthew 18:15-20

## September 17

Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalms 114 or  
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21;  
Genesis 50:15-21 and  
Psalms 103:(1-7) 8-13;  
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

## September 24

Exodus 16:2-15 and  
Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45;  
Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalms 145:1-8;  
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

# Sunday Sanctuary Flowers Sign-Up

They are delivered to those not able to attend Sunday worship. After making your choice, let the office know who you'd like to remember/honor for print in that Sunday's bulletin, with the fee.



## MILK CARTONS NEEDED

1/2 gal. size as receptacles  
for our Sunday flower  
delivery to shut-ins.



**Fee \$12.00**

**Hall sign-up  
for open Sundays available.**



# Outside Church Groups September Meetings

**Tai Chi**, full prevention program will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays starting



**September 12th  
to November 16th  
From  
10:30 to 11:30 am  
In Friendship Hall.**

It is designed for beginners with gentle exercise/stretching for adults 60 years old plus.



**Quilting Board Meeting  
Tuesday,  
Sept 5th,  
on Zoom  
at 6:30 pm**



**Garden Club Meeting  
Wednesday,  
Sept. 6th,  
6:30 pm**



**Bird Club Meeting  
Wednesday,  
Sept. 13th  
7:00 pm**



**Quilting Guild Meeting  
Tuesday,  
Sept 19th,  
6:30—9:00 pm**



**The Northern Blend Chorus  
Rehearsal Schedule for September**

**Monday, September 4th from 6:45-9:45 pm.  
Sunday, September 11th from 12:30-3:30 pm.  
Monday, September 17th from 6:45-9:45 pm.  
Monday, September 25th from 6:45-9:45 pm.**

**Worship Ministers**

Pastor The Reverend  
Sarah Lee

Organists  
Chris Hyde-Hall and  
Ghilyana Dordzhieva

Choir Director  
Jeannie Greenwood

Hand bell 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 315-788-5630

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

**Facebook**  
StonePresbyterianChurch

**Website**  
www.stonepreschurch.com

**Office Hours**  
Tues—Friday  
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**Ruling Elders  
on the Session**

**Class of 2024**

Chris Dear

Max Perkins

**Class of 2025**

Kathie Strader

Jeannie  
Greenwood

Stuart Price

**Newsletter Contents**

<u>Pastor's Pondering</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Session Review</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Church Meetings/Events</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>School Supplies Results, Birthdays/Anniversaries, Offerings</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>July Session/Fellowship</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Rudy's Outing</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Lectionary, Flowers</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Use of Church Groups Meetings</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Contents, Ministers, Contacts</u>	<u>9</u>

**NOTICE:  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE**

**Our monthly  
Newsletter Deadline  
for your articles is the  
15th of the month to  
be turned in.**



**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.*