

STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 CHESTNUT STREET
WATERTOWN, NY 13601

Address Service Requested



Stone Presbyterian Church **December 2022 Newsletter**



Stone Presbyterian Church

140 Chestnut Street Watertown, NY 13601

Worship Service 10:45 am

December 2022 Newsletter

Merry Christmas,

I can't wait for Christmas to be over! How many times have we heard this? Or even worse, said it ourselves? Me? Guilty as charged, I'm sorry to say. Then right on the heels of Christmas comes the onrush of New Year resolutions. Over the years, they add up to a veritable landfill of good intentions gone bad. Well, pardon the platitude, but we could all use an "attitude of gratitude." I'm no doctor, but I think cultivating gratitude helps our mental well-being. Lowers blood pressure. Reduces stress. It's hard to be a Scrooge when you're feeling grateful. In all circumstances, remember?

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Now, this is difficult if your year has made you extraordinarily weary or sad, and you'll need to come to terms with it in your own time. Close your eyes and try to listen to God's word rather than the turmoil of your soul. *In His presence, we can find everything we need when the peace and quiet becomes pandemonium. If we concentrate on all that's wrong in the world, it's easy to forget that the Savior is coming again to make it right.* Jesus knows every ounce of the weight we carry. Let Him take care of your Advent aches.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

**Merry Christmas,
Chris Dear**



Session Meeting Review

The Session met on Wednesday, November 30, 2022
The following was discussed and decided.



Minutes: The minutes from October 19, 2022, were approved.

Financial: A motion was made and seconded that we terminate the use of Church Trac program. The program is redundant to the Quick Books program our accountant currently uses. The motion passed.

Personnel: Linda White has returned to work after her illness. We will be looking into yearend reviews.

Music and Worship: Communion will be celebrated on December 4th. Christmas Eve service plans are in place. The Christmas Eve service will begin at 4:30 pm.

Building and Grounds: Use of the Church was requested by the LR Quilting Group for the first Saturday of each month from December 3rd to June 3, 2023. December 31, 2022, was also requested. The quilting group will be contacted for the time of usage. Big Apple Music will be installing TVs in front of the Church.

Pastoral Care: Christmas flowers for our shut ins are ordered and the Christmas cards are out for signing. Kathie Strader and Reverend Lee will be delivering the flowers and cards to our shut ins. The Mitten Manger is out and will be advertised in the bulletins. Dick Williams has been moved to Samaritan Summit Village. Doug Howland has been moved from the Summit Village to the 6th floor of Samaritan Keep Home. Please keep Dick and Doug in your prayers.

Stewardship: Preparations for budget for 2023 will be starting. Committees were asked to get budget information to Bob Siver. A preliminary budget will be ready for the next Session Meeting.

Nurture: A turkey dinner on October 30, 2022, was a big success. The Election Day Bake Sale with the proceeds the Presbyterian Women of Jefferson County made \$738.18. There will be Coffee Hour on December 18, 2022. Decorating the Church for Advent was held on November 27, 2022. We will be looking into a Christian Education for children.

Pastor's Report: Reverend Lee spent time with Cindy Rarick and her family prior to her death. She also spent time with Orvis Calhoun and his family prior to his death. Reverend Lee also preformed Orvis's funeral. Reverend Lee has been working in the office, delivering, and mailing bulletins, making visitations to members and friends, hospital visitations, planning worship with PowerPoints as well as working on the newsletter.

Outreach and Mission: The grocery items collected in the shopping cart will be delivered to the Urban Mission, Christmas gift cards will be purchased and distributed. Reverend Lee will be meeting with former members and any new prospective members to rejoin or join the Church.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee (Kathie Strader, Kathie Compeau and Pat Conti) will be meeting after Christmas.

Next Session Meeting: will be Wednesday,
December 21, 2022 at 3:00 pm.





will host a **Christmas Brunch**

on Thursday, **December 8th at 10:00 am**

at First Presbyterian Church in Fellowship Hall.

Sign-up sheets are available, see Pat Conti. All women from the area Presbyterian churches are invited. Bring a friend!

Questions? Call Chris Dear at 315-782-3098



Carl Bingle will entertain us with an organ concert.

Donations for the Christmas Mitten Tree will be appreciated.

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE on November 8, 2022 — A GREAT SUCCESS!

\$738.18 was raised jointly by First Presbyterian Women and our Stone Presbyterian Women (PW) of Jefferson County. We had lots of goodies and lots of help. Proceeds to PW for local charities. Thank you to all who baked, worked and helped in any way.



December 2022 Meetings & Events



Communion will be served at our **December 4th** Sunday worship service.



Memory Tree Lighting

On Sunday, **December 11th** during worship Chrissy Dear and Kathie Strader will read the names designated for the lights on the Memory Tree and there will be the lighting of the tree.



Join us for fellowship at a **Coffee Hour** in Friendship Hall after our worship service on Sunday, **December 18th**. We will have a **Christmas movie!** Bring your favorite snack or a sandwich, if you prefer.

Christmas Eve Worship Service this year will be Saturday, December 24th at 4:30 pm.



During the service we will collect your Christmas Joy Offering for church workers and their families, Presbyterian-related schools and college students with critical financial needs. The offering will also be collected at the **Christmas Day worship service at 10:45 am.**



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We will have a few people joining our church membership this year.

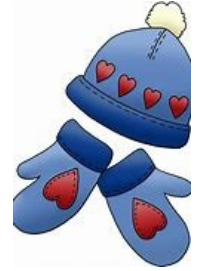


Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Something new for this year... Buy your own poinsettia plants wherever you like. Bring them to the church to decorate the sanctuary and have your name recorded as a giver. After the holiday season please bring them home with you, before they are discarded.



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. You will have all of December into January to bring them to the church. Your contributions will then be delivered to the Urban Mission on January 12th. Thank you all!



CHRISTMAS EVE 2022

Candlelight Service 4:30 P.M.

Stone Presbyterian Church, Watertown, NY

***Hear the Good News, Our Savior is Born in Bethlehem!
Come join us to celebrate the Birth of our Lord and
Savior, Jesus Christ.***



When: December 24 (Saturday), 2022, 4:30 PM

Where: 140 Chestnut Street Watertown, NY 13601

Call: 315-788-5630 (Office Tue. thru Fri.: 9AM –1 PM)

Text/ Message: 315-788-8286 (Rev. Sarah Lee)

Lectionary for December 2022



December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10 and Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10 and Psalm 146:5-10 or
Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10;
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18

Isaiah 7:10-16 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 11:18-25

December 25

Dawn: Isaiah 62:6-12 and Psalm 97;
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
Day: Isaiah 52:7-10 and Psalm 98;
Hebrew 1:1-4(5-12); John 1:1-14

Birthdays in December 2022

Page 6



Elizabeth Smith	December 2
Colin Charlebois	December 3
Drew Newby	December 4
Kathie Strader	December 4
Andrea Reed	December 15
Linda Rohde	December 18
Jimmy Strader	December 19
Thelma Reardon	December 28
Dorothy Fitzpatrick	December 30
Will Milton	December 31

Handbell Choir Rehearsals



The Handbell Choir will rehearse from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 pm. each Wednesday in December, except NO rehearsal on December 28th.

It's Sunday morning and the handbell choir is playing the postlude. Have you ever had an uncontrollable urge to run up and ring a bell or shake a handchime???

Restrain yourself no longer!!!

The Stone Church Handbell Choir (the Ding-a-Lings) rehearse for an hour each week and play for worship at least once a month from September through June. This is a wonderful opportunity to share fellowship and a love of music. So come join Lorraine Caramanna, Chrissy Dear, Jeannie Greenwood, Michaela Schied and me, Nancy Boynton, and ring your praises to the Lord. No experience is necessary. ?QUESTIONS? Call Nancy Boynton (Head Ding-a-Ling): 315-782-3934.

The SPARE CLOSET

Now located in the basement at
Watertown First Presbyterian Church



Open Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and
1st Saturday of each month
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



Mission Statement

*As disciples of Jesus Christ, we, the volunteers of
The Spare Closet, have joined together in faith
To serve the poor and those in need by
Offering clothing to our neighbors at no cost.*

The Spare Closet Method

To solicit from other churches, organizations, and individuals donations of
**good used clothing for outerwear, new items for underwear,
shoes (new and used), boots, mittens, and gently used
household items for kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms.**

We WILL NOT

- Discriminate against any giver or receiver for any reason.
- Charge for any item.
- Require any Identification or address.

*Our only goal is to serve, and our only proof of need will be in the asking.
We plan to make that as easy as we can. There will be no hoops to jump through.*

We need

- Your prayers and your physical help.
 - Donations of clean clothing for infants, children and adults (all sizes).
 - Donations of footwear, winter coats, hats, mittens and boots (all sizes).
 - Donations of bedroom, kitchen and bath linens.
- Gently used household donations also accepted.

***“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
For sacrifices are pleasing to God.” - Hebrews 13:16***

Stone Presbyterian Church
 140 Chestnut Street
 Watertown NY 13601



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



Your offering/tithe/pledge can be placed in one of the offering plates by the doors to the Sanctuary. You can also "give" electronically by using this QR code or by going to the church's website or drop in mail.

CHURCH ELDERS

Ruling on Session

Class of 2023
Bob Siver
Roxanne Young

Class of 2024
Maxine Perkins

Class of 2025
Stuart Price

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 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.

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
 Rev. Sarah Lee

Organists
 Chris Hyde-Hall
 Ghilyana Dordzhieva

Choir Director
 Jeannie Greenwood

Handbell Choir Director
 Nancy Boynton

Church Staff

Secretary Linda White
 Sexton Francis Conti

Newsletter Contents

Christmas Message _____ 1

Session Meeting Update _____ 2

December Events _____ 3, 4

Christmas Eve, Mitten Manger,
 Poinsettias _____ 5

Birthdays/ Anniversaries,
 Lectionary, Handbells _____ 6

Spare Closet Flyer _____ 7

Ministers, Contacts, Newsletter
 Contents Ruling Elders, Caring
 for the Congregation, Pledges _____ 8

Prayer Calendar _____