

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

Address Service Requested



Stone Presbyterian Church December 2024 Newsletter

Stone Presbyterian Church

140 Chestnut Street Watertown, NY 13601

Sunday Worship 10:45 A.M.



This Advent season is especially meaningful for me as we begin a new chapter of ministry together at Stone Presbyterian Church. It is a sacred time, not only for preparing our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ but also for deepening our shared commitment to the holy work that God has entrusted to us until Christ comes again.

Last week, I was humbled and honored to be installed as your pastor. I give thanks to Christ Jesus, our Lord, who has strengthened me, judged me faithful, and called me to serve in this ministry (1 Timothy 1:12). Your warm celebration has been a blessing, and I look forward to the journey of faith that we will share together continually.

This Christmas season, I am excited to introduce *The Angel Game* (please read the attached instructions), inspired by Hebrews 1:14: "Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?" The game invites us to embrace the spirit of service and love in a fun and meaningful way. I believe that God sends angels to serve and protect each of us even when we are unaware.

Here's how it works: Each participant will secretly act as someone's "angel," serving them with small acts of kindness, encouragement, or support over the next three weeks. Feel free to get creative—use messengers, notes, cards, or other imaginative ways to serve and surprise. The angel's identity will remain a mystery until the final day that when the angel is revealed, the recipient will thank the angel with a small gift. Prayers is necessary during the game.

As we play, let this activity remind us of the angels who serve at God's command and inspire us to reflect their joy-filled service in our own lives.

May this season fill you and your loved ones with hope, joy, and peace. May the Christ child, born in Bethlehem, be born anew in our hearts, drawing us ever closer to God's love. Merry Christmas, and may God bless you in the year to come!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Sarah Lee



December 2024 Schedule of Events

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Tuesday, December 24th, at 4:30 P.M.

All are welcome to join in this joyful celebration of Christ's birth.



Christmas Day is Wednesday, December 25th.

We wish you a very, merry Christmas.



The Angel Game In the Angel Game during the Christmas season, we will serve and love people as their angels (Hebrews 1:14). Everyone has their own angel (attached). Please let Chris Dear know if you would like to be a part of this Angel Game by next week.



Christmas Brunch
The Presbyterian Women of Jefferson County will host a Christmas brunch on Thursday, **December 5th at 10:00 am**
at First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY, in Fellowship Hall.

We are invited, as well as all women from area Presbyterian churches.

A musical program will follow, featuring a group of a cappella singers from the Northern Blend Chorus. Bring a friend!

December 2024 Meetings & Events



Sunday, December 1st marks the beginning of Advent. Join us as we light the first candle of the Advent wreath and prepare our hearts for the season of waiting and hope.



The Holy Communion will be celebrated during worship on Sunday, **December 1st.** **The Molto Brass** will play and perform during the service.



On Sunday, **December 8th,** the **Northern Bland Chorus** will sing during the worship.



Christmas Caroling Join us for caroling after the service on Sunday, **December 15th** (Nursing Homes in Watertown).

Annual 2024 Memory Tree Order Form
(bulbs \$1 each name)

The deadline for Memory Tree orders is on December 15th. We will read the names and light the tree during the morning service on Sunday, December 22nd.



Christmas Joy Offering will be collected for the leaders of our church—**past, present and future,** during the service on **Sunday, December 22nd.**

December 2024 Meetings & Events

The Wednesday Noon Bible Study will meet on December 4th, 11th, and 18th at 12 P.M.



The Handbell Choir rehearse every Wednesday from 5:00—6:00 pm. We play during worship at least once a month from September through June. No experience is necessary— just a love for music and fellowship! Join Lorraine Caramanna, Chrissy Dear, Jeannie Greenwood, Michaela Schied, Pastor Sarah Lee, and me, Nancy Boynton, to ring your praises to the Lord. ? QUESTIONS? Call Nancy Boynton (Head Ding-a-Ling) at 315-782-3934.

Church Choir The Stone Church Choir will rehearse at 10:00 am on December 8th, 15th, and 22nd. We will sing during the Christmas Eve service.



Mitten Manger - Our Catherine Martin Mitten Manger is set up in the sanctuary to receive your donations of winter accessories such as hats, mittens, and warm socks. You will have all of December into January to bring them to the church. Your contributions will then be delivered to the Urban Mission in January. Thank you all!



Session Meeting

The meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11th at 2:00 pm.



The Angel Game™

(December 1st - December 22nd)

Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:14: *"Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"*

The Angel Game encourages us to show love and serve others during the Christmas season. In this game, each person will secretly become someone's "angel" and serve them until December 22nd. The identity of the angel will be kept secret until the end.

How to Play:

1. **Name Drawing:** Everyone who joins this game will draw a name from a container. This is the person you will secretly serve.
2. **Keep the name you draw a secret!**
3. **Serving Secretly:** You will secretly serve the person whose name you drew. This could be through kind words, helpful acts, cards, notes, or small gifts (like handmade items, food, or something they enjoy).
4. **Using Messengers:** You can ask someone else (a "messenger") to help deliver your words and deeds. If you are asked to be a messenger, simply say: *"I am the messenger of your angel. Your angel wants me to deliver this gift/these words."*
5. **Thank Your Angel on December 22nd:** On December 22nd, after the worship service, you will give a gift to your angel as a thank you. Keep the gift under \$10. This is the day you will reveal who your angel is.
6. **Guess Who Your Angel Is:** Before giving your gift to your angel on December 22nd, you will thank the angel for the service and try to guess who your angel is, sharing how served you.

Purpose:

This game helps us practice love and service by giving time, encouragement, and small gifts to others in the spirit of Christmas. You can do this in a fun or dramatic way!

If you want to swap names with someone, please let the game leader know. Let's enjoy giving and serving each other this Christmas season!

Lectionary for December 2024



December 1

*Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Psalms 25:1-10;
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36*

December 8

*Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6*

December 15

*Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18*

December 22

Christmas Joy Offering

*Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:47-55 or
Psalms 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10;
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)*

December 22

Christmas Eve

*Isaiah 9:2-7 and Psalms 96;
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)*

December 25

Christmas Day

*Isaiah 62:6-12 and Psalms 97;
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20*

December 29

*1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 and Psalms 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52*



*To All ...from Stone
Presbyterian Church*

December 2024 Birthdays



Elizabeth Smith	December 2
Kathie Strader	December 4
Andrea Reed	December 15
Linda Rohde	December 18
Jimmy Strader	December 19
Thelma Reardon	December 28
Wanda Mills	December 29
Dorothy Fitzpatrick	December 30
Will Milton	December 31



Stone Presbyterian Church

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140 Chestnut Street
Watertown, New York 13601

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

November 18, 2024

We are reaching the end of 2024. We will be celebrating Thanksgiving this coming week. We are also at the beginning of the 2024 Advent season with New Years Day shortly after. I am not rushing to the end of 2024. This is a time to enjoy family and friends and to reflect on the past year. We often reflect on our challenges but we also need to reflect on our blessings. Blessings, we have received from God.

This year has been a year of challenges and changes, but overall, this year has been very encouraging. We just installed Reverend Sarah Lee as our full-time pastor on November 17, 2024. A change from full-time contract pastor to our installed pastor. Our Church attendance has improved. This is encouraging but we still need to continue to encourage people to come to our worship. We are a small congregation and our members often wear many different hats. I am very thankful for all our members that serve on our session and all the members who so unselfishly share their time and talents to support our Church and its missions. We can always use more help.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported our Church financially this year. Your monetary gifts to our Church are so important to enable us to continue our existence in our community as well as supporting our local missions as well as world wide missions. When you support our Church financially you are part of a team. Your support combined with the support of invested funds enable us to continue our ministry in our community. Invested funds need to be remembered as our past members who have left monetary gifts to the Church when they passed away. These past members wanted to extend their help to our Church and we are so blessed by their continued support.

Again, I am asking for your monetary support for our Church in 2025. Your gifts to our Church no matter their size makes a difference. Your gifts will help us bring God's Word to our congregation, our community and to our followers of our website and newsletters. Your support helps our Bible study, our music programs, and helps maintain our buildings and grounds. Your gifts will support the Urban Mission and its programs, and support of our Presbytery and its missions.

Stone Presbyterian Church is not just a building. We are members and friends who care and support each other and our missions. You can help spread God's Word and help with our ministries. Please support our 2025 Stewardship Campaign.
May God Bless you.

Stewardship Committee
Bob Siver Jr.

For your stewardship offering

Stone Presbyterian Church
140 Chestnut Street
Watertown, NY 13601



2025 Offering Card – (Please Return to Church)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Pledge Amount _____ Weekly ___ Monthly ___ Yearly ___

Donation Amount _____ Weekly ___ Monthly ___ Yearly ___ Other ___ 1 time ___

Caring for the Congregation

Congregational
care



The Pastor and the spiritual leaders place a priority on visiting hospitalized members of the congregation. Please notify the pastor or 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, e-mail the church office

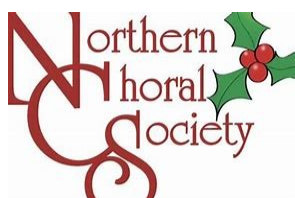
(Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com), or

place a note in the collection plate on Sunday.

Outside Church Groups

A Quilting Group will meet at the church on Saturday,

December 14th, 8:30 am-4:30 pm.



Northern Choral Society Christmas Concert

will be held at Asbury Methodist Church

December 7th and 8th at 3:00 pm.





Flower Sign-up Chart:

The new 2025 flower sign-up chart is in our church hallway. If you want to present flowers in our sanctuary, please give the office the yellow envelope with the fee (\$12) and the date of the requested Sunday in memory of or to honor your loved ones or gratitude to God. This will be included in our Sunday worship bulletins then after worship flowers will be delivered to at home or nursing home people if not taken with you. Thank you.



Annual
2024



**Memory Tree
Order Form**

(bulbs \$1 each name)

We will read the names and light the Memory Tree during the morning service on Sunday, December 22nd.

Please make checks payable to Stone Presbyterian Church. Please return this completed order form to the Church Office by Sunday, December 15th. Thank you.

Stone Church offers a special way for you to remember your friends and loved ones at Christmas time. It is our very own Memory Tree. You may purchase a Christmas light bulb in memory of your friends or loved ones for \$1.00 each with funds going to Hospice. The red bulbs will be in honor of the living and the white bulbs in memory of the deceased.

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

In memory of: _____

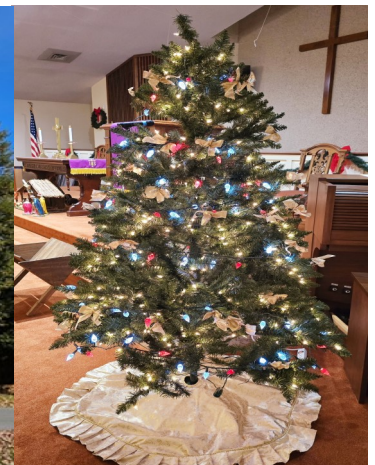
In memory of: _____

In memory of: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In honor of: _____



Stone Presbyterian Church

140 Chestnut Street Watertown, NY 13601 (315) 788-5630

Sunday Worship Service 10:45 A.M.

Pastor, Rev. Sarah Lee, Call/Message/Text 315-788-8286

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

E-mail: Stonep@centralny.twcbc.com

Web site: www.stonepreschurch.com

Facebook: Stone Presbyterian Church

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

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**

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Prayer Calendar



December 2024 Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Joshua, Alicia, Harrison & Kennedy Dalton	2 Christine & Donald Dear	3 Dawley DeMar	4 Ghilyana Dordzhieva	5 Brian & Alice Draper	6 Bob Fay	7 Shirley Fay
8 Dorothy Fitzpatrick	9 John, Jeannie & John Remus Greenwood	10 Jon & Karen Hall	11 Chris Hyde-Hall	12 Brianna & Robert Jaspersohn	13 Nancy Keeney	14 David, Isabel, Rowan, Matty & Ambrose Lee
15 Hannah Lee	16 Rev. Sarah & Sang Lee	17 Joan Lehrack	18 Kathleen Marks	19 David Miller	20 Doris Miller	21 Stephen Miller
22 William Milton	23 Rev. Marti Montovani	24 Jillian Newby	25 Rev. Gail Parsons	26 Maxine Perkins	27 Stuart Price	28 Thelma Reardon
29 Andrew, Andrea & Ian Reed	30 Corey & Shelly Reed	31 JoAnne Reed				