

STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
140 CHESTNUT STREET  
WATERTOWN, NY 13601

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February

**Stone Presbyterian Church  
February 2021 Newsletter**



# Stone Presbyterian Church

140 Chestnut Street Watertown NY 13601

## February 2021 Newsletter

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

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live together [yakhad] in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, as on Aaron's beard, the oil which ran down upon the edge of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon coming down upon the mountains of Zion; for YHWH commanded the blessing there—life forever. (Psalm 133)*

We have been hearing the word "unity" a lot lately. So I looked up the Hebrew word for it. "The word for unity/togetherness is *yakhad* and it comes out of the word for one and only: *ekhad*. As the author and blogger Sarah E. Fisher ([www.hebrewwordlessons.com](http://www.hebrewwordlessons.com)) pointed out, "We are all one-and-onlies, but we are meant to apply our uniqueness to community. We are meant to be together." The creation stories found in Genesis remind us that God provided Adam with a companion, Eve. Christ created a community by calling disciples, each unique, to join him in ministry. In the book of Acts we read that the Holy Spirit made it possible for us to understand each other so that all could unite.

I am struck by the words spoken by Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, in her poem "The Hill We Climb"... "*that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect. We are striving to forge a union with purpose.*" As I think about it, this does not just refer to our nation but all types of communities, including Christians. It reminds me that our purpose as Christians, as indicated in the Westminster Confession, is that we are to glorify God and enjoy God forever. That comes when we live in unity with God and those God has provided as our companions—fellow human beings. We don't have to be perfect, just focus on doing our best sharing God's love and grace with each other.

*Peace and Grace,  
Pastor Libby*



# Session Update

The Session met on January 19, 2021  
at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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- ◆ The meeting was opened with a devotional given by Maxine Perkins and a prayer by Pastor Libby.
- ◆ The minutes from the December 2020 meeting were approved and the December 2020 financial report was approved.
- ◆ The clerk shared that thank you notes were received from staff members for the holiday gifts.
- ◆ A letter requesting membership transfer from Stone PC to Parkside Bible Church was received from Jessica Branche. The Session voted to approve the transfer with regret.
- ◆ Went over plan for Annual Meeting to be held on February 7 at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Everyone should be receiving a copy of the annual report via mail.
- ◆ Bob Siver gave an update on the pledges for 2021; more are still coming in. Bob also shared that as of the end of 2020 our funds invested through Morgan Stanley have bounced back.
- ◆ Discussed what to do since we can't gather in the building for an Ash Wednesday Service on February 17. Pastor Libby will work with the Worship and Music Committee to put together something that can be posted online.
- ◆ A request to use the building for a very small group to do Tai Chi was approved.
- ◆ Discussed the possibility of the building being used as a site for vaccination clinic.
- ◆ Funds donated for the Christmas offering will be added to those given for the Christmas Joy offering will be forwarded to the denomination.
- ◆ Approved buying Canva Pro (\$120 annually) to be used in putting together the worship services.
- ◆ Pastor Libby shared that she attended a Presbytery Council meeting on January 14 and a Presbytery meeting on January 16. She will be attending a Boundary Training Workshop via Zoom on January 28. The Presbytery requires Pastors to do this every three years.
- ◆ The meeting was closed in prayer.

*Rev. Libby Moses*



## Mission & Outreach Committee

The Flower Memorial Library is accepting winter apparel donations. A large box is in the lobby of the library to put your items in. Coats, hats, gloves, mittens, etc. may be dropped off, and they are given out free.

# February Meetings & Events

## FEBRUARY 7, 2021 ANNUAL MEETING ON ZOOM

This year due to the pandemic restrictions, we will hold our Annual Meeting on Zoom. Letters have been mailed out with more details. *If you are not able to participate via computer, you may use your phone.*



The main purpose will be to elect the new slate of elders to service on Session, and to approve the Pastor's terms of call for 2021.

The church office will be e-mailing or sending snail mail to all members, our Annual Report booklet, giving all the committee reports of activity during the past year of 2020.



**You Tube**

Broadcast Yourself™

## Sunday Worship Services

Our Sunday Worship Services are videotaped and posted on You Tube with links being emailed to those with email. Paper copies of the service will be mailed out to those who do not have internet access.

**Sunday, February 7th, there will be Communion.**



**Transfiguration of the Lord is Sunday,  
February 14th.**

**Valentines Day falls on this Sunday also.**

**We celebrate the Presidents' Day holiday  
on Monday, February 15th.**





We will have a **Session Meeting VIA ZOOM**  
on Tuesday, **February 16th, at 6:30 pm.**



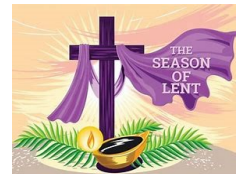
## Worship During the Season of Lent...

I feel as though I just got done dealing with Advent and Christmas, taken a deep breath and now have to deal with Ash Wednesday and Lent. Oh Boy...**Ash Wednesday is February 17** the start of Lent.

Thankfully I came across a devotional book written by Jill Duffield titled "*Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects*". She offers up a symbol for each week. Using this as a guide, I am going to focus on and lift up these symbols, one each week, in the sermon. We will be exploring dust, bread, cross, coins, shoes, and oil as we journey through Lent 2021.

Together let us journey toward the cross in preparation to celebrate the Resurrection. Our God is an eternal God. *Pastor Libby*

## 1st Sunday of Lent is February 21st



### Fellowship Time—Via Zoom at 4:00 pm

All are welcome. Link <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/7070203553>



Or call 646-876-9923

Meeting id: 707 020 3553

Need help, contact Pastor Libby



**Helping Hands** Meetings are suspended until further notice.

### Stone Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir Rehearsals

Under the direction of Nancy Boynton, meetings for February are:

Wednesday, February 3rd — 4:30—5:30 pm

Wednesday, February 10th— 4:30—5:30 pm

Wednesday, February 16th — 4:30—5:30 pm

Wednesday, February 23rd — 4:30—5:30 pm







**Chris Hyde-Hall** February 5  
**Andrew Reed** February 5  
**Rev. Libby Moses** February 7  
**Mike Ciscell** February 10  
**Rev. Marti Montovani** February 11  
**Bob Wallace** February 11  
**Brodie Bell** February 17  
**Debra Sholett** February 24  
**Don Sholett** February 25

**Bruce & Patricia Tyrrell**  
February 9

**Robert & Debra Siver**  
February 19



## February Lectionary

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### February 7

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23

### February 14

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

### February 21

First Sunday in Lent—Dust

Genesis 2:4b-7  
Luke 9:1-6

### February 28

Second Sunday in Lent—Bread

Exodus 16:4-12  
John 6:35-40

## Noon Bible/Book Study VIA ZOOM

Wednesdays, on February 3, 10, 17, 24

**Bible  
Study**



**CHALLENGING  
TIMES**

We started a new study on January 20, 2021, using a 9-week Bible Study titled "*Finding Our Way Through Challenging Times.*" Instead of finding fault or laying low during times of pain, our faith provides an opportunity for us to discern and give voice to the fear and grief that overwhelms our hearts, and to offer our concerns, our laments, to our God who invites, listens and cares. We're always open to new participants.

## 2021 PRESBYTERY PER CAPITA — \$31.00

The annual Per Capita Assessment is based on the membership reported by each church.

The 2021 Per Capita fee for our Presbytery has been confirmed at \$31.00.

Each per capita payment is divided, with

- ◆ \$8.98 for General Assembly,
- ◆ \$4.10 for the Synod of the North East, and
- ◆ \$17.92 going to the Presbytery of Northern New York.



Offerings and pledges can be mailed in, or made using your smart phone and clicking on the church's QR code here.



### **Evening Scripture/Prayer Group held Thursdays on Zoom February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, at 6 p.m.**

All are invited to join the group as we read scripture and share in prayer.

We gather via Zoom. You can connect via internet or regular telephone.

Contact Pastor Libby for the information.





## Stone Presbyterian Church

140 Chestnut Street  
Watertown NY 13601

**Office**  
315-788-5630

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

**Facebook**  
StonePresbyterianChurch

**Website**  
www.stonepreschurch.com

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

### 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.*

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### Worship Ministers

Pastor The Reverend  
Elizabeth (Libby) Moses

Organists  
Chris Hyde-Hall and  
Ghilyana Dordzhieva

Choir Director  
Jeannie Greenwood

Handbell Choir Director  
Nancy Boynton

### Church Staff

Secretary Linda White  
Sexton Francis Conti

### 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

**This list of  
Elders will be  
updated for the  
new year in our  
next church  
newsletter.**



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