



The Corner Stone

Stone Church ~ The Church on the Green

The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.

SEPTEMBER 2025

WORSHIP RESUMES AT STONE STARTING SEPTEMBER 7th AT 10:30 A.M

September 7, 2025 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost – The Lord's Supper

Jeremiah 18:1–11 *The Lord as a potter*

Psalms 139:1–6, 13–18 *The Lord knows you*

Philemon 1–21 *Paul appeals to Philemon for a favor*

Luke 14:25–33 *Giving up possessions.*

Sermon: “Feet of Clay” – Pastor Scott Leonard, preaching



September 14, 2025 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28 *The hot wind of God's judgment blows.*

Psalms 14 *The Lord looks for those who seek after God.*

1 Timothy 1:12–17 *Paul expresses gratitude for God's great mercy.*

Luke 15:1–13 *Parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.*

Sermon: “Blowin’ in the Wind” – Pastor Scott Leonard, preaching



September 21, 2025 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18–9:1 *There is no balm in Gilead to soothe the prophet's grief.*

Psalms 79:1–9 *A plea for God to deliver Israel.*

1 Timothy 2:1–7 *God wants everyone to be made whole.*

A clever steward develops a clever strategy.

Helen Tracy Preaching



September 28, 2025 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

God's plan for the redemption of Israel.

Psalms 91:1–6, 14–16 *God is our refuge; God is our strength.*

1 Timothy 6:6–19 *Share all things from the God who gives us enough.*

Luke 16:19–31 *Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.*

Sermon: “Filthy Rich” – Pastor Scott Leonard, preaching

A Time to Live.

In 1974 country singer Freddy Weller sang, “You’re not getting older; you’re getting better.” After a few weeks in July of rolling family visits, peaking over 25, including 7 grandchildren ages 5 to 15, and many, many hours in the pool in one of the hottest, most humid summers around here in memory, all I could say to myself is, “No, you’re getting older.” Or as Indiana Jones said in the movie, “Raiders of the Lost Ark”, “It’s not the years, honey; it’s the mileage.”

We had a family reunion here in Clinton centered around Fourth of July weekend. My three brothers and their families and my mother and my two daughters and their families all came into town to join my wife Helen and me along with our two sons and their families. And over a 7-day period we celebrated the 10th wedding anniversary of daughter Stephanie and Sahil, the 20th anniversary of daughter Leanne and Ben, and the 40th anniversary of brother Jeff and Tracy as well as birthday number 8 for Stephanie’s daughter Reyna!

As exhausting as it was, it was also exhilarating. And a true blessing. With the busy lives everyone has and the distances apart, we may never have everyone all together like that again—even at a wedding or funeral. It is also a blessing that we all get along and love each other. If I want an example of undeserved, bountiful blessings I have only my own family to look at and cherish. For I recognize that many people do not have what I have. So, while I’m so proud of my family, I am also conscious to try to not sound like I’m bragging or to inadvertently remind others of what they may not have or have lost. I am grateful—and that plays into my belief system.

Not long after my predecessor, the Rev. Dennis Dewey, was called to Stone Church in 2007, he asked each of us to write our statement of belief or “credo” (Latin for “I believe”). I found mine from February 2008 where I confessed, “I have never had a conversion experience or a true epiphany—no burning bush, no mountaintop experience, no road to Damascus.” I simply was raised in the faith and remained. I did have a lot of questions, though. But after many years of study and exploration, I still ended up with few answers. As I wrote:

“The arguments for Christianity are no better and in many ways worse than any other religion, which is why I’ve been reluctant evangelist. So why do I remain a Christian? Elton Trueblood, a 20th century Quaker said it best, I think, “Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation.” I simply don’t worry about “being right”; I worry about “doing right.” What is “doing right”? According to the scriptures it is love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. Everything else rests on this. God has called me to duty, service, and commitment. That is my life purpose. God has blessed me with some many gifts that it is incumbent on me to make use of them.”

I agree with Martin Luther that our theology is based on Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” But unlike Luther I do not see James as an “epistle of straw”. The pendulum has swung too far in our world to “I’m saved. Nothing more to do.” We need to balance it out with James 2: 17, “So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” If we have received this undeserved grace from God, then shouldn’t we be grateful? And if we are grateful, shouldn’t we want to joyfully help others so they can share in that joy?

This does not mean life will always be easy or that we will always be happy. In fact, we know that’s not true or even possible. As Ecclesiastes 3:1 says (in the King James Version) and the Byrds sang to in 1965, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Change is inevitable in life. And change can be scary. But we need to embrace change with faith, not fear. Even as we feel the sand shifting under our feet, we know God remains our rock. God’s character is constant, even when our circumstances are not. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” That truth anchors us when everything else feels in motion.

But that does not mean sit at port and fret. No, knowing that God is always with us, we can ride and even embrace the waves of life with confidence, helping others to join the ride. In the book of Ecclesiastes, the author ends up concluding that God has given us the gift of life and we should enjoy it gratefully. As philosopher Ferris Buehler admonishes in his 1986 movie, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

Shalom,

Scott

THE PASTOR'S



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Historical Period Revisited---A Glimpse into Stone Church's Past

In Honor of Ceil Gilbert



Ceil, whose paternal grandparents immigrated from Switzerland, was born September 23, 1935 the oldest of four children. She was raised in Kirkland, NY where she fondly remembers attending a five-grade one-room schoolhouse. (The brick building is now a home on old Bristol Rd.) Ceil went on to graduate from Clinton High School in 1953. She began working summers at Hayes National Bank (NBT) and attended Oswego State one year. In retrospect, she regrets not finishing, but R. U. Hayes offered her a full- time job at NBT where she continued for 19 years gaining experience in various positions.

Later, Ceil started out as a records clerk at Kirkland College and later became a Staff Accountant in the business office at Hamilton College, administering student loans. After working there 29 years she retired in 2005. She took some courses at Hamilton to round out her education but found it difficult to juggle her position, the church's treasurer's job, and raising her son Jon.

As a young girl, she lovingly remembers growing up in the small congregation at Kirkland Presbyterian Church and singing in the choir, until the dissolvment of the church.

Ceil was married at Stone Church and attended intermittently, joining us in 1984. She's been active in the choir, The Women's Association, Shopper's Stroll, coordinator for Hope House and volunteering for the Fair Trade Shop. She has also served as a Deacon and a member of the Session, plus being our church treasurer for 13 years.

Over more recent years she has been responsible for the publicity for the church, Fair Trade shop, Clinton Area Ministerium, and is the secretary-treasurer of the Woman's Association. She also bakes pies and works at bake sales let alone handling the financing. She has been auditing the church books for many years and is now training Deb LaPoint for that position. She serves on the Finance and Memorial committees.

Ceil is also responsible for sending applications to the Village and Chamber of Commerce for the Fair Trade Shoppe to participate in the Farmer's Market and the Art and Music Festival. She's also a volunteer as a salesperson for the Fair Trade at the Art & Music Festival.

Ceil loves to play cards every week at the Kirkland Senior Citizens Center and again with friends once a week. Once a month she plays dominoes. In the summertime she attends three concerts every week --one in Utica, another in Clinton and the third one at Three Steeples United Church at Paris Hill. She loves to cook, bake, crochet, do paint-by-numbers, dance, cross-country ski, spend time in the Adirondacks, listen to country music and spend time with family.

I will never forget the time in 2023 when Ceils' grandchildren from Washington DC came for our bake sale. Abby and Ollie were such a great help and had a lot of fun helping carry out the pies, hold out the sign calling people up to the curb, and just having a great time. They were very courteous as well as helpful and respectful.

Happy 90th Birthday, Ceil!!!

SEPTEMBER 2025 MISSION

(Temporarily away...check back in October!)



The Sanctuary Choir will resume on Sunday morning, September 07
We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:15 A.M. and sing for the 10:30 service.
Come Join Us!!



Glory and Honor!!

Glory and Honor!!

If just one of the following describes you, we hope you will join us in the choir loft on Sunday mornings:

- ◆ You enjoy singing.
- ◆ You think you might enjoy singing if you ever tried it.
- ◆ Your mother always wanted you to be a singer.
- ◆ Your 6th-grade chorus director stuck you in the back row.
- ◆ You heard someone sing once.

There is no midweek rehearsal; we simply gather on Sunday morning, rehearse, and provide choral music for the morning's service.

*"If I don't praise him, the rocks are gonna cry out,
"Glory and honor! Glory and honor!" [traditional spiritual]*



Name: _____ Date: _____

September

U Y T L P R T R U S J Z N G B C X
 W B E E B Z U L L A B T O O F B I
 U Z C G K W Q Q S R Y F N C D F L
 Z U R I L C T V E E O I T U I C O
 B S J R S G A R M K R F I N Z Q O
 I E D H K E G J K K B I A G Q T H
 Y V W S Z G V A Z J L L F B K A C
 T A Y M G O T I K G H B E N X W S
 O E A R I V Z A R A P V F M O U O
 X L D F M U W J R D J L S J U B T
 E G R Y A B R V P E C D Q T M A K
 V N O H C L E E M R R I C W I R C
 B I B Z E S L B Z Y K S N Y Z B A
 O L A Q T D W F G U J R X E M R B
 B L L J U J S K D J V R E R C I Z
 W A T O N U P M R E T A E W S S T
 O F D T C F O Q Z Q J E G P Q Y O

final harvest

sweater

bonfires

Fall

scenic drives

back to school

football

jacket

labor day

Falling Leaves



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis come join us for an Ecumenical Service for the Blessing of the Animals, Sunday afternoon October 5th on the Village Green, sponsored by the Clinton Area Ministerium. The purpose is to bring awareness to the need of pet food to a food bank, often failing to recognize that many folks living on a fixed income, often alone, have companion animals that need support as well. Look on our web site & next month's newsletter for more details or talk with Scott Leonard who is on the planning committee.



HOPE HOUSE WISH LIST: Stone Church has now designated the **4th Sunday** of the month for us to bring in items for Hope House. Their special needs for this month are coffee, sugar, full size shampoo, conditioner & bar soap. Please contact Lora Schilder (315-790-1945) if you have any questions.

COUNTRY PANTRY continues to meet the needs of our community by providing a variety of food. 505 families were provided food at August's distribution plus an additional 70 families by transport volunteers. The pantry is accepting \$10 donations to sponsor a Thanksgiving meal for one family. Checks should state "sponsor a family" and may be left at church or mailed to The Country Pantry at PO Box 76 Clinton. They also are collecting NEW BLANKETS for their December food drive.

As always, all unopened food items are appreciated.

Help me fill my car on the **3rd Sunday** of every month.

THE FAIR TRADE SHOPPE: Fall is in the air! Fall back with us. Our purpose: Your satisfaction! Autumn is the beautiful time of year between heat stroke and frost bite. September: when summer decides to hit the snooze button for three months. Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall!



- Artisans in Prokritee, Bangladesh source pre-loved sari, keeping tons of fabric out of landfill and giving them new life and purpose. Wrapped around kaisa grass, the strands are handwoven into a striking Bright Day Laundry Basket with unique colors and patterns. So bright and beautiful, it adds cheer to a weekly, sometimes daily chore!



- Crafted from natural ceramics in the village of Bat Trang, Vietnam, known for its long tradition of creating fine ceramics, our gorgeous and hand-painted Indigo Bloom Platter features indigo floral motifs on a white background.



- One of our most popular items in our shop is our lovely Beaded Birds from Life School in Guatemala. They are handmade from seed beads and can be hung on a wall, used as a decoration, a gift, hung from a rear-view mirror in a vehicle, a Christmas ornament or a window decoration.

These and MANY, MANY MORE uniquely handcrafted gift items from 38 different countries can be found at our **FAIR TRADE SHOP, STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 8 SO. PARK ROW, CLINTON**. Our regular hours are 10am to 4pm every Thursday, **SECOND SATURDAYS, EVERY THURSDAY AT THE FARMER'S MARKET ON THE VILLAGE GREEN UNTIL OCTOBER 2ND, 2025** or by appointment by calling 315-853-1070. Purchasing fair trade items ensures artisans and small farmers fair wages and healthy working conditions, providing dignity, sustainable development and hope for marginalized people. **LET US BE YOUR GO-TO GIFT SHOP!** Visit us at <https://buildingstonesshoppe.square.site> or www.facebook.com/buildingstonesfairtradeshoppe.



Stone Church has an online giving tool called **Givelify** that is also available as an app on your smart mobile device. Check it out on our web page.

PRAYER REQUEST

Skip Beardsall and Family

Bev Miller

Linda Rance

Sue Max

Peggy Welden

Michael Britton & Julie Milograno

Richard Raitt & Family

Tom & Ewa Lawrence

Phil Conley

Nancy & Will Eisenhower

Ruth Hughes

Erik Jones



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

September

9-2-78 - Dennis & Sue Dewey

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September

- 1 - Shelly Coe
- 4 - Alan Tuttle
- 7 - Mary Ann Stiefvater
- 14 - Cynthia Ellis
- 16 - Janice LeFrois
- 17 - Sarah LaFont
- 18 - Dennis Dewey
- 19 - Nicole Schilder
- 22 - Deli Rogers
- 23 - Tricia Tuttle
Ceil Gilbert
Sue Russo
- 24 - Wendy Suskiewich
- 25 - Samantha Reed
- 26 - Elena Schilder
- 27 - Emily Hughes
- 28 - Sue Rambo
Ann Smallen
- 29 - Brittany DeRosa
- 30 - Nikki Reynolds



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CEIL GILBERT!!

Ceil's 90th birthday is on September 23. Please join us to celebrate her birthday on Sunday, September 21, during worship and coffee hour. If you would like to send her a card, her address is:

16 Olde Boorne Dr., D-13
Clinton, NY 13323



THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The group is responsible for managing memorial gifts, recommending uses for undesignated funds and ensuring contributions are used in accordance with the wishes of the contributors or family often within a church or organization.

Managing Memorial Gifts: Memorial Committee oversees the administration of memorial gifts, keeping records of contributions and ensuring they are used appropriately.

Recommending Uses for Undesignated fund: Committee makes recommendations for how undesignated memorial funds should be used, often in consultation with the Pastor or leadership.

Recognizing & Distributing Gifts: The Committee will play a role in recognizing & distributing gifts in memory of members & friends. Ensuring compliance with donor wishes. The Committee works to ensure contributions are used in accordance with the wishes of the contributors or family of the deceased.

Maintaining Records: They keep records of gifts and memorials to the church.

Consulting with families: They may consult with families about appropriate memorial.

Planning Memorial Services/Events: The committee may also be involved in planning memorial services or other memorial or events to honor the deceased.



Want to see what else is on the calendar? You don't have to call the office. Go to our home web page - stonepres.org, and click on the "Calendar" tab at the top or on the calendar icon.

DON'T FORGET THE DEACONS!

Please keep the Deacons in mind on the first Sunday of each month. All of the loose money collected on those Sundays will go to support the ministry of the Deacons.

Questions? Speak with any of the Deacons — Linda Rance, Judy LaGasse, Bev Miller, Mary Chamberlain, Trish Harris, Emily Hughes & Barbara Greene.



DRIVE-THRU PIE SALE

The Women's Association of Stone Presbyterian Church, 8 So. Park Row, Clinton, will hold a DRIVE-THRU PIE SALE from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, September 27th, 2025. We will have several different kinds of homemade pies available for your shopping pleasure, with the emphasis being on apple! You can drive up to the curb and purchase a pie without leaving your vehicle. Come visit us, you won't regret it! For more information, contact Ceil Gilbert (315-853-8289), ceilgilbert@yahoo.com or Donna Goodfriend (315-749-4085).

WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON!!!

September, 10, 2025

It is hard to believe that Summer is over and kids are going back to school and people are closing up their camps etc. We hope you all had a nice Summer and made lots of memories.

Starting September 10th we will be back to our regular services being at 10:30 instead of 9:30. We can all go back to getting an extra hour sleep!! As we have done in the past we will be having a light lunch after Church that Sunday. It is time to reconnect with everyone and share stories about our Summer activities. So, save the date. See you all on the 10th!



WANTED: YOUR PER CAPITA! Please note that per capita payments for 2025 are now being readily accepted!!! Our per capita charge this year is \$46.04 per member. The church is assessed this amount for each member on the membership roll. The per capita is the cost of our representative democracy as a church and supports the meetings and operations of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Please consider sending your per capita either directly to the church office (P.O. Box 33, Clinton, NY 13323) or enclosing it in with your pledge envelope. It is helpful if you pay the per capita explicitly even if it comes from your overall financial commitment to the church for the year. Thank you in advance for your help.

DEACONS CORNER

IF TODAY GETS DIFFICULT

If today gets difficult,
remember the smell of coffee,
the way sunlight bounces off a
window, the sound of your
favorite person's laugh, the
feeling when a song you love
comes on, the color of the sky
at dusk, and that we are here
to take care of each other.

We hope you all know that your Deacon's are here for you always. We do so many things besides what you see on Sunday mornings. On Sunday's you see us usher and host coffee hour. If there is a luncheon or special occasion you always know the Deacons are busy making food and setting up the Norton room for fun times. But there is so much more that we do. If you get a card for a special occasion, it is usually from the Deacons. We keep in contact with our Homebound and do something special for them on Christmas and Easter. If someone needs transportation a deacon steps up. I can't tell you how many meals we have provided to our members when they are needed. These are just a few of the things your Deacon's do.

If any of you ever have concerns or need help or know of someone who needs help, PLEASE let a Deacon know. Remember, we are here to take care of each other!!! Don't go through difficult times by yourself. We love and care for our Church family.

Hugs,
Your Deacons



Summer Worship Services Help Greatly Appreciated



Many thanks to Rob Kolb for leading our summer worship services in July while Pastor Scott Leonard was on vacation, particularly since they were the hottest four Sundays in a row that we have ever had! What a blessing for us to have a wonderful music director to combine that with creative preaching!

WHAT'S IN MY CUP?

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you, making you spill the coffee. You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled the tea. The point is.... whatever is inside the cup, is what would spill out. Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which will happen), whatever is in you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled. So, we have to ask ourselves, "What's in my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills out? Joy, gratefulness, peace and humanity? Or do anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions come out? You choose!! Today let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, kindness, gentleness and love for others.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:30 am - 10:30 am <u>Ecumenical Service on the Village Green</u>	September 1 Labor Day  <u>Office Closed</u>	2	3	4 10 am - 4 pm <u>Fair Trade Shoppe</u>	5	6
7 GrandParents' Day 10:30 pm - 11:30 pm <u>Worship</u>	8 7 pm - 9 pm <u>Session Meeting</u>	9	10	11 Patriot Day 10 am - 4 pm <u>Fair Trade Shoppe</u>	12	13 10 pm - 4 am <u>Fair Trade Shoppe</u>
14 10:30 pm - 11:30 pm <u>Worship</u>	15 <u>Office Closed</u>	16 <u>Office Closed</u>	17	18 10 am - 4 pm <u>Fair Trade Shoppe</u>	19	20
21 10:30 pm - 11:30 pm <u>Worship Service-Guest Preacher-Helen Tracy</u>	22 Rosh Hashana 3:30 pm - 5 pm <u>Hope House</u>	23	24	25 10 am - 4 pm <u>Fair Trade Shoppe</u>	26	27 10 am - 2 pm <u>Women's Assoc. Pie Sale</u>
28 10:30 pm - 11:30 pm <u>Worship</u>	29	30	1 Yom Kippur	2 10 am - 4 pm <u>Fair Trade Shoppe</u>	3	4 Feast of St Francis of Assisi

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Clinton, NY 13323

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Scott Leonard, Commissioned Pastor
Cell: 315-723-7420
Email: srleonard@roadrunner.com

Rev. Gerald R. Platz, Pastor Emeritus

Director of Music: G. Roberts Kolb

Clerk of Session: Sherry Robinson

Office Manager: Janice LeFrois

Newsletter Editor: Midge Bakos

Sexton: Lee Kelso

Treasurer: Christine Menard

Office: 315-853-2933

Email: stonepres@stonepres.org

www.stonepres.org

www.facebook.com/stonepres

www.instagram.com/stonepresbyterian/

Summer Worship 9:30 a.m. in person, streamed & recorded on Facebook Live
Church Office Summer hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. M,W,Th & F—Closed on Tuesday

Newsletter team:

Many thanks to Midge Bakos, Mary Chamberlain, Linda Rance & Sonia Teuchert who have folded, taped and labeled this issue of *The Corner Stone* just for you!



Please note...

The deadline for the issue of the October newsletter is Friday, September 19th.

To see a color version of this newsletter in pdf format, visit stonepres.org.