



# 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.*

**DECEMBER 2025**

### WORSHIP AT STONE IN DECEMBER

#### December 7, 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent – PEACE – The Lord's Supper



Isaiah 11:1–10 *A vision of the peaceable kingdom*

Psalms 72:1–7, 18–19 *A prayer for the guidance and support of the king*

Romans 15:4–13 *The gospel is for Jews and Gentiles alike*

Matthew 3:1–12 *John the Baptist announces the coming of the Messiah*

Sermon: “If You Want Peace...” – Pastor Scott Leonard preaching

#### December 14, 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent – JOY

Isaiah 35:1–10 *A vision of the return to Zion*

Psalms 146:5–10 *The Lord loves the righteous*

James 5:7–10 *Be patient as you await the coming of the Lord*

*John the Baptist wonders if Jesus is the coming one*

Sermon: “Bundle of Joy” – Pastor Scott Leonard preaching



#### December 21, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – LOVE

Isaiah 7:10–16 *A young woman will bear a son named Immanuel*

Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19 *A prayer for the restoration of God's people*

Romans 1:1–7 *Paul is a servant of Jesus, son of David and son of God*

Matthew 1:18–25 *The birth of Jesus Christ*

Peg Ward preaching

#### Sunday, December 21, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Longest Night Ecumenical Service (at LutheranCare)

This is a special service of prayer, silence, candlelight designed especially for those for those experiencing grief, loss or hardship during the holiday season. This service offers a sacred, gentle space to gather, remember, and comfort.



#### Thursday, December 24, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve – The Lord's Supper

The story, the music, the joy: This is the Christmas Eve Service that celebrates the Christ Child, the coming of the Light of the World. Invite a friend to join us for the wonder of this worship.

#### Sunday, December 28, 2025

We worship with lessons and carols to celebrate the birth of the Savior of the world.



## Breaking with Tradition

“Tradition is tending the flame, not worshiping the ashes.”— Gustav Mahler

I can't think of a time of year that is as rife with traditions as the “Christmas season.” I put that in quotes because liturgically (i.e., church-wise) the four weeks prior to Christmas Day we call the season of Advent, preparing for the arrival (Latin *adventus*) of the Christ child. Then on December 25th we begin the 12-day (!) season of Christmas. In the secular world the period between Christmas Day and New Year's Day is sometimes called “Twixmas.” The word is a portmanteau of “betwixt,” an archaic English word for “between,” and Christmas.

Some of this is tradition and also shows how “tradition” changes over time. For example, the birth of Christ was not officially celebrated in the church until the year 336 (not coincidentally after Christianity became the state religion of Rome). This was because celebrating birthdays (only for men, of course) was a Roman tradition and the important thing was the Resurrection. Then in the Middle Ages Christmas time became a rowdy, raucous celebration that was not really religious. As a result, in the 17th century the Puritans and others condemned the celebration of Christmas. In the 19th century, though, the church started to emphasize the centrality of Christmas in Christianity, truly commemorating the birth of Christ and, in kind, showing charity to the poor. The boisterous, noisy celebrations shifted to New Year's Eve.

Many of our traditions today started then. For example, we have St. Nicholas (separating from his origins as Bishop of Myra in the third century in modern-day Turkey ) delivering presents in “a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer” (from Clement Clark Moore's poem, “A Visit from St. Nicholas”). As “Sinterklaas” in Dutch and their influx in mid-19th century he became “Santa Claus.” Bringing a dead evergreen conifer into the house and decorating it, comes from a pre-Christian tradition that was adopted in medieval Germany. Protestant reformer Martin Luther is said to have added the tradition of lit candles to the tree, being inspired by the twinkling stars in the night sky.

In the 20th century, Coca-Cola cemented our image of Santa Claus with its ads in the 1930s. Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer story came from Montgomery Ward department store as a promotional gimmick in 1939 followed 10 years later by the song. In the 21st century we have added “Elf on the Shelf” of hiding/moving a toy elf each night from Thanksgiving to Christmas thanks to the 2005 eponymously named book. And, of course, there is the seemingly ever-increasing hyper commercialization of the season, starting even before Halloween.

Of course, we each have our own family traditions. Maybe you hang stockings by the chimney and fill them with oranges and chocolate (as my grandparents did) or hide them under beds for the children to find Christmas morning (like my wife's family did). Maybe you open gifts first thing Christmas morning watching each person open their gift or maybe it is a near free-for-all with joyous rambunctiousness. Maybe you go to a Christmas Eve service or just spend time with family.

But as dearly as we hold these traditions, we also have seen even during our lives that they inevitably change: the year Grandma no longer was able to host the Christmas Day dinner; when after you marry you found your spouse had different traditions that you had to adapt to; what you did when you had children and how things changed after they left home. Gripping too tightly to traditions inevitably breaks them, like when both spouses' families want “their family” at events. We also struggle with traditions to keep within the church and ones to change. Do we have a Christmas tree in the sanctuary? Do we light it before Christmas? Do we sing Christmas carols during Advent so we can enjoy them as the rest of the world does or do we squeeze them in the two Sundays after Christmas when many aren't in church? Do we have the same Christmas Eve service every or do something different and if so, what?

Long ago, God spoke to us in Isaiah 43:18–19 saying, “Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” We need not cling to the past to maintain our roots but are grounded with confidence in our faith as Isaiah 49:6b says of the Messiah, “I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” Jesus broke with all the traditions of what was expected of the Messiah while reaffirming God's purpose to reconcile the world to himself. We humbly and gratefully celebrate that with the birth of the child in that manger in Bethlehem saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Luke 2:14).

Joyous Advent and Merry Christmas,

Scott

## THE PASTOR'S



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

### **THE OLD BURYING GROUND DEDICATION**



After approximately two years of a small committee who met weekly to honor not only Moses Foote as our founder but many who needed to be recognized that he had fought in the Revolutionary War and may have been forgotten. As a result, our committee decided to sponsor a fundraiser to purchase tombstones for some of those who had none. Fortunately, many in the community accomplished our goal through generous donors which also funded the Burdick Memorials who engraved the Stones.

Moses Foote - lived to see his own settlement expand and strengthen into a beautiful and flourishing village, bearing the name of Clinton. At his home, thirty members signed a confession of faith. They had settled in Clinton with firm and fixed religious principles, which laid the groundwork for their courage and their perseverance.

Timothy Tuttle - of Waterbury, Connecticut was a sergeant in 1888 and a Sergeant in Captain Smith's Co. at Burnettsfield (German Flatts, N.Y.)

Thomas Goodsell - of East Haven, Connecticut served in Capt. Burr's Co. of Connecticut.

Hezekiah Gridley, Jr. - married Abigail Peck, a daughter of Zebulon Peck and Mary (Edwards) of the celebrated Jonathan Edwards family He was a captain in the 15th Regt.

Thomas Fancher - and his wife were charter members of the Congregational Church, now the Presbyterian Church.

Zadock Loomis - a corporal born in Massachusetts and moved to Clinton serving under Brown's Corps and under King in Hopkin's Corps. He was a corporal in Captain Enoch Noble's Co., Col. John Brown's Regt.; enlisted June 29, 1777; discharged July 28, 1777; service 30 days, with the Northern army.

Silas Austin - came to Clinton in 1788 and had a son, Russel, baptized Aug. 8, 1802; a daughter, Louisa, baptized Sept. 8, 1802; and a daughter, Louisa, baptized Sept. 1805 in Congregational Church.

Timothy Barnes - lived in Clinton as early as 1800. He was a clockmaker. He cast the first bell for the Congregational Church in Clinton. He served in Captain Nehemiah Merrell's Co. from Aug. 19 to Sept. 25, 1776 as a private at New York City.

Samuel Bingham - married Alithea Hibbard; both joined the Congregational Church of Clinton by letter from Windham Connecticut. He was a pensioner in 1840, having served in Ozias Marvin's Co, of Coast Guards in the Connecticut Militia from Mar. 4 until Aug. 1.

Moses Bristol - born Feb. 11, 1716. He resided in Oxford and Washington, Conn. and Stockbridge, Mass whence he removed to Clinton, N.Y. in 1789 being one of the earliest settlers in Clinton and became a charter member of the Congregational Church in 1791 as a Deacon. He served in Capt. Hicock's Co., 13<sup>th</sup> Regt. Militia arriving in camp at N.Y. Aug. 16, 1776.

Elisha Lee, 3<sup>rd</sup> - He served in the Revolution as fifer in the Connecticut Continentals. He was a pensioner of 1840 residing in the town of Kirkland, N.Y. Served at the Lexington Alarm from Lyme, Town of Kirkland, N.Y.

John Bullen - born in Mass. and after his marriage to Mary Whitcomb came to Clinton and joined the Congregational Church. He had served as a private in the Massachusetts Militia and served in Continental Army during 1780.

**(con't on page 9)**

## NOVEMBER 2025 MISSION



### JOY, JOY AND MANY JOYOUS THOUGHTS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH ADVENT



As we at Stone Presbyterian Church shift into a season during which we look forward to anticipation, reflection, and joy, we can remember the word ADVENT comes from the **Latin** “Adventus” meaning coming or arrival, signifying Christ’s birth on Christmas day and his anticipated second coming.

Unlike Lent which is solemn and filled with oft-repeated themes, Advent consists of 4 different Sundays during which common themes are also repeated and interpreted through scriptures, prayers, and reflections. We are reminded that themes which are centered on hope, peace, joy and love still exist in a broken world and still are meaningful to us all. In addition to considering how common these themes have become, celebrating Advent also means living by practicing generous ways to love and care for our neighbors as we partner with Jesus and the church by working to bring peace and joy on earth as possible.

One of the most easily recognized symbols of Advent is the Advent Wreath. Made from evergreen branches, symbolizing eternal life and holding 4 or 5 candles – 3 Pink, 1 Purple, and often 1 White – there are a number of activities that, are commonplace in Churches in the US. Regardless of the denomination, it would not be unusual to see some of these practices:

- 1) Daily short Advent readings from devotionals
- 2) Short spiritual readings to help participants focus on the Advent season
- 3) Prayer and Fasting centered around a theme that hopefully will help participants to have their hearts ready for personal spiritual growth
- 4) Periods of charity and service to others to help a congregation to be ready to not be self conscious as they serve.

As a church devoted to Mission-based activities, you are encouraged to participate in and to enjoy Advent and its spirit during from November 28 through December 24.



Want to see what’s on the calendar? You don’t have to call the office. Go to our home web page - [stonepres.org](http://stonepres.org), and click on the “Calendar” tab at the top or on the calendar icon.

**CHRISTMAS FAMILIES:** We will be adopting families through the Neighborhood Center again this year. We will be adopting 2 families. Tags with their wants and needs will be on the tree November 30th. All unwrapped gifts with the tags attached need to be in the church by December 14th. We will have our wrapping party after church service that same day. We have plenty of wrapping paper but could use some bigger boxes for blankets and coats etc.. If need be, please call Janice at the office (315) 853-2933 on what gifts you would like to choose if you are unable to make it to church. Thank you all in advance for your generosity! We have always impressed the Center with the amount of presents we bring in.





## **NEW MEMBER**

At our 11/16/25 worship service with great joy we received Rosalie Wadsworth as a new member! She has been attending and participating in the life of Stone Church, including singing in the choir and being a liturgist, since she attended her first service at Stone in January at our annual Congregational Meeting worship service in the Norton Room. After worship we celebrated with cake!



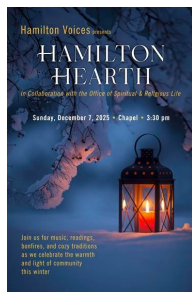
## **BON VOYAGE TO BEV MILLER!**



On 11/9/25 after worship we had a wonderful, if poignant, sendoff for Bev Miller before she moved to North Carolina on 11/17/25. Bev has been a stalworth member since she joined us in 1961 not long after marrying Bill Miller. Her faithful work as a deacon, long-time supporter of the annual Shopper's Stroll, and her gift of music brought joy and comfort into all the lives she touched. We will miss her!



**HELLO EVERYONE!** Here is the flyer for our upcoming concert "Hamilton Hearth". It will be a cozy concert with choral music interspersed with poetry. At the conclusion there will be warm drinks. We'd love it if you would consider joining us!



Colleen Preuninger, Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life, Hamilton College

Sunday December 7

3:30 pm

Hamilton College Chapel

Free and open to the public



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.

**HOPE HOUSE WISH LIST:** Hope House continues to serve the unhoused and needy of Utica with three meals a day and a place for daytime shelter. We at Stone Church join their mission once a month by sending three volunteers to serve dinner there. As you know, we also have a Sunday (the 4th of the month) designated as an opportunity to bring in items for Hope House and their guests. Their needs for this month continue to be sugar and coffee, as well as full-sized personal items like shampoo, conditioner, and bar soap. Also in these winter months they could use mittens/gloves and hand warmers. We're always looking for more people willing to spend a couple of hours (3-5 pm) with us on the 4th Monday of the month serving dinner at Hope House. If you'd like to join us, you can use the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary, or contact Lora Schilder at 315-790-1945 or lschilde@hamilton.edu.

**COUNTRY PANTRY** The Country Pantry continues to strive to meet the needs of the community. Through your generous donations, we served 710 families within one week. The Pantry also has a food truck named Grace. From the food truck we served charcutier cups on the last two distribution days, bags of fruit on Halloween and 205 ham & cheese sandwiches on the special distribution on November 2nd.

**Needed:**

canned protein items such as tuna, chicken, chili, PB, beef stew, spam, cereal, oatmeal, ramen noodles, canned fruit & vegetables as well as jam/jelly

Thank you for the gift of blankets as each family will receive one new blanket for Christmas.

Please help me fill my car on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Blessed are those who give!! Thank you

**THE FAIR TRADE SHOPPE:** Make it a December to remember! Experience the warmth of the season. Believe in the magic of Christmas! Make someone's Christmas special with jewelry from us. Put a little enchantment under the tree this year!

- Show off your refined tastes with our Intuition Earrings from India featuring labradorite stone wrapped in gold-colored wire. These earrings are crafted by the makers at Tara Projects, building stronger communities through fair trade opportunities.
- Colorful thread is spun on a series of hoops and accented with bright glass beads to make our Dream Catching Necklace from India. The artfulness of the creator's hand shows through each circle, granting the dreams of the wearer and artisan alike.
- Keep the memory of loved ones close with our Hand-carved Cardinal Bracelet. This handcrafted bracelet features a beautiful, hand-carved cardinal made of natural, locally sourced gourd on a sweet card with a heartfelt message of remembrance. Its adjustable knot allows for the perfect fit. Handmade in Colombia, this bracelet is a unique and meaningful accessory that supports local artisans there.



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 and SECOND SATURDAYS and by appointment by calling 315-853-1070. We will also be open every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas from 10am to 4pm. 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](http://www.facebook.com/buildingstonesfairtradeshoppe).

## PRAYER REQUEST

Matt Schementi  
 Grace & Frank Whittemore  
 Midge Bakos  
 Helen Leonard  
 Mary Ann Stiefvater  
 John Stiefvater  
 Skip Beardsall and Family  
 Bev Miller  
 Sue Max  
 Peggy Weldon  
 Tom & Ewa Lawrence  
 Phil Conley  
 Ruth Hughes



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Peter Goodfriend  
 7 - Scott Miller  
 8 - Mark Whittemore  
 15 - Curt Miller  
 17 - Lynn Hall  
       Tom Pavlot, Jr.  
 18 - Andrew Bering  
 19 - Tiffany Heintz  
       Joyce Wilbur  
 21 - Matthew Fletcher  
 25 - Tim LaFont  
       Mary Chamberlain  
 30 - Peter Christeler  
 31 - Jason Hamshar



I would like to thank all my church family for all the kind offerings and well wishes during my recovery. It meant so much to me!

Blessings, Janice LeFrois



A big thank you to Mary Chamberlain who pays for our yearly subscription for our daily devotionals, These Days. We really appreciate her.



## HANGING OF THE GREENS



“Many hands make light work.” I know you have heard that before and it is so true! November is the time of year that we decorate the Sanctuary, Narthex and Norton Room. Our Church looks beautiful and so festive!!! There are so many people to thank. We would like to thank Zeke for bringing up all the decorations from the basement, Donna for hanging the garland on the choir loft, Chris for putting new bows on our outdoor wreaths, Judy and Linda for decorating the Norton room and all the “Elves” who stayed after church to do all the rest. (I counted 20!!!). The deacons provide a lovely lunch before we began decorating. It is always a fun time to be together. And now for the best part.....we have a new tree!!! It was bought from Memorial funds, but John and Chris did all the leg work. They researched different trees, and it is beautiful. And it is on wheels so it will just need to be rolled in each year!! Woohoo!!!



## **SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

- Scott Leonard met with Rosalie Wadsworth on 10/19/25 about joining as a member. Session **VOTED** to receive Rosalie Wadsworth as a new member and it will take place during worship on 11/16/25.
- Chamber of Commerce confirmed Shoppers Stroll, our proposed schedule of 4 p.m. carols with Rob Kolb, p.m. St. Mary's Choir, and 6 p.m. performance of "A Visit from St. Nicholas" told by Scott Leonard.
- John Menard purchased our Christmas Tree and it is on platform with wheels for easy moving.
- Furnace has been inspected.
- Dwight Dibble is back to work and his health is good. He has offered to paint the cryingroom and sanctuary. He will be using a lift and would like to start in January. Session **VOTED** and approved Dwight Dibble to do the painting.
- On Saturday morning, 11/08/25, Scott Leonard gave a prayer of dedication for the Clinton Historical Society ceremony at the Clinton Old Burying Ground for the dedication of memorial headstones for 14 Revolutionary War veterans (including Moses Foote, Hezekiah Gridley, Moses Bristol) a memorial boulder for three previously unrecognized Native Americans (one a Revolutionary War veteran, one a French and Indian War veteran, and one a Brothertown Indian (thus Christian), and a bench for six African Americans lying in unmarked plots (one of whom is a documented slave).
- For Worship, Education, Program (WEP) things are going along good, candle lighting and readers all set during advent.
- Session **VOTED** to use the Norton Room during the month of January 2026 for worship.
- Rob Kolb will be away January 11<sup>th</sup> through January 18<sup>th</sup>. There is not a choir during the month of January. There is a small heat cost savings when using the Norton room for January worship.
- Session **VOTED** on the following missions to donate to during advent:
  - ◊ 11/30/25 Hope—Hope House
  - ◊ 12/7/25 Peace—PC USA Peace Mission-peace making support
  - ◊ 12/14/25 Joy—The Center
- On 10/14/25 a welcome letter was mailed to The Matthew Blancovich Family
- On 11/08/25 a welcome letter was mailed to Andrea Duvall



### **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.



## DEACONS CORNER

### TRUE CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the time of year  
To gather with family and spread good cheer.

A time for love and the giving of gifts,  
With hearts united, our spirits uplift.

We gather round the dinner table,  
Sharing meals, stories and festive fables.

The little ones wait, so full of glee,  
Excited for the gifts there're longing to see.

But let us remember what Christmas is-  
The birth of Christ, the ultimate gift.

A day of joy from long ago,  
When God sent his son, His love to show.

A sacrifice of grace for every soul,  
To bring forgiveness and make us whole.

So take this time to thank Him well,  
For his great love in which we dwell.

Share the story with all you can,  
So they may know God's loving plan.

For God gave us Jesus, a gift divine,  
The meaning of Christmas through all of time.  
He came to save, our sins to forgive,  
Died on the cross and now lives!

Merry Christmas from your Deacons!!



## A NEW VISION OF THE SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST

Pastor Scott Leonard along with Michelle Dolan, the Rev. Betsy Jay, and the Rev. Edwina Landy, as commissioners representing the Presbytery of Utica, attended a special meeting of the Synod of the Northeast on Saturday 11/15/25 at the United Presbyterian Church in Amsterdam, NY. The Synod is the next level above the presbytery. It oversees 19 presbyteries in 8 northeast states. The special meeting was to vote and approve the new vision and structure of the synod going from traditional structures toward flexible, relational, and Spirit-responsive ministry. It also was to approve the Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley, who served as the synod's Transitional Leader, to the new permanent Synod leader. With the new structure the synod will be able to work more directly with churches on missions, leadership development, and grants.



### **(con't from page 3)**

Amasa Hart - born in Bristol Conn. June 19, 1754 and married Phebe Roberts of Bristol, Conn. His service was in the Revolutionary War 1775 – 1783 in Continental Army and state militia units.

Judah Stebbins, Sr.- born in Brimfield Mass. and married Ruth Dady and moved to Clinton in 1788. His service included his signature to the non-consumption of “Tea Pledge” in 1774. He served as Corporal under Capt. Thompson and Col. Timothy Danielson at the Lexington Alarm.

Thanks to Larry Thompson, our decorated Vietnam veteran, who initiated the project to honor those who had no stones and who fought in the Revolutionary War. Larry's committee that worked tirelessly to honor the “forgotten men” who had no stones wishes to thank the community for their donations to purchase these markers but also for their presence at the “Old Burying Ground” in spite of the cold weather - a wonderful turnout in respect for those who went before us!

Midge Bakos

## **A WINTRY SHOPPERS STROLL**

An unprecedented winter storm greeted Clinton's annual day after Thanksgiving Shoppers Stroll and the kickoff to the (Advent) Christmas season. Sexton Lee Kelso, Pastor Scott Leonard, and Music Director Rob Kolb cleared over a foot of snow (falling at an inch an hour) so Stone Church could still participate. Our Building Stones Fair Trade Shop still did pretty well, considering the conditions. And, once again, our music director led an hour of carol singing followed by St. Mary's choir gracing us with their angelic voices. Pastor Scott told Clement Clark Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (aka "The Night Before Christmas") at the village gazebo to a small but enthusiastic crowd before the tree lighting, though the subsequent Christmas parade had to be postponed. "A happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!"



## **A CORNUCOPIA OF GENEROSITY**



In October we helped the Country Pantry meet the food donation challenge from Clinton NY Lions Club/Thrivent Action Team to collect at least 500 food items in the month and receive a matching \$500 check. With the long Government shutdown and the suspension of SNAP benefits beginning in November all food pantries were overrun. Stone Church folk responded to the need with another carload of donations on 11/9/25! Thanks so much to everyone's generosity as a Matthew 25 church. Because of the lingering effects from shut-down and the continual rising need we will be dedicating both our special Advent IV Love offering on 12/21/25 and Christmas Eve offering to the Country Pantry.

## **LONGEST NIGHT ECUMENICAL SERVICE**



Longest Night Ecumenical Service

6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 21

Hosted at Katherine Lutheran Home Chapel

For the longest night of the year (the winter solstice), the Clinton Area Ministerium is supporting a Longest Night service for those experiencing grief, loss or hardship during the holiday season. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer, among other things can be difficult. The pain of loss is felt by many at this time of year and this service offers a sacred, gentle space to gather, remember, and comfort.

## **GIFT FROM BEV MILLER!**

On 11/16/25 we had the pleasure of saying good-bye to Bev before she flew the next day to North Carolina to live near her son Curt and his family. As a parting gift to us, Bev gave us a wonderfully framed photograph of the village Christmas tree with Stone Church in the background. We will hang it with joy and pride!



## **HEADSTONE DEDICATION CLINTON OLD BURYING GROUND**



Pastor Scott Leonard gave a prayer at a Clinton Historical Society ceremony Saturday morning 11/8/25 at the Clinton Old Burying Ground for the dedication of memorial headstones for 14 Revolutionary War veterans – beginning with Clinton founder Moses Foote (who had no stone!), a memorial boulder for three previously unrecognized Native Americans (one a Revolutionary War veteran, one a French and Indian War veteran, and one a Brothertown



Indian (thus Christian) and the other two likely New England Christian Indians), and a bench for six African Americans lying in unmarked plots (one of whom is a documented slave). It was poignant that our church, which was basically founded with the village and some of these veterans, could be there two centuries later to commemorate them.

## **ALL SAINTS AND CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

Another poignant service on 11/2/25 celebrating All Saints / All Souls Day Sunday. We remembered the saints who have gone before us and prayed that may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.




## **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

December 2025

Our members, their families and the community of Stone Church friends have been thoughtful in gifting monies and items to our church. We completed the Archival Room this year along with several small projects. In 2026, we will select and purchase 50 folding chairs to replace current the small, metal, folding chairs in the Norton Room. In addition to Sunday coffee hour, this room is the activity hub of the church: Lunch and Learn events, receptions, neighborhood center Christmas family gift wrap, preparing food-to-go, church services in the winter and so much more. Initial research and product evaluation did not meet expectations. We will begin again in January.

Emily Hughes, Chair  
Linda Rance, Ceil Gilbert  
Sherry Robinson



 **The Corner Stone**  
**Stone Presbyterian Church**  
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**Clinton, NY 13323**

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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**Email: [srleonard@roadrunner.com](mailto:srleonard@roadrunner.com)**

**Rev. Gerald R. Platz, Pastor Emeritus**

**Director of Music: G. Roberts Kolb**

**Office Manager: Janice LeFrois**

**Sexton: Lee Kelso**

**Office: 315-853-2933**

**[www.stonepres.org](http://www.stonepres.org)**

**[www.instagram.com/stonepresbyterian/](http://www.instagram.com/stonepresbyterian/)**

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**[www.facebook.com/stonepres](http://www.facebook.com/stonepres)**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. in person, streamed & recorded on Facebook Live**  
**Church Office 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, Barb Greene & Donna Goodfriend who have folded, taped and labeled this issue of *The Corner Stone* just for you!



#### **Please note...**

The deadline for the issue of the January newsletter is Thursday, December 18th.

**To see a color version of this newsletter in pdf format, visit [stonepres.org](http://stonepres.org).**