



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.

OCTOBER 2026

WORSHIP AT STONE IN OCTOBER

October 4, 2026 – World Communion Sunday– The Lord’s Supper



Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20 *God gives Moses the Ten Commandments*
Psalm 19 *The law of the Lord is perfect*
Philippians 3:4b–14 *Paul puts the past behind and strives for the future*
Matthew 21:33–46 *Parable of the wicked tenants*
Sermon: “Identity Politics” – Pastor Scott Leonard preaching



October 4, 2026 – Blessing of the Animals – 1:00 p.m. on the Village Green

An ecumenical service to bless people’s companions and collect pet food for The Country Pantry
(Details inside!)



October 11, 2026 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost



Exodus 32:1–14 *The people of Israel make a golden calf.*
Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23 *God shows favor even to a sinful people*
Philippians 4:1–9 *Rejoice in the Lord always and strive for excellence!*
Matthew 22:1–14 *The parable of the wedding banquet.*
The Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth preaching

October 18, 2026 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

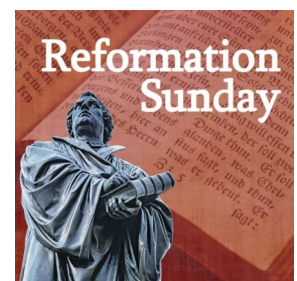
Exodus 33:12–23 *Moses seeks a more intimate knowledge of the Lord*
Psalm 99 *Extol the Lord, holy is he!*
1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 *Paul commends the faith of the Thessalonians*
Matthew 22:15–22 *Jesus is questioned about paying taxes*
Sermon: “Coin of the Realm” – Pastor Scott Leonard preaching



October 25, 2026 – Reformation Sunday – The Lord’s Supper

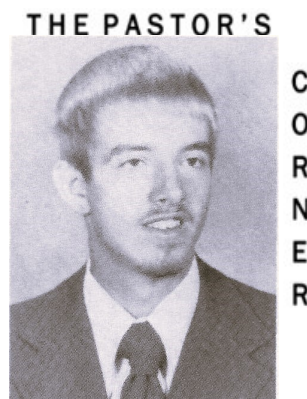


Deuteronomy 34:1–12 *The death of Moses*
Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 *O prosper the work of our hand, thanks to God*
1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 *Appeal to the Thessalonians with sincerity*
Matthew 22:34–46 *The greatest commandment*
Sermon: “In Good Faith” – Pastor Scott Leonard preaching



More Than a Feeling.

As I've mentioned before, I was going to Dayton, Ohio at the end of September in part to see my mother and one brother, but principally for my 50th high school reunion Friday night 9/25/26. I was one of three (Trudy Weiss Craig, Patti Peace, and me) helping to plan it. While we all participated in all aspects, we tended to have our specialties. As she has with all our reunions, Trudy led the charge, particularly in overall planning and outreach. Patti handled all of the decorations, gifts, and door prizes. I tended to help with organization and communications. It was a challenge to find ~400 classmates; we managed to get a hold of about half. About a third of them attended the reunion and about a quarter were no longer with us.



It was a low-key but high energy fun event at a locally beloved Marion's pizzeria where they cut the pizza into small, almost bite-size pieces. Even my own family from Clinton, NY with all its Italian pizzerias like it! We held it at the Marion's in Englewood, Ohio, where our high school rivals, the Northmont Thunderbolts, were from (like if my kids from Clinton held theirs in New Hartford). That's because our own town of Trotwood has declined so much that there are few businesses or restaurants even after the village of Trotwood absorbed Madison Township and became the City of Trotwood. And all of the Trotwood-Madison school buildings—elementary through high schools—were torn down decades ago after new central school buildings were erected in a completely different area accessible only by vehicle whereas, like many others, I walked to school from first grade until I graduated.

While we engaged in some nostalgia, of course, (including a woman who recalled declining my invitation to homecoming and accepting one from my best friend Siegfried) what people really commented on was connecting or rather re-connecting. People made a point of seeking Trudy, Patti, and I to thank us profusely for a wonderful event. But not just because it was fun, but because of re-connecting with people, some of whom it had been 50 years. And in many cases, there had been some trepidation about that and therefore reluctance about coming. But when they came, they were so glad they did. People said it had a profound philosophical, emotional, even spiritual effect on them.

None of this is surprising for “old” people (noting that for people in the Medicare age bracket, “old” is 10 years older than whatever your age is!). But it is a reminder for people of all ages that life is about connections and relationships. As we go through life with work, family, and life demands, we can have a tendency to focus on the urgent over the important, the things that demand our immediate attention over bigger things in life that we consistently move to the back burner. And as we enter the backside of our lives, we can also wonder what difference we have made and what remains for us.

Jesus was all about connections and relationships. Jesus wanted us to connect with the poor, marginalized, the disenfranchised. Jesus looked for us to pull up people who are down, not to push down people who are “not us.” Too often we take offense with one another and instead seeking reconciliation we hardened our differences. Ephesians 4:32 reminds us, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

And in today's world with all the intentional divisiveness, abuse of power, and inhumane discrimination, we can wonder what difference we can make. But we cannot become despondent of the current strife in the world as insurmountable and throw up our hands say, “Why try?” As Theodore Roosevelt said, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” As we look back over our lives, we can see the small differences that we made to others and them to us that changed things for the better. So we can look forward to doing the same with the rest of our lives with the encouragement we have from Romans 15:13, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Shalom,

Scott



WHAT IS MISSION?

Christian mission is based on the Great Commission, which is Jesus' final command to his disciples to spread the gospel, found in Matthew 28:18-20. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What does that boil down to for us as Christians?

Share the gospel with others

Obey Jesus' teachings

Rely on Christ to help us share the gospel and grow in our own understanding of the Christian life

Teach new believers about Christ and how to live like him

Reach out to the disenfranchised, the hungry, the poor, the lost

Pursue justice, peacemaking, and serve others

This is all a very simplified and brief overview of mission. Like stewardship, it is an ongoing, lifelong endeavor that brings so much to the person who practices it and to those with which it is shared.

Here at Stone Presbyterian, even though it is a small, older congregation, the spirit of mission is alive and well!

Regular Sunday services that can be shared together in person and via Facebook Live

Special services at Christmas and throughout the Lenten season

Ecumenical activities such as Lenten studies, Good Friday service, and Labor Day service on the Green

Baptisms and funeral services

Hands-on missions helping out Hope House, Country Pantry, Your Neighbors Inc.

Monetary support for an amazing number of projects and missions, both local, national, and international. Those donations come not only directly from the congregation, but also from the two pie sales held annually and proceeds from the Fair Trade Shoppe. The annual report lists every mission and the donation amount. If you don't have your copy handy, you can find it on our church website at stonepres.org.

MUSIC AT STONE CHURCH

The Sanctuary Choir has resumed on Sunday mornings, We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:15 A.M. and sing for the 10:30 service.

You are invited to bring your joyful self to choir!

We welcome all voice parts from bass to soprano! In October (and December) we are singing in the choir loft with Kelli Watson as our organist. In November (as in September) we are singing beside the piano, not in the choir loft, so no stairs to deter you then!



I'm also looking for any potential handbell ringers interested in exploring a handbell choir. No experience? No problem! I can teach you what you need to know!

Thoughts and questions are always welcomed and appreciated. You can reach me at sharonrankinsburd@gmail.com, evenings at 315-822-3342, or by text at 315-765-1716.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. - Psalm 100:2

LUNCH AND LEARN

We all enjoyed Sharon Rankins-Burd's talk about Upstate Caring Partners (UCP) after church service's on September 20th. This organization provides innovative programs and services that support and create opportunities for people of all abilities having grown beyond their original mission as Upstate Cerebral Palsy. These include; education, behavioral health care, crisis stabilization, residential, clinical programs research programs. Other programs include, Day Habilitation, Community, early childhood, and vocational and employment. Sharon is a advocate for the agency! More information can be found on their website UPSTATECP.ORG





THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION will be holding a DRIVE-THRU PIE SALE from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2026. We will be hoping for donations of pies and help (baking and selling) from our congregation. Apple pies seem to be the most requested at this time of year but all kinds are welcome. The proceeds from this sale will go to the various mission organizations that we support annually. For more information, please contact Ceil Gilbert (315-853-8289), ceilgilbert@yahoo.com or Donna Goodfriend (315-749-4085).



STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS UPON US!

Stewardship does not actually have a season, but is a year-round endeavor.

Autumn, however, is the time when we traditionally make our monetary pledges to Stone Presbyterian for the following year, which is a large part of stewardship. On the three Sundays from October 11th through 25th during worship, short messages highlighting time, talent, and treasure will be presented. All members and friends will also receive a pledge letter during that time to prayerfully consider what you are able and willing to give.

Consecration Sunday will be October 25 when the church will gratefully receive your pledges and then we'll celebrate together with a luncheon after worship.

I invite you to not only pledge treasure, but to try to make a conscious effort to pledge some time and/or talent. We have a congregation that is very "mature" and long-serving, but do you have any ideas for change or improvement? We still need to keep the church relevant for all of us as well as for any new worshipers that enter our sanctuary. That, too, is stewardship.

Perhaps you would like to try singing in the choir, ringing a hand bell, being a liturgist, becoming a deacon or elder. I'm sure there are many more things a person could do!

Session would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

You can reach out to any session member: Donna Goodfriend, Pat Joseph, Scott Leonard, John Menard, Sherry Robinson, Lora Schilder, or Rosalie Wadsworth.

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 the 4th Sunday 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, deodorant and bar soap. We're always looking for more people willing to spend a couple of hours (3-5 p.m.) 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.

THE COUNTRY PANTRY is gearing up for the fall season. They would like applesauce, cranberry sauce, gravy packets (no glass), peanut butter and jelly. Other donations are always welcome. Please help me fill my car on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Blessed are those who give!! Thank you!

THE FAIR TRADE SHOPPE: Find your fall favorites here! Fall into something new. Bringing a little autumn magic your way! As leaves change color and fall, October represents letting go of the old to prepare for new cycles.

- Whether it is for your home or garden, our Celtic Knot Symbol, Tree of Life Wall Hanging metal art is universally wonderful! Handmade by artisans in Haiti, it is created from recycled metal steel oil drums.
- Our set of lidded kaisa Pop Top Chindi Baskets from Bangladesh, with random chindi sari block inlays, are the perfect storage baskets. Densely handwoven from natural kaisa grass, they get a pop of color from upcycled cotton saris.
- Our Playful Cat Bookends hold your books firmly in place. They are hand carved by artisans in India, using Palewa soapstone, which is well-known as a carving soapstone.



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 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Thursday, SECOND SATURDAYS and 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://buildingstoneshoppe.square.site>, or www.facebook.com/buildingstonesfairtradeshoppe.



PRAYER REQUEST

Lee Kelso
 Ryan
 Grace Whittemore
 Frank Whittemore
 Midge Bakos
 Tom Mannino & Family
 Matt Schementi
 Mary Ann Stiefvater
 Peggy Weldon
 Tom & Ewa Lawrence
 Ruth Hughes



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Rachel Christeler
 11 - Midge Bakos
 13 - Scott Leonard
 14 - Laura Hughes
 17 - Cros Harvey
 22 - Tyler Shenkel
 30 - Fred Windecker
 Beverly Miller



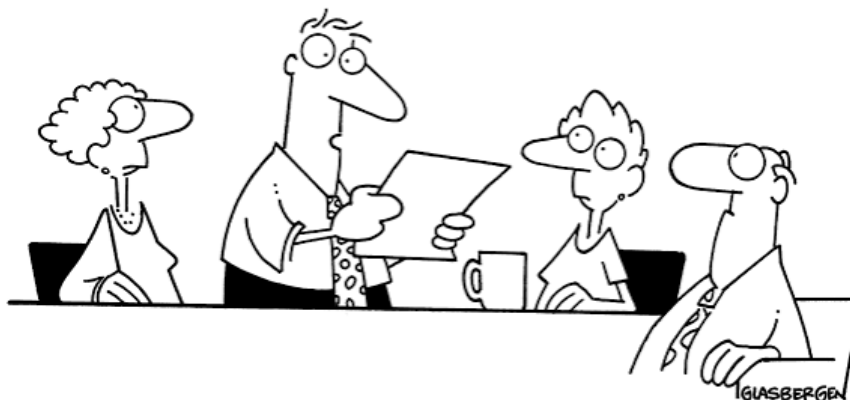
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

10-07-89 Ken & Shelley Coe
 10-07-95 Zeke & Janice LeFrois



Want to see what's 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.

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"Here are the minutes from our last meeting:
 Marty wasted 12 minutes, Janice wasted 7 minutes,
 Carl wasted 27 minutes, Eileen wasted 9 minutes..."

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

- Received email September 10, 2026 from Sam Pendergrast that there are congregations that want to have elders trained to lead communion service in the absence of a pastor. He is looking for the names and contact information on those who wish to take the training, he will be in touch with them to schedule. Pat Joseph, Rosalie Wadsworth and Sherry Robinson are interested.
- Pulpit Supply: Jennifer Deweerth on October 11, 2026
- Liturgists: September—Rosalie Wadsworth and October—Pat Joseph.
- In response to a question, Pastor Scott Leonard said communion is being served to everyone who desires to partake. They come forward and take a piece of bread from the officiant, eat, then pick up a cup from the tray and drink.
- Next Presbytery meeting is September 22, 2026 10:00 a.m. at Preswick Glen. November 17, 2026 10:00 a.m. Presbytery meeting is at Stone Church. Donna will not be present; Pat Joseph will be the Commissioner for the meeting. Deacons will serve lunch.
- Mary Chamberlin, moderator of deacons, reported that for home-bound, the deacons are making phone calls, sending cards and visiting with folks.
- Deacons helped with picnic at John & Christine Menards
- Deacons have supplied cakes for celebrating birthdays and food provided for welcome back to fall luncheon as well as lunch and learn.
- New business over the summer as session members brain storm some game planning for our future. Start to think of contingency plans for example if we are approached by other churches if we'd like to combine with them. Have some thoughts and ideas in line with what we may want or not want to do.

WANTED: YOUR PER CAPITA! Please note that per capita payments for the New Year are now being readily accepted!!! The 2026 per capita charge this year remains at \$46.04 per member, the same as last year. 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

JOY

Sometimes life isn't about waiting for joy,
it's creating it. It's going for a walk in
the sun and listening to your favorite
music, driving somewhere to look at a nice
view, taking pictures of beautiful things,
and filling your camera with memories,
buying your favorite drink or
making your favorite meal and being
excited about it!

Joy can be made in the mundane things
everyday. I hope if you do anything you
create pockets of joy wherever you go!!!

In the Bible, joy is a deep supernatural sense of well-being and gladness that comes from God and does not depend on your current situation. Biblical joy involves choosing to trust God's promises, love and control over the world, even when life is painful. True joy comes from knowing God, experiencing His presence and relying on Him as a source of inner strength.

May you all find moments of joy today!!!

BIBLE STUDY

So, you think you know Mary Magdalene is?

Come to Bible Study after church on Sundays and find out some very interesting things about her!

Watch for dates as we will not meet when there are special events/ meetings after worship.

All are welcome!



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, Mary Chamberlain, Trish Harris, Emily Hughes, Barbara Greene, Helen Leonard and Deb Lapoint.

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 October 4th on the Village Green at 1:00 p.m., 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. If you have any questions reach out to Pastor Scott Leonard.



WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON!!!

After a summer of 9:30 a.m. services and people traveling on vacation, we held our traditional “welcome back” lunch on September 13 courtesy of our deacons and the women of the church. It’s always a joy to break bread together and share our summer adventures!



QUIET ROOM DEDICATION

The Quiet Room is now finished because Trudi Christeler’s family has given us a beautiful photo collage in her memory. A big thank you to her family!



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.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND ECUMENICAL SERVICE: We had a wonderful ecumenical service on the village green Sunday 9/6/26 with lovely weather and over 70 people! Thanks to Mother Joanna Benskin for coordinating the service, Pastor Scott Leonard delivering the message, the Rev. Nola Anderson participating (in her first ecumenical service at the new pastor at Clinton United Methodist Church (CUMC)), Carol Klausner (CUMC) for the children's message, Donna Goodfriend (Stone) as a reader, Bob Turner (CUMC) supplying the sound system, soloist Joseph Carney, and Mark Hayes (St. James) on the keyboard.



10 am - 11 am Bible Study	3:30 pm - 5 pm Hope House			10 am - 4 pm Fair Trade Shoppe	Last Day of Sukkot	10 am - 2 pm Women's Association Pie Sale
10:30 am - 11:30 am Worship-Guest Preacher-Victor McKusick						
4 Feast of St Francis of Assisi	5 7 pm - 9 pm Session Meeting	6	7	8 Office Closed	9 Office Closed	10
9:15 am - 10 am Choir Practice				10 am - 4 pm Fair Trade Shoppe		
10:30 am - 11:30 am Worship						
1 pm - 2 pm Blessing of the Animals Service						
11 9:15 am - 10 am Choir Practice	12 Columbus Day Office Closed	13	14	15 10 am - 4 pm Fair Trade Shoppe	16	17 Sweetest Day
10:30 am - 11:30 am Worship-Guest Preacher-Jen DeWeerth						
18 9:15 am - 10 am Choir Practice	19	20	21	22 10 am - 4 pm Fair Trade Shoppe	23	24
10:30 am - 11:30 am Worship						
25 9:15 am - 10 am Choir Practice	26 Office Closed	27	28	29 10 am - 4 pm Fair Trade Shoppe	30	31 Halloween
10:30 am - 11:30 am Worship	3:30 pm - 5 pm Hope House					

 **The Corner Stone**
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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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 Mary Chamberlain, Linda Rance & 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 November newsletter is Monday, October 19th.

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