



Fall 2025 Newsletter

Pastor's Message

Greetings Stone Family!

We are entering the season of color and brilliance! And God has given us the wonderful ability to be changemakers as well!

A Changemaker is a risk-taker, someone who puts their faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Jesus was a Changemaker. The Good News is... so are we. Made in the image of God, sharing in the purposes of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, we are the "assets" we've been looking for. Our wealth lies in the Compassion, Collaboration, Creativity, and Empowerment that sustains us through change, for change, for the sake of a better world. Join us as we hatch new ideas and fly to new heights, risking something big for something good.

And so, as we enter the season of autumn, let us do it with the hearts of Jesus who told us to, "Go and do likewise."

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Kendra

Harvest of Fun Times Ahead in October!

Our October is packed full with events. Come enjoy fellowship with others and serve the community around us as we celebrate together this beautiful autumn season. If you would like to help at any of these events, please reach out to Jen Royer the office (814-724-6736 or churchoffice@stoneumc.org).

Treasure Hunt Sale

Do you have treasures that you no longer want? Purchase a table space for \$25 and bring your unwanted items to Kingsley Hall on Saturday, August 2, 2025. Your purchase of a table will benefit the church and provide space to sell your treasures. Proceeds from the sale of your items are yours to keep. This event will take place from 10 am to 3pm. Table reservations must be made and paid for prior to the event. Set up will take place on the afternoon of Friday, August 1 from 2-4pm and the morning of Saturday, August 2 from 8-9:30am. Sellers are responsible for the set up of their own table(s). All unsold items must be removed from the church by 5pm the day of the sale.



Bake Sale

A bake sale will be held in Thoburn Lobby on the second Sundays of October and November after the 9am worship service. All proceeds from the bake sale will be used to sponsor our Compassion International Child Sotcho Dio. Sotcho is a teenage boy living in the Dhaka region of Bangladesh.

You can help us continue to make a difference in the life of Sotcho Dio by bringing baked goods for the sale that morning or purchasing and taking something yummy home with you!



Trunk or Treat

Each year we close the street alongside our building and turn it into a safe, family-friendly space for youngsters to enjoy some Halloween fun. This year's event will be held on Thursday, October 30th from 6-7:30pm.

We invite you to join us in bringing this annual extension of Christian hospitality to the children and families of Meadville. We estimate that more than 500 children visited our Trunk or Treat in 2024, and we hope to see even more smiles at this year's event!

Our candy collection is underway - you may drop off your donation of individually wrapped candies to the collection bin in our lobby. If you prefer, monetary donations to purchase candy may be dropped off to our office Mon, Wed or Thurs from 8am-1pm (or dropped in the dropbox in our S.

Main St. entrance) or mailed to our office at 956 S Main St., Meadville PA. Please write "Trunk or Treat" on the memo line of your check.

Do you want to be a part of the trick or treating fun that night? We are in need of volunteers to bring their vehicles and pass out candy during the event. Contact Trunk or Treat coordinator Joyce Minnis at the church (814-724-6736) to sign up for a parking spot. Trunk decorations are encouraged but not required. Need help with decorations? We will have some available that night.



Halloween Parade Hot Cocoa Stand

Warm up with Stone UMC during this year's Meadville Halloween parade during the parade festivities on Saturday, October 25th - cocoa is available happening at Stone UMC.

GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Join Pastor Kendra Balliet on Tuesday evenings at 6p.m. beginning October 7, 2025 for this 13 week journey on navigating loss and grief in your life.

HOW GRIEF SHARE HELPS YOU

Videos that Encourage

Each weekly GriefShare group begins with a 30-minute video featuring respected experts on grief-related topics and helpful stories from people who have experienced loss. Their insights will help you manage your emotions, gain clarity, and find answers to your questions as you walk through the grief process.

Supportive Discussions

After the video, you and the other group members will spend time discussing what was presented in the video and what is going on in your lives. Talking with other people who understand what you're experiencing brings great comfort, normalizes the grief experience, and offers a supportive environment to work through your grief.

Helpful book to Guide You

Your participant guide serves as a road map on your grief journey. This book helps you process your emotions and experiences and cope with the loss. You'll apply what you've heard in the group and gain tools to deal with complicated grief.

Featured Topics

While everyone's response to loss is unique, people facing loss and grief will experience many of the same challenges. The weekly GriefShare topics address these common struggles—providing valuable tips, encouragement, and direction.

- Loneliness - Find your way through the overwhelming loneliness of grief.
- Fear - Guidance to manage worry and anxiety in the face of crippling fears.
- Anger - Learn healthy strategies to deal with your anger.
- Regrets - "If onlys" are common in grief. Discover how to move beyond them.
- Relationships - Tips on responding to well-meaning, but insensitive, comforters.
- Hope - Move forward by remembering and honoring your loved one.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC CELEBRATION



Congregants from Meadville's many churches came together for the All Churches Picnic in Roche Park on Aug. 9, 2025.

The free event was part of the year-long Meadville 1825 project, which celebrates a formative year in local history — a year that saw the founding of three churches that have played key roles in city history: Christ Episcopal Church, Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville.

"It's all about coming together to show our beloved community that we listen to each other and work together to solve problems," said organizer Armendia Dixon. "It is truly a beloved community."



Lay Servant Ministry Classes *-Something for Everyone-*

Class options for the Fall 2025 Lay Servant Ministries Schools are now open for registration in the Pittsburgh District and Indiana & Johnstown District - many classes are being offered by ZOOM for those who prefer an online option.

Classes typically are held weekly through the month of October.

Erie Meadville District

The 2025 Fall Lay Servant Ministries School (Erie-Meadville District) will be offered on five Sundays: **October 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, and November 2nd**. Classes will meet each Sunday from 2 PM to 4 PM at Edinboro UMC (113 High Street, Edinboro, PA 16412). Registration with payment of \$25 must be received by **Monday, September 22nd**. Checks made payable to "WPAUMC" with "EM LSM School" in the memo line can be mailed to the Erie-Meadville/Kane District Office (P.O. Box 175, Edinboro, PA 16412).

Class Options include:

- Introduction to Lay Ministry (The BASIC Course) - with Kathy Brown (\$25)
- Embracing Personal Prayer - with Rev. Karen Trask (\$25)
- Understanding the Israeli and Palestinian Conflict - with Rev. Todd Davis and others (\$25)

Classes are also available in our neighboring districts with several online ZOOM course options. Click the links below to learn more or pick up an information flyer at the church.

[Pittsburgh District Lay Servant Ministries - Fall 2025 Class Flyer](#)

[Indiana & Johnstown District Lay Servant Ministries School - Fall 2025 Class Flyer](#)

FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

You are invited to come away to Olmsted this fall and immerse yourself in rich study and seeking with a cohort of other powerful Christian women. Olmsted's women's retreats offer inspirational speaking, encouraging group discussions, quiet time with God, opportunities to enjoy stillness and

nature, and Christian hospitality that will make you feel welcome and cared for. Come and attend to your mental, emotional, and spiritual health. This year's retreat theme is: Sisters on the Faith Journey: Biblical Women and Us.

All of us are on a faith journey, yearning to come closer to God and one another. This retreat will focus on the stories of women in the Bible and how their journeys connect with our own journeys. The ancient accounts of faithful women long ago will inspire us to nurture and attend to our faith lives in this current time. This will be an opportunity to listen deeply to God's word and one another's voices in a relaxed, welcoming space that will include Bible Study, fellowship, worship, creative free time and rest.

ALTAR FLOWERS -- There are several dates still available in September, October and November to sign up for altar flowers. Visit our website stoneumc.org and sign up online or on the sign up sheet at the church.

Trustee Committee Update

A thanks to all who serve on our Trustee Committee! Special thanks to Cindy & John Karns for leading our sidewalk repair project this fall. The sidewalk outside the Kingsley Hall entrance has been replaced and looks great!

-Jeff Loutzenhiser, Trustee Chairperson

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thanks to: All who bring joy and order to worship each Sunday morning including ushers, communion stewards, musicians, counters, florists and youth ministry volunteers; to Barb Baker and Darlene Ross for organizing our Treasure Hunt Sale in August; to Howard & Nancy Pears for their help at the Treasure Sale and serving extra days at the soup kitchen; Jane Smith & Jean Shanley for leading worship on September 14; to Marti Maillard for being our "guest organist" while Jim was on vacation; to all who join us in worship in person or online, and to all who give, pray and serve!

Thank you to all who contributed to "Millie's Bench" ... The Care Team hopes you will think of her and her selfless example of service as you rest in her "spot" outside of the parlor.

[Set Up Online Giving with Tithely.ly](https://www.tithely.com/) When you set up your giving through Tithely, you can give a one-time gift to one designated area or set up a recurring offering. Recurring offering giving through Tithely saves you the hassle of dealing with offering envelopes each week and helps the church in its' work to plan, budget and be good financial stewards.

Sharing An Attitude of Gratitude

So many of you give of your time and talents each month at Stone UMC...if you would like to recognize the generosity and service you see at Stone UMC please, visit the office and put a note in our Attitude of Gratitude jar on the counter or send Jen an email at churchoffice@stoneumc.org so we may include the person or group in our next newsletter
THANK YOU.

We Remember...

We remember those who have passed and ask that you keep them and their loved ones left behind in your prayers, especially:

BILL BAKER

PENNI DALLAS



If you have a nativity set (tabletop style) that you would be willing to loan to the church this holiday season, especially sets from other countries or made of unique materials, please talk to Pastor Kendra.

Stone UMC volunteers work at the Meadville Community Soup Kitchen on the second Tuesday of each month (10am-12:30pm). Duties include pouring drinks, wiping tables, serving food and washing dishes. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Barb Baker.

Are YOU Using Raise Right?

Now you have the chance *every month* to win a \$500 gift card of your choice by referring friends and family to join RaiseRight. Plus—this month only—score extra entries for every order you place that includes a \$25+ DoorDash gift card. **September's winner will *also* receive a \$500 DoorDash gift card!**

How to participate:

1. Refer friends and family each month

Use the Invite Friends and Family tool to share your invite link via text or email. For each person who signs up through your link, you'll get 1 entry for that month's drawing.

2. Score extra entries

Get an extra entry for each referral who *also* buys their first gift card in the same month, and for each order you place in September that includes a \$25+ DoorDash gift card!

3. Entries reset each month

Refer friends each month to stay in the running! The more you refer, the better your chances of winning.

Worship With Us

Sunday Mornings

9 AM

In Our Sanctuary on the "Diamond" in Meadville

or Online at:

stoneumc.org / Facebook / YouTube

Contact Us

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