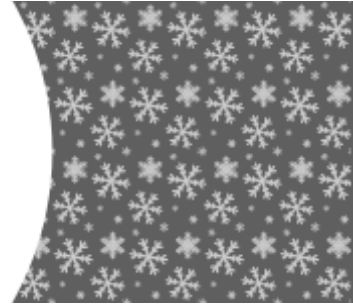




November/December 2025 Newsletter

Pastor's Message

*His mercy flows in wave after wave
on those who are in awe before him.
He bared his arm and showed his strength,
scattered the bluffing braggarts.
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,
pulled victims out of the mud.
The starving poor sat down to a banquet;
the callous rich were left out in the cold.
He embraced his chosen child, Israel;
he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.
It's exactly what he promised,
Luke 1:45-50 The Message*

Greetings!

It seems as if the world is doing things that are beyond our control. As I write this, the election has just concluded, but there is still tension in the Middle East, Russia, and Ukraine. There are tariffs and taxes, and medical bills. There are hungry people and people without paychecks. And no matter what political party you follow, we can all probably agree that our government and humanity could probably do a better job. However, people have faced this for quite some time.

In 1865, 160 years ago, William Chatterton Dix penned a poem that would become the beloved Christmas-time favorite, "What Child Is This?" During Advent, we will dive into this question that is much more complicated than the lilting lullaby tune, "Greensleeves," conveys.

We will see the story of the time leading up to the birth of Christ in its historical trauma-informed fullness. The story of humanity and its recurring themes of

oppression and corruption run right through history and into our own narratives. Yet, we can rely on the assurance of the carol to confirm that God is “present with us” in powerful ways that continue to be the Word of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love even and especially in the midst of hard times.

I invite you to join us this season where the Christ is always Lord and King, and where Stone United Methodist Church is still the church with the warm heart. We gather here as Christ’s family living into this message.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Kendra



Bake Sale Thank you to all who baked and supported our Bake Sales in October and November. Your generosity raised enough money to honor our commitment to sponsor our Compassion International Child Sotcho Dio. Sotcho is a teenage boy living in the Dhaka region of Bangladesh. Compassion International provides food, medical care and the good news of the gospel through their work to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Additional proceeds from the two bake sales amounted to just over \$150 and were donated to the Quilts of Valor. This organization's mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of

Valor.

Trunk or Treat Fun 2025 Thank you to all of you for your candy donations and to those who braved the less than ideal weather conditions to come out for this year's Trunk or Treat event!

AWESOME SUNDAY BRUNCH & PROGRAM Thank You Thank You Thank You to Debbie Knapp for a gourmet brunch! It really set the tone for the Welcoming Committee's program. Thank You Thank You Thank You to Armendia P. Dixon for an amazing presentation from the Welcoming Committee. Thank you Armendia, Debbie, Jean and Jane for your leadership.

The presentation was so well done, not enough can be said. The amount of work the committee put in was evident. Thank you, Sue DeArment, Jan Edmonds, Anne Finney, Jean Shanley and Jane Smith.

The Plan of Action steps were clear and the next phase has begun. A sense of fellowship was in the air and we gathered in the Circle of Love. This is a fantastic opportunity to reach out!

-Pat Loutzenhiser

SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER AT EMBASSY OF PARK AVENUE

An Advent Mission Collection During the season of Advent, we will be collecting items for the residents of Embassy of Park Avenue. Many of the residents no longer have family nearby and your kindness can bring them joy, comfort, and the true spirit of the season. We are collecting donations and small gifts to fill stockings, decorate rooms, and make the holidays merry and bright!

Suggested items include: warm socks, slippers or blankets, lotions, body wash or lip balm, word search or puzzle books, small gifts, ornaments or Christmas decorations. Monetary donations or gift cards will also be accepted and will be used to ensure every resident receives a thoughtful gift this season!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY Join Pastor Kendra for an Advent Bible Study by Amy Jill Levine - "A Child Is Born". This study which explores the season through the lens of early nativity stories begins Monday, November 24, 2025. Drop in any Monday and join the discussion during the Advent season at the morning (10:30am) or evening (6pm) session in Miller Parlor.

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 Debbie Knapp and everyone who manned the hot cocoa and popcorn stand during the Halloween parade; to all who gave, decorated a trunk and helped with another successful Trunk or Treat event; to Jim & Marie Schlosser for organizing and transporting our UMCOR donations; to everyone at Stone UMC for your support and care throughout the year from your Stone Children's Center staff; to all who join us in worship in person or online, and to all who give, pray and serve! **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

SET UP ONLINE GIVING WITH TITHE.LY 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.

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.

Find Giftspiration with the 2025 Holiday Gift Guide

Find great gifting brands, use the holiday shopping list, and much more.

Get the guide at
RaiseRight.com/Resources/HolidayGuide



Earn 5% when you dine locally with RaiseRight

RaiseRight.com/How-It-Works/Local-Dining

Add some flavor to your earning potential! Local dining unlocks 20,000+ earning opportunities with RaiseRight, outside of buying gift cards and shopping online.

How it works



Link a credit or debit card

Visit the RaiseRight app or website to link one or more cards.



Search restaurants

Find participating nearby restaurants in the RaiseRight app.



Dine and pay

Use your linked card to pay at a participating restaurant.



Earn 5% every time

You'll earn 5% on dine-in or takeout orders—tax and tip included!

Reap the rewards



Unlock new opportunities

Earn from thousands of restaurants that currently don't offer gift card earnings.



Just set it and forget it

No need to activate individual offers—once you link your card, you're all set!



Search with ease

Browse nearby locations and view restaurant details.



No extra fees, only extra earnings

There are no transaction fees associated with local dining.



Worship With Us

Sunday Mornings
9 AM

In Our Sanctuary on the "Diamond" in Meadville
or Online at:

stoneumc.org / Facebook / YouTube

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