

THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Today:	11:30 a.m.	Congregational Meeting
Monday:	3:00 p.m.	Hope House
Thursday:	10:00 a.m.	Memorial Committee meeting
Next Sunday:	9:00 a.m.	Choir rehearsal
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults – Dining Room• Children – Downstairs
	10:30 a.m.	Worship – Stone
	11:30 a.m.	Luncheon

VINTAGE & FAMILY PHOTOS BY BILL HENRY AND DORIS ACKERMAN:

Don't miss the opportunity to have photos taken of you and your family on October 14 and 15 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cost: \$10. All proceeds benefit the Clock Tower Restoration. Sign up in the narthex or call 361-5275.

THIS MORNING'S LITURGIST: Owen Reynolds, who also helped plan this service as part of his confirmation process.

THIS MORNING'S USHERS: David and Jean Puddington

NAME TAGS: If yours is missing or your name is wrong, please let an usher know, and we will supply you with a temporary tag until a replacement is made. If you're visiting, an usher will be glad to make you a name tag.

A **REST ROOM** (wheelchair accessible) is located off the narthex to your left as you enter the church. A diaper-changing table is there for your convenience. More restrooms may be found downstairs in the hall that parallels Williams St.

THE QUIET ROOM is located off the narthex to your right as you enter the church. If you need to leave worship for any reason, you are welcome to use the Quiet Room where you may go to be apart but still take part in worship.

CHURCH SCHOOL for children is held from 9:45 to 10:25 every Sunday morning. Please meet downstairs in the video room. All young people in grades 1-10 are welcome to join us!

WELCOME to the worship of God at Stone Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the Presbytery of Utica. Please make use of the pew cards to indicate any prayer concerns, pastoral needs or suggestions for improvement.

VISITORS are always welcome! Please let us know who you are by filling out the Visitor's Card in the pew and dropping it in the offering plate. We invite you to join us for coffee and conversation in the back of the sanctuary following worship this morning. Please join us again for worship!

STAR IN THE STONE CHURCH VIDEO? Nikki Reynolds is looking for some willing Stone Church members and friends to interview as part of our effort to produce two videos about Stone Church. If you're willing and available today after worship, please speak with Nikki. It's not only painless, it's a real joy to share the good news about your church!

Come join us for **LUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP** on Sunday, October 4. A member of the Board of Directors of the Abraham House will be our guest speaker. The Abraham House, located on Kemble Street in Utica, is a "welcome home" for the terminally ill. The Abraham House has been meeting the needs of the terminally ill since 1998. They provide health care, social services, and pastoral counseling while maintaining the dignity and independence of their guests. They give to all according to their needs, with no financial burden to their guests or families. *Note: Sign-up sheets for Stone soup donations are available in the back of the sanctuary.*

OUR ANNUAL APPLE CELEBRATION event will be held on Saturday, October 10th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will be asking for donations of apple pies and other kinds of apple baked goods. Use your imagination! Everyone's help will be needed. Sign-up sheets will be available and we will be calling everyone. If you have any questions, please call Donna Goodfriend (853-8405) or Ceil Gilbert (853-8289).

Thank you, Women's Association

EVERYONE WHO IS INVOLVED IN HELPING WITH WORSHIP AT STONE is invited to attend a special orientation/training session after worship on Sunday, October 11. This 45-minute program for ushers, deacons, elders, liturgists, choir and storytellers will cover what we do in worship and how/why we do it. The word "liturgy" means "work of the people." Plan to stay and find out what your part in that work is!



THE COUNTRY PANTRY NEEDS: The Pantry food bank is requesting donations of shampoo, toothpaste, bar soap, and dish detergent. Other items are most welcome too! Please leave items in the basket in the narthex.

Clinton's **A BETTER CHANCE** program is looking for Host Families. Each ABC Scholar has two host families that rotate every other Sunday, to essentially "host" the student from 1-7 p.m. Families do not have to entertain the scholars, as the boys do whatever the family is doing that day. This provides a great opportunity for the boys to get out of the house, get a break from each other, and develop a relationship with other people within the community. If you (or someone you know) are interested in learning more, please contact Sue Hecklau at 853-3840, (c) 272-8158, or Hecklau@roadrunner.com.

Boy Scout Troop 9, sponsored by the Stone Presbyterian Church, is participating in their **ANNUAL POPCORN SALE** to fund troop activities and to send popcorn to our military service members overseas. Options include plain or microwaveable popcorn, many pre-popped treats, and also the option of buying popcorn to send to our military service members. People wishing to purchase popcorn may call David Ross at 853-2519, or may call the troop popcorn sales coordinator, Michele Beach, at 853-3261.

THESE DAYS, a devotional booklet which is published quarterly, is available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you'd like one, please feel free to take a copy. There is no charge for the booklets, but contributions are always welcome!

PRAYER CHAIN: If you would like to add someone to our prayer list or would like to receive the prayer list for daily prayer, please contact the church office, 853-2933, or Sarah Rosenstein at 859-1037 or srosens@hamilton.edu. Please note that we will remove names after 6 weeks if we haven't received an update or request to keep them on.

Gil Adams Family
Padgett Family
Kaytryn Bentley and Family
Mary Ellen Brandis
Cookenham Family
Dortha and Bill Glaser
Karen Stockton's husband
Arthur Budich
Marty Miller
Carrigan and Katrina
Samantha Whittemore
Lori Sherwood

Members/Friends of the Week:
Adah Vaughn, Barbara Young
Eleanor Palmer
Dick and Elaine Schmidt
Allen Solomon
Brian Britcher and his family
Ewa and Tom Lawrence
Pete Forrester
Helen Leonard
Phoebe Brown
Myra Kazanjian
First Presbyterian Church, Utica

The Session calls a Special Congregational Meeting to take place immediately following worship today - Sunday, September 27, 2009. The sole item on the agenda is to vote on the Session's recommendation to formally and legally deed the village Green to the Village of Clinton. Most likely this will be in the form of a quick-claim deed in which Stone Church, the grantor, will disclaim any interest in the village Green and pass that claim to the Village of Clinton, the grantee.
Scott Leonard, Clerk of Session

For over a year now the Session has wrestled with the question of what to do about the Green. Given to the church by Moses Foote over two centuries ago, the three acre plot was home to the church building that housed the antecedent of Stone Church (a congregational church at the time). In the first third of the 19th Century, the building was torn down and a new building was erected facing the southeast corner of Green. When that structure was lost to fire, the current Stone Church edifice was built in 1878.

For most of its history, the local municipality has maintained and improved the property. Today it stands as a landmark, the centerpiece of community life in the village and in the surrounding towns. As "leftover" from the days before the "separation of church and state" had become fixed in law, the issue of possession and maintenance of the property has vexed conversations between the church and community officials off and on.

As often happens when putting off an action that many consider to be "the right thing," something comes along that prompts the decision to act. In our case, that something is the Village's willingness to remove, replace and maintain the community's clock if the issue of the Green can be settled once for all. The clock face is broken to the point of representing a safety hazard. As part of our total clock tower restoration effort, we would like to see this remedied, and we are pleased that the Village will underwrite the cost and continue to maintain the community's clock as it has done for the last century-and-a-quarter. With four members absent from our September Session meeting, the nine members present all voted in favor of recommending this action to the congregation, which has authority over all matters relating to the disposition of property.

In seeking the congregation's approval for providing a quit claim deed to the Village, we sincerely feel that this is the right thing to do at this time and represents good stewardship in promoting good relations with the community. Please speak with any elder or with the pastor if you have any questions about this requested action.

Scott Leonard, Clerk of Session

Rev. Dennis Dewey, Moderator of Session

AN ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
September 27, 2009 ~ The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship God

PRELUDE *Fugue in B-flat Major* G. F. Handel

INTROIT & POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
Let us worship God.

+HYMN #483 *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART
(+Those who are able may stand.)

WELCOME, JOYS, CONCERNS AND INVITATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (together)

**God our help and our salvation,
we confess to you and to one another
our self-deception that denies our sinfulness,
our pride that dares not admit that it is wrong,
our selfishness that sees nothing but its own will,
our self-righteousness that knows no fault;
our callousness that has ceased to care,
our defiance that does not regret its own failures,
our evasions that seek to make excuses for our behavior,
our coldness of heart that too often hardens us against repentance.
We confess our sin, our need for forgiveness, our longing for wholeness.
Be merciful to us.
Help us be honest with ourselves, that we may be honest before you,
may seek your will and your way, and may live new life
to the honor and glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+A DOXOLOGY *From All That Dwell below the Skies* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

From all that dwell below the skies,



**Let the Creator's praise arise—Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
And praise the Spirit every tongue,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

We Listen for the Word of God

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

(You are invited to say the concluding "amen" aloud.)

Queen Esther and the King

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

*Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22** – **Esther speaks up for her people.**
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Donna Goodfriend
Sherry Robinson
Joyce Wilbur

Psalm 124 – **Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

PETER R. HALLOCK



Our help is in the name of the Lord.

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*James 5:13-20** – **Pray for the sick.**
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Take My Life, that I May Be* J. Aaron McDermid

*Mark 9:38-42** – **"Do not stop those doing good in my name."**
Told by Owen Reynolds



SERMON

Daring Caring

*You are invited not to read along but to "listen with your eyes" as the scripture lesson is told.

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Adapted from the “Confession of 1967”

The life, death, resurrection and promised coming of Jesus Christ
set the pattern for our life as the church.
His life as a human being involves us in the common life of all humanity.
His service to those in need commits us to work
for every sort of human well-being.
His suffering makes us sensitive to all the sufferings of the world.
His crucifixion shows us God's judgment on our inhumanity
and the awful consequences of our own complicity in injustice.
The power of the risen Christ is for us the promise of God's renewal.
And the hope of his coming is for us the hope for human life in society
and for God's victory over all wrong.
As his church, we follow the pattern of his life in our life.
For us to live and serve is to confess Jesus Christ as Lord. Amen.

+HYMN #250 *When Morning Lights the Eastern Skies* ST. STEPHEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

“debts/debtors” (Traditional, *Hymnal*, p. 16)

OFFERTORY *Sonatina in B-flat Major* G. F.
Handel

+A DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD 100TH

+PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We Go Out to Serve

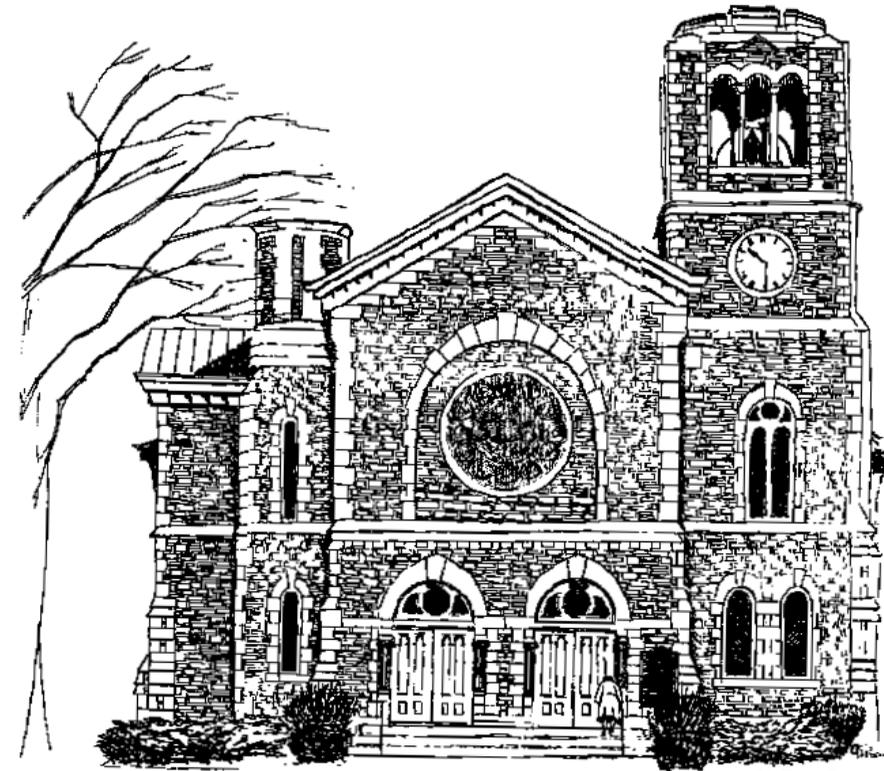
+HYMN #538 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* SICILIAN MARINERS

+CHARGE, BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

+POSTLUDE

STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP

September 27, 2009 ~ 17th Sunday after Pentecost ~ 10:30 a.m.



*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.*

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Dennis Dewey, Designated Pastor
G. Roberts Kolb, Director of Music
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Cros Harvey, Sexton
All the People, Ministers

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