

Rockwood Stone News

Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge

The United Church of Canada

Visit our website at www.rockwoodstoneunitedchurches.com



*"The little church with
a big heart"*

Stone United Church
5370 Fourth Line
Rockwood, ON NOB 2K0

June 2020

Minister: Rev. Heather Leffler

hleffler@rogers.com

519-265-7385

519-573-9642

Secretary: Sharyn Southworth

rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com



"Live, Love, Laugh"

Rockwood United Church
119 Harris St.
Rockwood, ON NOB 2K0

Join us for...



Find us on Facebook. **Friend "Rockwood Stone"** for updates
and reminders about upcoming events.

Join us for **Worship on Sundays on Zoom**. At **9:30 am** we gather for community time.
Worship begins at 10 am. Following worship, there is more time for connecting with one another.
Contact Heather Leffler or check your announcements for the Zoom link.

Sunday, June 14 celebrate

Rockwood's 153rd Anniversary

at **10 am**, on **Zoom**.

Our guest will be the Honourable **Rob Black**.

Senator Black has worked in the rural, agricultural, and leadership arenas for much of his working career. Applying to be a senator in July 2016, in February 2018 he received a call from the Prime Minister, summoning him to the Senate to represent the province of Ontario. The Prime Minister told Rob specifically that he wanted him to bring his background in agriculture, rural community development, and leadership development to the Senate. On February 27, 2018, Rob was sworn in as a senator.

Monday, June 15 join us for

Bible Study

at **7 pm** on **Zoom**.

Ask questions, share ideas and make connections between the Word of God and our lives.

Wednesday, June 17

All are welcome to join in

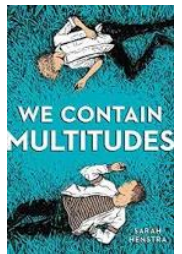
Genesis Book Club

at **7:30 pm**, on **Zoom**

to join in lively conversation about

We Contain Multitudes,

by Sarah Henstra.



Sharyn Southworth, our secretary works from home.
Announcements are emailed on Thursday each week.

Contemplation and Conversation is emailed
on Sunday.

Messages are monitored virtually. Email the church
office at rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com or leave a
message at 519-856-4160.

For **pastoral concerns, to share ideas about how we
can connect when we are apart, or just to talk**, contact
Rev. Heather Leffler at 519-265-7385, 519-573-9642
or hleffler@rogers.com.

For Men: on Thursday, June 18 you are invited to

Coffee Connection!

from 10 am to 12 noon, on Zoom.

Bring your coffee and treats and join in the laughter and lively conversation.



For Women: on Thursday, June 25



come to **Tea and Talk**

from 10 am to 12 noon, on Zoom.

Bring your tea (or coffee) and goodies and join in the chat and friendship!

Friday, June 19 join us for

Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun

beginning at 6 pm on Zoom.

We will enjoy dinner, activities, conversation, crafts, and a casual time of worship.

Contact Heather at hleffler@rogers.com

or 519-265-7385 by **Wednesday, June 17**

so we have you on the list to drop off supper.

Thank you for your generous support of Rockwood and Stone. Your faithfulness through PAR, e-transfers, Canada Helps and postdated cheques is keeping our finances stable and allowing us to continue to serve God in our church communities and the world. Please keep us in mind through the summer.

How can I continue to support our churches?

1. **PAR:** To sign up for monthly Pre-Authorized Remittances or to change your givings, contact Bill Allen at stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com or 519-856-0402 for **Stone** or Amanda Hunter-Anthony at rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com or 519-856-1129 for **Rockwood**.
2. **E-transfer Stone** at stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com or **Rockwood** at rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com. In the memo, please designate whether your offering is for your church, M&S and/or Other.
3. **Canada Helps** is a Canadian registered charity that enables other charities to receive online gifts. Go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/stoneunitedchurch/> or <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/rockwood-united-church/> to make a credit card donation. You can designate your offering to the church, M&S and/or Other in the message box.
4. **Post-Dated Cheques** can be sent to **Stone United Church**, c/o Bill Allen, 4949 Wellington Rd 29, Guelph, ON N1H 6H8 or **Rockwood United Church**, 119 Harris St., Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

Saturday, June 20 is a **Spiritual Saturday**

via Zoom from 1 to-3:30 pm. Join us to learn to pray scripture together, take some time away from the computer to pray the scripture and then come together again to companion each other. Everyone is welcome.

From Rockwood Outreach

In place of the Food Fight, we launched a weekly **Outreach – Food Fix**, which is the email version of a food only silent auction. All proceeds will help to support **EWCS food bank, Anishnabeg Outreach, and the Rural Women’s Support Program**. Check the announcements for this week’s **Food Fix and POP-Up** item and join in the fun.

COVID-19 Global Response -- Even as we

struggle to cope with the COVID-19 outbreak in Canada, people of faith are asking how we, as church, can support those living in the global South who are more vulnerable than ever because of the pandemic. The United Church is accepting donations to extend our compassion and care to those who need it most around the world. The church works closely in Mission & Service partnership relationships so that every dollar you give will do the maximum good.

The United Church is listening intently to partners in Asia, East and Southern Africa, the Middle East, and the global coalition ACT Alliance. Partners describe heartbreaking challenges of hunger, poverty and limited access to health care. For those who rely on work no longer available because of social isolation protocols, the choice is stark: risk exposure to COVID-19 or die of hunger. In some parts of the world, hungry people who venture outside their homes to find food are being arrested or killed.

Mission & Service partners are faithfully helping those who need it most. You can read about how they are turning their compassion into action in the news feed at <https://www.united-church.ca/covid-19-global-response>. Your gifts will support their incredible efforts to respond to the urgent need for food and front-line health care.

Thank you for your generosity, prayers, and all the ways you are living out your call to be the church in these unprecedented times.

Donations can be made through our treasurers, mark your gift "**Emergency Response—COVID-19**" on your cheque, in the memo for your e-transfer or note in Canada helps.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For such a time as this ... Mordecai told his cousin Esther that she was made queen so she could stand up for her people. Esther and the Jews of Susa fasted for three days. Then Esther risked her life to tell her husband, the King of Persia, she too was a Jew and would be killed by his order. The King reversed the edict and the Jewish people were saved.

For such a time as this ... we were called to be God's church in Rockwood and Stone. The One who is Holy Mystery and Holy Love prepared us for this time so that we might ...

*... **care for one another** through ... weekly phone calls and emails in our Circle of Care; calls, emails, texts, cards and driveway visits that honour social distance but express care, sympathy and celebration of birthdays and other special occasions; offering help with groceries and errands and places for others to walk and enjoy the beauty of nature*

*... through **your patience, perseverance, and encouraging others to join together on Zoom** to ... see one another face to face; worship God; receive the gifts of music, our musicians have learned to record to inspire us and help us sing from the safety of our homes; enjoy Lisa Leffler's leadership freeing me to study and take some time to rest; and will welcome Senator Rob Black as Rockwood's anniversary speaker without leaving our homes*

*... **offer Contemplation and Conversation** ... for people who are not able to join us online, so they can reflect on God's Word for them ... thanks to those of you who are taking time to print and deliver announcements and these reflections*

*... **pray for one another** for ... healing for those who are sick; comfort and peace for those grieving the loss of loved ones; essential workers, people who have more work than they can handle and those that can't work; the homeless, hungry and vulnerable; people who are lonely and those who have too much time together; those struggling with depression and anxiety; and wisdom for leaders and decision makers*

*... **generously support our congregations and Outreach ministries** ... through PAR, e-transfers, Canada Helps and postdated cheques so our ministries remain stable, employ our staff, maintain our buildings, and continue to make a difference in our communities and world*

*... **find support** ... through our United Church and Western Ontario Waterways (WOW) Regional Council's webinars to guide our treasurers, committee members and myself in our work and decision making*

*... **learn and grow** ... through Bible Study, Book Club, Spiritual Saturdays and Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun*

*... **serve** by ... checking and making improvements to our buildings; meeting with our Board, Council, Committees and Discernment Circles through email and Zoom; volunteering for new Discernment Circles to help us plan for the time churches can safely reopen and learn to use Zoom to share worship with those at home when we gather again*

*... **have fun** ... through Operation Haircut, our online picnic, planting pumpkins and fighting for Food Fixes, in order to stay connected with each other and our partners in ministry*

*... **deepen our relationships** ... with our First Nations brothers and sisters – who are not only impacted by COVID-19 but by our society's inability to recognize our systemic discrimination – through donating masks, bicycles and helmets and other items to Anishnabeg Outreach ... we have helped families like the young woman and her partner who took in her six siblings and now have bikes so that they can safely exercise and enjoy time outside their home*


... through purchases of fresh and frozen food for East Wellington Community Services so they have needed resources to continue to help the most vulnerable in our community; and donations to the Guelph Drop-in Centre

*... **pray for peace and discern how we can be part of God's justice** ... in the midst of the protests in response to Floyd George's death, we hear in a new way ... when our Executive Minister of WOW tells me that her son who is a six-foot tall, black engineer in Chicago can never speed in his own car for fear of being shot and killed by police who assume a black man in a fast car has stolen it, we begin to know in a new way the daily racism and discrimination that our brothers and sisters face ... examining our own hearts, words and actions and affirming the value of each person we meet we can begin to assure our brothers and sisters that Black Lives Matter ... Indigenous Lives Matter ... Asian Lives Matter ... People with Different Abilities Matter ... All Lives Matter to God and to us*

*... **know God's faithfulness** through Esther and other stories of the Bible and be assured that God is with us in life in death in life beyond death ... we are not alone*

For such a time as this ... God has called us to be the church together. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,



Letters, Notes and Emails ...

Dear Friends,

Many of you will be familiar with the work of Dan Needles. Needles is the creator of the Wingfield Farm stage plays and he farms near Collingwood, Ontario. I recently read a column that he had written in the May/June edition of Small Farm Canada entitled "The Canadian Collective In A Time of Peril". In the piece, he argues that the Canadian collective is alive and well during this trying time of the pandemic. He looks upon these past few months as a time when we have returned to our roots and embraced patterns of community self-care including checking on the elderly, distributing essentials to those in need, sharing, and volunteering.

In his humorous way, Needles describes how he coped as the country shut down. He points out that he had no time to be watching CNN. Lambing season got in the way as he wrestled with reluctant mothers shirking their responsibilities to newborns. No time to worry about stock market melt downs. There were crops to be planted. No time to worry about how to endure self-isolation. Like every farmer, he knew that you just jump in the tractor by yourself and drive in endless circles for days like you do every spring. No time to worry about how to spend his waking hours. The adult children had lost their jobs, returned home to live, and he naturally found tasks for them to do that he had been putting off for decades. Someone had to supervise them! No time to worry about a shortage of food. His wife had been preparing for a nuclear winter since the 1980's.

When I read this piece, I was reminded how the people of Rockwood-Stone mirror the resolute Canadian collective that Needles describes. Our ministries have not withered at a time when we cannot be physically together. Instead they have been strengthened through experimenting with on-line worship using zoom, collecting bikes and sewing face masks for Anishinabeg Outreach, planting pumpkins in anticipation of another harvest for the Canadian Food Grains Bank, and by finding resources to help out the folks of East Wellington Community Services. There have been occasions when we were able to share gifts of music, to celebrate significant birthdays, and to herald the arrival of a new grand child. There have been moments of laughter and good fun as we watched Heather joyfully subjecting herself to the shears wielded by Lisa. There have been times to share stories as we have connected with one another through our circles of care. There have also been times to reach out in support of those who have lost loved ones.

In short, during this time of angst, we have honored our past through our actions, fully embraced the challenges of the present, and look forward with confidence to the future. Our church collective is alive and well. Undoubtedly, big changes still lie ahead for all of us in the wake of the pandemic. This summer, as we build on what we have accomplished by turning obstacles into opportunities, may we be encouraged by the following words of scripture: "...whenver trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything." James 1:2-4 Thanks be to God.

Brian Mack,
Chairperson, Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge

Church Re-opening Commission

The Board appointed Brian Mack, Bill Allen, Jack Ward, Liz Guthrie, Steve Thomson, Sherol Steinberg, Rosslyn Bentley, Barb Eley, Kay Mathies, Marcia Haworth and Heather Leffler as a commission to guide the re-opening of our churches. A commission acts on behalf of the Board. This group will ...

research what needs to be done
before our churches can safely reopen,
put together a plan for reopening,
communicate the plan to the congregations
and put the plan in place.

Volunteers are needed for a

Virtual Worship Discernment Circle

Do you use Zoom or another platform for work or with another group?

Would you be willing to work with Heather to discern best practices for using Zoom or another online platform, including ...

purchasing a license for our congregations and developing how it would be administered;
exploring technical improvements for worship, meetings and studies online;
inviting people to participate online who have been reluctant;
exploring the hardware needed to combine online worship and live worship when our churches reopen.

Please contact Heather at hleffler@rogers.com or 519-265-385.

Committees and Groups ...

Rockwood Worship and Christian Education

Submitted by Barbara Eley

Both Rockwood's and Stone's Worship Committees meet regularly to plan together. Our latest meeting was May 19, where we evaluated previous services and set dates for upcoming worship.

Summary of Work

November 24, 2019 – The annual carol sing, with music provided by the Eramosa Ensemble, was well attended by members from both Rockwood and Stone, as well as some of our neighbours. Much thanks goes to Colleen Baeumler for decorating the church so beautifully.,

December 1 – Advent I – communion was served. Festive wear was once again in place for each Sunday in Advent

December 22 – Kids' Church – re-telling the Christmas Story

December 24 – A new format was tried for Christmas Eve, with the Readings and Reflections service followed immediately by communion and the Family Service. People were welcome to come and go as it suited them. A time of fellowship and refreshment followed.

December 29 – Combined service at Rockwood led by the Worship Committee.

January 5 – Combined service at Stone led by their worship committee. Music provided by the Eramosa Ensemble.

January 26 – Pulpit exchange with Rev. Felicia Urbanski from Erin/Ballinafad. Kids' Church cancelled due to ill children.

February 9 – Worship was led by the Affirming Discernment Circle, with the focus being on presenting more about the process of becoming an affirming congregation and getting feedback/questions/concerns from the congregation.

February 23 – Stone's annual meeting. – Rev. Diane Everitt from Fenwick United preached. Kids' Church focussed on the story of Noah.

March 1 – Lent I – Rockwood's annual meeting.

March 8 – Lent II – Communion was served.

March 15 – During worship, the congregation discussed the situation with Covid19, and it was decided to suspend services in the sanctuary, to begin online

services and to set up a circle of caring to keep everyone in touch.

April 5 – Palm Sunday – First service on Zoom. Kids' Church – emailed the story of Palm Sunday and questions for the kids to consider.

April 10 – Good Friday service with Barrie Hill and Speedside was cancelled – Heather and Lisa Leffler led worship on Zoom

April 12 – Easter Sunday – virtual service – Kids' Church – emailed the Easter Story and a set of interesting Easter facts for the kids to discuss.

April 26 – virtual communion.

May 10 and May 24 – Lisa Leffler preached and moderated the Zoom worship when Heather was on study leave.

Upcoming Events

May 31 – virtual church picnic and communion

June 14 – Rockwood Anniversary, Senator Rob Black will be guest speaker.

The online worship services have been successful, with more people joining as they become comfortable with the technology. Since this is a good way for some people to attend who normally can't make it to church, we will be looking at ways to continue the online worship as a component of regular services, once they resume.

Senior choir and Eramosa Ensemble rehearsals were all suspended as of March 15. We are all looking forward to practising together once again in the future.

Summer services are tentatively arranged and will be confirmed at a later date.

Stone Worship

Submitted by Liz Guthrie

Worship committee members attended Rockwood Stone Worship Committee meetings on January 14 in person, April 16 and May 19, 2020 via Zoom.

Thank you to all our scripture readers.

Worship Highlights:

November 10/19 – Combined Worship/lay led Remembrance Day Service at Stone United Church. Combined choirs sang, "Hymn to Freedom"

December 8, 15 and 22/19 – Worship was cancelled December 1/19 due to poor weather conditions. – During Advent we wore the colours red or green, and festive hats. We contributed items for Anishnabeg Outreach and East Wellington Community Services.

December 24/19 – Christmas Eve Service; A special time of scripture, song and goodwill

Stone Christian Education

Submitted by Tammy Smits

January 5/20 – Combined Worship service was held at Stone Church. Topic of conversation was: Where have you needed to take sanctuary?

January 15, 2020 – The practice of Contemplation and Conversation has begun. Today the question is: What does being baptized mean to you?

January 19/20 – Church cancelled due to a snowstorm.

January 26/20 – Rev. Felicia Urbanski, Ballinafad/Erin United and Rev. Heather Leffler exchanged pulpits.

February 23/20 – The choir sang together for the last time, as it has turned out, “Jesus Bids Us Shine”. Conversation: What mountaintop experience have you had?

March 1/20 – Stone Worship committee led worship using World Day of Prayer materials. Lenten season begins

March 15/20 – Our last service together before social distancing due to COVID-19. It was a time of wondering about the unknown, when we would meet again and saying good-bye

March 29/20 – Chatting via Zoom. How can we use this platform for church services? Thank you to Heather for learning and connecting us together with new technology.

April 5/20 – Palm Sunday service celebrated via Zoom. It was great to connect with everyone

April 10/10 – Good Friday via Zoom

April 12/20 – Easter Sunday via Zoom

April 26/20 – Celebrated Communion via Zoom

May 10 and 24/20 – Lisa Leffler led Zoom church services.

Looking Ahead:

May 31/20 Communion to celebrate Pentecost. We will be having our Pastoral Charge Picnic via Zoom.

June 7/20 Lisa Leffler will lead our service.

Summer Holidays

Our Worship Committees value the community created when we worship together on Zoom rather than having a recorded service. We will continue to meet through the summer on Zoom for fellowship and worship. Lisa Leffler will lead worship when Heather takes vacation. If they are both away, we will share links to other worship services and hold a time of fellowship during the following week.

The Christian Education committee has decided to expand its focus to events that can benefit people of all ages, as the youth are all growing up quickly and have very busy schedules.

Busy and conflicting schedules did not allow for any Hallowe'en or Christmas events with the young people to end 2019.

On January 25th the first Spiritual Saturday was hosted by Lisa Leffler and Heather DeJonge. 6 people attended and it was a great success. More were planned; however, with COVID-19 causing group activities to cease, further Spiritual Saturdays were postponed, as was the Lenten study after the first evening.

There are tentative plans to have the young people meet virtually until further arrangements can be made to have in-person gatherings once again.

Stone Pastoral Care

Submitted by John Leffler

Thank you to everyone who is making phone calls, sending e-mail and notes by post to keep in touch with folks in our Church family who we are thinking about and wishing well. Thank you too for the care packages and visits to members of our congregation while keeping social distancing.

Thank you to Patty who is continuing to send out cards to our church family. Thanks to Carl Baker for dropping off announcements and Contemplation and Conversation to people who do not have email.

Many families continue to receive Broadview, formerly, The United Church Observer with subscriptions paid for by the general fund. Broadview is the successor to the weekly Methodist newspaper, The Christian Guardian, founded in 1829 with educator and political activist Egerton Ryerson as the editor. It may therefore be seen as the oldest continuously published magazine in North America and the second oldest in the English-speaking world. The Christian Guardian was regarded as a major voice in the life of a growing country: as today, it commented not only on matters of religion in Canada but education and political affairs. Ryerson went on to serve in government and is credited with founding the public-school system in Upper Canada. Thanks to everyone who made donations to offset the cost.

Rockwood Pastoral Care

Submitted by Ellen Thomson

The telephone calls and emails through our Circle of Care seem to be working for social contact. Thanks to Ian for continuing to send cards. Everyone received a copy of our directory so please take time to connect with our members of our church family.

Heather and I had a conversation a while ago about planning an information session about what to do and how to prepare for the end of life. This important conversation has been put on hold because of COVID-19.

The Council was pleased to reinstate Marie Milne's membership.

Our activity pages for the Photo Directory have been submitted to IPC. They are not considered an essential service so they will begin working on our directories when they are allowed to return to work.

Stone Canadian Foodgrains Bank Bushels for Change Project

Submitted by Bill Allen

We launched our Year 2 Foodgrains Project in February continuing our Pumpkin Growing theme. Church members were challenged with a Foodgrains Crossword then the world changed. The COVID-19 virus hit us in March with schools, businesses and of course churches being closed. However, in spite of this setback, we have fourteen "green thumbs" taking up the growing challenge this year. Some growers, including this author, believing "the early bird" grows the biggest pumpkin had their early planted seedlings frosted off. Only a minor setback!

The COVID-19 virus is having a devastating impact on world food security. Loss of income, sickness and death have left many families in dire straits. A recent study estimates that the number of people suffering from food insecurity will double this year as a direct result from the coronavirus. The work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is as important as ever.

The Stone Foodgrains Committee will be exploring fundraising opportunities in the near future. In the meantime, we are accepting direct Foodgrains donations. They can be made through one of the following options:

An e-transfer to stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com, through CanadaHelps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/49641> or by mailing a cheque to Bill Allen.

Rockwood Outreach

Submitted by Marcia Haworth

To date this has been an eventful and busy year for Outreach. Firstly, we held our Robbie Burns dinner on the worst night of the year weather-wise, but the best as far as a community event is concerned. Everyone who braved the elements had a wonderful evening. The musicians were absolutely magical, and Outreach made dinner and decorated the hall. We appreciated all the help we received from friends of Outreach. We made a profit of \$1378 which was divided evenly between the general fund and Outreach.

COVID-19 cancelled our plans for our Lenten fund-raiser and the Food Fight, but it geared up our plans to help Anishnabeg Outreach with their bicycle initiative. AO immediately began a Spirit Bundle Offering for the urban indigenous population in Waterloo, Guelph and Wellington and asked for our help. In two weeks, we collected 124 bikes, trikes, scooters and ride-on toys, purchased 14 bike helmets, donated \$550 in Canadian Tire gift cards and 7 women made 300 masks. All are a component of the Spirit Bundle which also includes food, clothing, cleaning supplies, sports equipment, toiletries, diapers, and craft supplies. We did not ask for cash donations, but we received \$410 and we continue to collect Canadian Tire money. We are very grateful to the very many who rallied round to help us respond in such a tangible way.

Fortunately, we had sufficient funds held over from last year and from the dinner so have been able to help out EWCS food bank. To date we have purchased over \$900 of food at their request and are as always grateful to MacMillans Frozen Food for their generous discounts.

In an attempt to continue to fund raise we have just initiated the Food Fix which seems to be going well. We hope it will be fun as well as tasty, enabling us to continue assisting the community agencies that come to us for help.

This week we emptied the church freezer and donated a large quantity of food to the Drop-In Centre in Guelph. In addition, Sherol Steinberg generously donated 16 pounds of pulled pork that was prepared for the cancelled Variety Show and dinner.

Rockwood Property & Finance

Submitted by Sherol Steinberg

Thanks to the committee for welcoming me, with special thanks to Scott Jamieson whose mentoring helps keep me on track.

House of Joy: All of the furnace grant money has been received. Numerous small jobs around the building have been completed along. This fall the lease with EWCS is up. It has been agreed upon at Council that the relationship between Rockwood United Church and EWCS is a positive one that we would like to continue, and we will be looking to renegotiating the lease with them. The mortgage is currently held by Extension Council. The Rockwood Trustees have been directed to look into a mortgage renewal with Extension Council. Goetz Construction have paved the driveway at no cost.

Church: The women's bathroom has been painted. Kevin Anthony has gotten so good at stonework after working in the basement that he is now proceeding on the outside of the narthex 'stone' work, fixing all the cracks and loose stones. The fire extinguishers have been checked by Scott Jamieson. Darryl Nichol, Scott Jamieson and I met with representatives from Goetz Construction to discuss the parking lot. They have used our parking lot for their construction trailer and porta potty while the work on Harris Street is progressing. They have paved Rev. Leffler's parking spot and are to restore the landscaping stones to the proper space, fill in any gaps and do sodding/seeding. They have regraded the parking lot adding gravel and ground asphalt to a portion of it and rolled it. The Committee members have been working on a list of tasks that will be scheduled when we are able to consistently be in the buildings

COVID-19 Updates

Roger's work crew were to come and help for a day but due to COVID-19 it has been postponed. Use of the hall and all rentals have been suspended. The hot water heater has been shut off, while the building is not in use.

Finances

We are able to accept donations through PAR, e-transfer sent to rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com and Canada Helps. Thanks to the congregation's generosity and support throughout this time. Thank you to Amanda and Bill for their help during Operation Hair, and for Rev. Leffler's generous donation of her hair. The money raised by each church went towards their finances, with 80% going to the general fund/charge, 10% going to Outreach and 10% going to M&S -- with the exception of \$100 which was targeted towards Outreach at Rockwood.

Our finances are currently stable—all outstanding bills are paid and, we have enough to pay upcoming expenses.

Stone Property & Finance

Submitted by Jack Ward and Bill Allen

- We welcomed Ed Nagel to our committee
- Beef dinner plans on hold for now.
- All the old church windows are now sold.
- The maple syrup fundraiser was another success. Thanks to those who helped in taking orders, buying and picking up the syrup. Completed last week of March. Net proceeds from sales were \$3,251.00.
- We are disposing of the old wooden tables that were replaced by folding plastic ones.
- Water sample in January was okay. April sample was not done as COVID-19 caused the lab to be closed. Wellington Dufferin Health Unit advised us to wait until 2 weeks before reopening Church to do another.
- Yard cleanup will be planned later.

The committee is exploring several items in relation to church maintenance:

- getting quotes and looking at options to insulate the church but no firm prices to present at this time
- looking at getting the furnaces serviced but are finding fewer companies that work on oil furnaces
- repairing a pew with a small split in it
- looking at purchasing 25 additional chairs (possibly good folding chairs) for the basement

At the beginning of the church close down in March, we have been working closely with the Pastoral Charge and the Rockwood Church to ensure we remain financially sound and able to continue supporting our church members and broader community in these challenging times.

Thank you to church members who are on PAR givings thus providing a base of ongoing support and thank you to members who have donated through e-transfer, CanadaHelps or sent cheques to Treasurer Bill. We are grateful for the sustained financial support for Stone UC.

At the end of April, we are showing a deficit from operations of \$3,000. This is not unusual at this time of year. On the positive side of the ledger, we have received \$7,025 in memorial donations and have been able to reinvest \$45,000 in GIC's that came due in April.

If you have any questions regarding the Stone Church finances, please contact me at stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com or 519-856-0402.

Rockwood Stone Finance & Stewardship

Submitted by Heather Leffler

Our committee met on April 14 by Zoom to hear from our treasurers how COVID-19 was impacting our churches.

Several committee members took part in webinars offered by United in Learning to help churches apply for the support the Canadian Government offered. Roy Steinberg applied for and we received the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers for our minister and secretary from mid March until mid June.

Thanks to Chris Barlow for setting up dedicated email accounts for our treasurers at Stone and Rockwood, and Bill Allen and Amanda Hunter-Anthony for registering for Canada Helps, we were able to send a Message to our Churches about how we can give when we are worshipping online. The letter was emailed to everyone who receives the announcements. Heather then mailed it with an invitation to all members of Rockwood and Stone that we have contact information for to support our churches and join us online for worship.

We are grateful for the ongoing generosity of our members; memorial gifts Stone received; the \$1980 raised by Operation Haircut; North and Centre Wellington Community Resource Centre agreeing to pay rent every other month when they are not using Day Hall; and a generous donation for the Affirming Discernment Circle. Our finances have remained stable and we continue to support our partners in this time.

Stone U.C.W.

Submitted by Edie Ward

Under normal circumstances Ladies meet at the Church at noon with their bagged lunches and tea and desserts are served. No meetings have been held in 2020.

For our November 2019 meeting Ollie Darcie showed a video reflecting the importance of remembering our service people. Disbursement of funds was finalized. A candle was lit in Memory of Joyce Hartung and each member shared a memory of Joyce. December meeting was our Christmas Potluck luncheon. Barb Parker showed slides of her trip to Tasmania.

Our next meeting will be announced later.

UCW will provide lunch for funerals, etc. of sandwiches, sweets, pickles, vegetables, fruit, tea, coffee and juice. Families are asked to make suggested donation of \$5.00 per person for the number requested.

Pastoral Charge Board

Submitted by Heather Leffler

The Board met Saturday, June 7 by Zoom and reviewed the work done by the **Governance Discernment Circle** -- Bill Allen, Heather DeJonge, Sherol Steinberg, Heather and Sarah Leffler, Brian Mack. Special thanks to Bill for drafting the following policies, procedures, terms of reference and position descriptions which the Board adopted.

Principles that Guide the Work of Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge

The pastoral charge board believes that the work of the charge at all levels should be deeply intentional with a focus on ministry in its many forms. Emphasis should be placed on developing, empowering, and releasing people to engage in meaningful ministry in keeping with their individual gifts.

Approach to Governance

Committed to growing and living as disciples and followers of Jesus, we believe in an approach to governance that mirrors the teachings associated with the gospels. Discussions, decision-making, and actions taken at any level of governance should be made in a safe, nurturing atmosphere characterized by the following:

- Healthy relationships
- Honest, constructive dialogue leading to consensus
- Regular prayer and discernment
- Growth in the understanding of United Church's mission, guiding principles, focus, and culture etc.
- Enhancement and celebration of inclusivity and diversity
- Permission granting rather than a permission withholding culture
- Emphasis on the future rather than day to day management
- Growth in the understanding of mandated tasks (especially Board/Councils and those which may be easily delegated)
- Dedication to being good stewards of God's world
- A willingness to evaluate ministries of the congregations on a regular basis

This is a living document.

Committee Restructure

Following the decision of Stone Council to merge their Worship and Christian Education Committees and the Rockwood and Stone Councils to move Fellowship responsibilities from Worship to Pastoral Care Committees, each church will have a Worship and Christian Education Committee and a Pastoral Care and Fellowship Committee.

Meeting Schedule

Beginning September 2020, the following be the meeting schedule for Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge ...

- two meetings of **Board in May and November**
- two meetings of **Councils in January and September**
- two meetings of **Finance and Stewardship in April and October**
- three meetings of **Pastoral Charge Worship in January, April and September**
- Annual Meetings the first and second or **third Sundays in February on depending Family Day**
- all committees to meet as needed to fulfill their mandates

Rockwood Stone Board and Council Structure

Pastoral Charge Board – 18 members

Chairperson (1) – elected from Board

Secretary (1) – elected from Board

Treasurer (1) – elected from Board

Rockwood and Stone Council Chairpersons (2)
or designates

Rockwood and Stone Treasurers (2)

Ministry & Personnel Chairperson (1) or designate

Pastoral Charge Trustees Chairperson (1) or designate

Congregational Committee Chairperson or designate

Worship and Christian Education (2)

Pastoral Care and Fellowship (2)

Outreach or UCW (2)

Property and Finance (2)

Minister (1)

Members and adherents are welcome to attend and speak at Board meetings but only the above positions vote.

Congregational Councils – 9 members

Rockwood Council

Chairperson (1)

Secretary (1)

Treasurer (1)

Committee Chairperson or designate

**Worship and
Christian Education** (1)

**Pastoral Care and
Fellowship** (1)

Outreach (1)

Property and Finance (1)

Trustees (1)

Minister (1)

Members and adherents are welcome to attend and speak at Council meetings but only the above positions vote.

Stone Council

Chairperson (1)

Secretary (1)

Treasurer (1)

**Worship and
Christian Education** (1)

**Pastoral Care and
Fellowship** (1)

UCW (1)

Property and Finance (1)

Trustees (1)

Minister (1)

Policies for Pastoral Charge

Terms of References for the Pastoral Charge Board, Finance and Stewardship Committee, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Worship Committee and Trustees; Position Descriptions for Board Chair, Board Secretary and Pastoral Charge Treasurer; as well as the attached Policy to Guide the Approval of Discernment Circles and New Initiatives were adopted as living documents.

Next Steps

The Governance Discernment Circle will share drafts of position descriptions and terms of reference for the Rockwood and Stone Councils and Committees including Nominations Committee. These documents will be shared with the Councils and Committees over the summer and be taken to the September Council meetings.

A governance workshop will be planned for 2021.

ROCKWOOD-STONE PASTORAL CHARGE POLICIES

Reports to:	Rockwood and Stone United Churches
Date Drafted	2020-05-08
Date Approved	2020-06-06
Date Revised	

Policy to Guide Approval of Discernment Circles and New Initiatives

Purpose

From time to time there is a need to form an ad hoc Discernment Circle or Committee to address challenges or possibilities impacting the Pastoral Charge or one of our congregations. In addition, there may be a desire by a church Committee or an informal group of church members to initiate an outreach, fundraising or other project. This policy outlines the process for seeking approval to form such a Discernment Circle or Committee or to undertake a new activity.

Definition

A **Discernment Circle** is a time-limited group formed to address a specific challenge, question or possibility faced by one of the churches or the Pastoral Charge as a whole. The Circle will explore the issue, identify, and consult stakeholders and determine how the circle will be widened. If appropriate, recommendations will be developed and brought before the appropriate governing body for approval or move to the New Initiative process. Examples: Governance, Affirming Church.

A **New Initiative** is a project providing financial or other support to our churches or organizations not formally associated with either of the churches in our Pastoral Charge. The initiative may be proposed by a Committee from one of the churches or an informal group of church members. Examples: Anishnabeg Outreach, Canadian Foodgrains Project, Big Bicycle Bonanza.

Approval Process

Discernment Circle: The purpose of the Circle, estimated time frame and proposed membership should be presented to the Minister and Chair of the appropriate governing body (Church Council or Charge Board). The Chair, in consultation with the Minister will determine if formation of the Circle requires approval of the full Board or Council.

New Initiative: The purpose of the initiative, organization to support, proposed budget and fundraising objectives should be presented to the Minister and Chair of the appropriate governing body. The submission should also indicate the anticipated level of participation and support by the church members. If the initiative involves significant budget or fundraising implications or has potential impact for the other church, it should be approved by the appropriate governing body. If not, the Chair and Minister will decide if there is a need to seek approval from the governing body or if they will approve.

ROCKWOOD-STONE PASTORAL CHARGE POLICIES

As a matter of course, the other church should be informed of the new initiative.

Reporting

The Discernment Circle will periodically report to the appropriate governing body with updates and any recommendations for approval.

New Initiatives will report project results to the governing body and the broader church community annually, or at the completion of the project.

Both Discernment Circles and New Initiatives should provide an update for the Annual Report.

When the purpose of the Discernment Circle or New Initiative has been achieved the group would submit a final report that states their work is finished and the group has come to an end.

Policy Review

The Board should review the Policy at least once every five years and adjust as appropriate.