



# Rockwood Stone News

Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge  
The United Church of Canada

Visit our website at [www.rockwoodstoneunitedchurches.com](http://www.rockwoodstoneunitedchurches.com)



*"Live, Love, Laugh"*

**Rockwood United Church**  
119 Harris St.  
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

## November 2022

**Minister: Rev. Heather Leffler**

[hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com)

519-265-7385 or text 519-573-9642

**Office:**

Messages are monitored virtually.

[rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com](mailto:rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com)

519-856-4160



Connect with us on Facebook at  
**Rockwood-Stone**  
for Contemplation and Conversation, updates  
and reminders about upcoming events.



*"The little church  
with a big heart"*

**Stone United Church**  
5370 Fourth Line  
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

*Join us for...*

**Worship** on **Sundays** at **9:45 am** on **Zoom** and **In-person Worship** at **Stone**  
and at **11:15 am** for **In-person Worship** at **Rockwood**.

To join **Zoom** for **Worship and Meetings** click on the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6995074926?pwd=eTk1T1d0V2NXVFNxazlEcGpuL3JpUT09> . To join by phone, dial +1-647-374-4685 or +1-647-558-0588 and enter **Meeting ID: 699 507 4926** and **Password: 20120701**.

If you are having trouble connecting to Zoom or would like help trying it for the first time, contact Heather Leffler at 519-265-7385, [hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com) or text 519-573-9642.

To receive  
the **Announcements** on **Thursdays**,  
**Contemplation and Conversation**  
on **Sundays**

each week, contact the office.

If you don't have email,  
we can provide printed copies.

For pastoral concerns, to share ideas  
about our activities, outreach or worship,  
or just to talk, contact Rev. Heather Leffler  
at 519-265-7385, text 519-573-9642 or  
[hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com).

If you would like a copy of the worship slides  
each Sunday, you can also email Heather.

## **Congregational Packages for Advent and Christmas**

Do you have two or three winter or Christmas pictures you would share for Christmas cards?

Would you be willing to bake cookies for November 25 or help with preparing the packages on November 26? Please contact Heather at [hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com) or 519-265-7385, to volunteer.

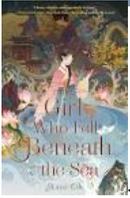
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**Tuesday, November 15** join us for  
**Bible Study**

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

Ask questions, share ideas and make connections between the Word of God and our lives, as we continue our study of the epistles. with 2 Timothy.

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**Wednesday, November 16,**  
**Genesis Book Club**

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

join us for a thoughtful,  
thought-provoking discussion of

**The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea** by Axie Oh.

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**November 17** and every other **Thursday**

**For Women:** come to **Tea and Talk**

from **10 am** to **12 noon**, on **Rockwood**.

Share in the lively conversations, laughter,

and share delicious treats!



**November 24** and every other **Thursday**,

**For Men:** you are invited to

**Coffee Connections**

from **10 am** to **11 am**, on **Zoom**.



Bring your coffee (or tea) and snacks and share in the lively conversations, laughter and good company.!

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**Saturday, November 19** join us at **10am**  
**outside at Rockwood to Deck the Halls**

see the announcements for details.

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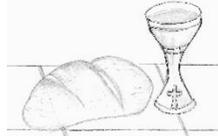
### **Spiritual Saturdays**

Join us on **November 26** and the last Saturday of each month on **Zoom** from **1 to 3:30 pm**

If you are praying scripture for the first time, contact Lisa Leffler to learn the practice. Email [lleffler@live.ca](mailto:lleffler@live.ca) by Wednesday to receive the materials. Take time to pray the scripture. At 1 pm on Saturday afternoon join the group on Zoom, meet with and companion one another, and share in the large group conversation. Everyone is welcome.

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**Communion** will be celebrated  
**November 27**  
the first **Sunday of Advent**  
at **9:45 am** at **Stone** and on **Zoom**  
at **11:15 am** at **Rockwood**



### **Wear Your Festive Apparel for Advent ...**

On **November 27** wear something **red**

on **December 4** wear **green**

on **December 11** wear a **festive hat**

on **December 18** wear **all of the above**

add adornments like festive belts,  
dangly earrings and more – homemade all the  
better and join us for **Worship!**



### **Advent Gifts** – In the Spirit of Christmas

help us support **Anishnabeg Outreach**  
Spirt Bundles. Watch the announcements  
for a list of items needed.

Consider making a donation  
to one of our outreach projects –

**Mission and Service, Anishnabeg Outreach,**  
**Canadian Foodgrains Project.**

**East Wellington Community Services** and  
the **Rural Women's Support Program.**

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### **Outreach Christmas Market**

**November 27** from **10:30 am** to **1:30 pm**  
start your Christmas shopping at **Rockwood**.



Order your fresh Christmas arrangements to be picked up at the market. There will be homemade goodies for people and pets, a mini-Silent Auction, Christmas crafts, Christmas cards and more.

The proceeds will enable us to give grocery gift cards to the clients of EWCS food bank and the women and children receiving support from the Rural Women's Support Program.

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**Sunday, November 27**

begin the Christmas season with  
**An Evening of Christmas Carols**  
at **7 pm**, at **Rockwood** and on **Zoom**  
with our own Eramosa Ensemble.



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**Friday, December 9**  
and the **second Friday of each month**  
**Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun**  
beginning at **6 pm, at Rockwood.**

Join us for dinner, conversation, activities, a craft, and casual time of worship. Contact Heather at [hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com) or 519-265-7385 by the Wednesday before each event so we know how many people to cook dinner for.

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**Saturday, December 10** enjoy a  
**Country Breakfast**  
at **Rockwood, from 8 to 11 am**

Sponsored by Stone Foodgrains Committee with proceeds to **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**

Please see the announcements or website for more details.



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### **Christmas Day**

Join Heather Christmas morning for **worship at 10 am on Zoom.**  
You are welcome to join us in your Christmas pj's.



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### **New Year's Day**

the Worship and Faith Formation Committee will lead worship **at 10 am on Zoom.**

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Beginning **Saturday, January 28, 2023**

### **Country Breakfasts**

are back the last Saturday of the month at **Rockwood, from 8 to 11 am**

Bring your family, friends and neighbours for a delicious breakfast and lively conversation. If anyone would like to **help serve, cook, clear tables or clean the kitchen afterwards**, please contact Marcia at **519-856-4968.**

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### **Christmas Eve**

from **6:15 to 7 pm** we will share **Readings and Reflections** accompanied by flute music at **Rockwood.**

At **7:30 pm** we will celebrate **the Birth of Jesus**

with **Communion, Scripture Story, Song and Conversation** at **Stone.**



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### **Annual Meetings**

**Stone's Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 5.**

**Rockwood's Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 12.**

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**PAR:** To sign up for monthly Pre-Authorized Remittances or to change your givings, for **Stone** contact Bill Allen at [stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com) or 519-841-4170 for **Rockwood** contact Amanda Hunter-Anthony at [rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com) or 519-856-1129.

**E-transfer** to **Stone** at [stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com) or **Rockwood** at [rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com).

In the memo, please designate whether your offering is for your church, M&S, one of our partners and/or Other and include your contact information.

**Cheques** can be sent to **Stone United Church**, PO Box 57 Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0 or **Rockwood United Church**, 119 Harris St., Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0.

**Canada Helps** is a Canadian registered charity that enables other charities to receive credit card donations. Go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/stoneunitedchurch/> or <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/rockwood-united-church/>. You can designate your offering in the message box.

*Thank you  
for  
supporting  
our churches  
and  
outreach  
partners!*

## Letters, Notes and Emails ...

*In Advent, we will sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" in anticipation of Jesus' birth. Through Jesus' birth, life, ministry and death, he was Emmanuel – God with us. Jesus modeled how to live our lives as prayer – loving God and loving each other with our thoughts, words and actions.*

*At Pentecost, Jesus sent his Spirit to live in us. This means whenever we think of someone fondly, share words of love, or care for another with our actions, we are a living prayer spreading God's love. Being a part of Christ's church, we are invited to be intentional in prayer.*

*My prayer is gratitude for*

- the gift of once again being able to worship and gather in person to share food and fellowship*
- being with the people who had not been able to join us on Zoom and those who have joined us after a time away*
- your patience as we work with technology to connect those who can't be physically present in our gatherings*
- the support and guidance of our Reopening Commission through the pandemic and everyone who continues to be aware of the well being of others as we learn to live with Covid*
- our churches, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council and our United Church of Canada continuing to meet online when possible, to care for the earth by using fewer resources and care for people by saving driving time*
- your care for each other through thoughts, prayers, emails, notes, calls and visits*
- our church learning and growing together through conversations, studies and webinars and confessing that words and actions we shared in the past were misguided at best and harmful at worst as we seek right relations with our First Nations and Métis siblings, work to be affirming and seek justice for all of God's people*
- your care for people who are hungry, thirsty and in need of safe places to live through your support of our partners – Mission and Service, Anishnabeg Outreach, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, East Wellington Community Service and the Rural Women's Support Program*

*Thank you for being Christ's hands and feet in the world and a living prayer for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Blessings,*

*Debbie Leffler*



excerpts from St. Patrick's Breastplate - 433 CE

I arise today

Through a mighty strength,  
the invocation of the Trinity,  
Through belief in the Threeness,  
Through confession of the Oneness  
of the Creator of creation.

I arise today

Through the strength of Christ's birth  
with his baptism,  
Through the strength  
of his crucifixion with his burial,  
Through the strength of his resurrection  
with his ascension,  
Through the strength of his descent  
for the judgment of doom.

I arise today

Through the strength of the love  
of cherubim,  
In the obedience of angels,  
In the service of archangels,  
In the hope of resurrection to meet  
with reward,  
In the prayers of patriarchs,  
In the predictions of prophets,  
In the preaching of apostles,  
In the faith of confessors,  
In the innocence of holy virgins,  
In the deeds of righteous people.

I arise today, through  
The strength of heaven,  
The light of the sun,  
The radiance of the moon,  
The splendor of fire,  
The speed of lightning,  
The swiftness of wind,  
The depth of the sea,  
The stability of the earth,  
The firmness of rock.

I arise today, through  
God's strength to pilot me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me  
From snares of devils,  
From temptation of vices,  
From everyone who shall wish me ill,  
afar and near. ...

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who  
thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who  
speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today  
Through a mighty strength,  
the invocation of the Trinity,  
Through belief in the Threeness,  
Through confession of the Oneness  
of the Creator of creation.

**November 2022**

### ***A Message from the Pastoral Charge Board Chair***

*Dear Friends,*

*What glorious weather we have had this fall! The trees have been more colourful than ever, giving us many splendid weeks of various stages of beauty. Winter will come, though, and we will adjust our focus of admiration to the beauty of a bright winter scene. Indoor gatherings will become more prevalent, and our church services will be offered as in-person and virtual, so that everyone's needs can be met. If anything 'good' can be said about the pandemic, it is that we have become more skilful using technology so that Zoom calls can be used, not only for meetings, but also Sunday services.*

*I encourage everyone to reconnect with church friends if the pandemic has forced you to lose touch. Being back at church has given me a positive feeling that we are gradually getting back to normal. I, personally, feel comfortable with the space and environment of the in-person service, simply because of some of the considerate modifications that have been made. Examples of this are sitting while singing hymns, the choir wearing masks, the congregants spreading themselves out throughout the sanctuary with many choosing to wear masks, and ushers not collecting the offering during the service. The virtual connection is also a great way to stay connected. From the comfort of your own home, or from anywhere in the world, you can take part in the service as it happens or watch it later on YouTube.*

*Our church committee members have made it a priority to improve the virtual connection. They have applied for grants, dedicated time, and budgeted for costs to improve our technology equipment. When the high-speed internet connection is completed at Stone, and the new audio and visual equipment is in place, our virtual connections will be greatly improved.*

*A reminder, though, to everyone, that opening our buildings and providing reliable equipment does come at a cost. Routine expenses such as insurance, utilities, salaries, and upkeep continue to occur whether our buildings are open or closed. Both churches are having to make difficult choices as budgets have been severely challenged during the last three years. I hope that you will consider supporting your church in any way you can in the months ahead.*

*Take care,  
Randy Dewey*

## Committees and Groups ...

### **Rockwood and Stone Worship and Faith Formation**

*Submitted by Barb Eley and Brian Mack*

#### **A Word of Thanks**

We are grateful to God for everyone in our congregations who have contributed their time and talent to ensure that we have remained “in community” during the past few months. Our worship services have evolved as folks share pictures, stories, personal experiences, and song during worship. It has been a learning curve for all of us as we continue to experiment with the delivery of hybrid worship and adjust to new ways of meeting and being together in our faith formation groups. We recognize the extra work of our Pastoral Charge Secretary, Lisa Leffler, in so many ways behind the scenes to ensure that the worship service flows smoothly and that our on-line presence is enhanced. We are especially indebted to Rev. Heather Leffler for her flexibility as she continues to offer us messages that challenge us to grow in faith, to be supportive of one another and the wider community, and to reflect on how scripture and story relate to our lives in 2022

#### **Recent Faith Formation Activities**

- **Bible Study** (Heather Leffler) – winter/spring study focused on the writings of Paul with lively discussions concerning the early church and our approach to contemporary worship not held over the summer but recommenced September 27 beginning with study of 1 Timothy
- **Spiritual Saturdays** (Lisa Leffler, Heather DeJonge) – “Rooted in God, Growing in Faith” was the winter/spring theme; for the summer, participants met in pairs; at their convenience reconvened September 24 with the theme “Connecting with God...in others”
- **Tea & Talk/Coffee Connections** – participants took a break over the summer; ladies started to meet in person as of September 8; men began meeting on Zoom on September 15

- **Genesis Book Club** – meeting monthly except for August, was a lively forum for literary discussion and sharing – resumed September 21 on Zoom
- **Combined Choirs** (Barb Eley, Liz Guthrie) – met periodically to share song together while distanced and masked – songs were recorded for use during summer; practices are continuing on Thursday nights at Stone
- **Creation Packages** – distributed beginning September 11 – The theme of “sharing with our partners” was inspired by Worship and Faith Formation, the Outreach and CFGB Committees, and Barb Parker-activities were designed by the Leffler and Smith Families; reflections were written by Rev. Leffler; a poem about creation was courtesy of Brian Mack; copying was done by Lisa Leffler; the packages were prepared by the Leffler and Smith families and were picked up at our church or delivered by volunteers
- **Faith, Food, and Fellowship** (Heather Leffler, John Leffler, Lisa Leffler) – three outdoor gatherings on the lawn at Rockwood United were held over the summer and one in-door gathering in the fall
- **Contemplation and Conversation** – contributions by Heather Leffler, Lisa Leffler, Tammy Smits, Barb Parker, Barb Eley, and Brian Mack

#### **Worship**

During the course of the summer from June 5 until September 4, there were fourteen Sundays. The Worship and Faith Formation Committee provided for a balanced schedule between the two churches for in-person gatherings. When facilities and personnel permitted, Zoom gatherings at 10 am preceded these in-person services. Since September 11, the normal pattern of worship has been a hybrid service at Stone at 9:45 am followed by an in-person service at 11:15 am at Rockwood.

Worship highlights since June 5 are as follows:

- **Communion**-Communion was celebrated on June 5 and October 2. The October 2 service marked the first time that we have been able to celebrate communion in-person since March of 2020. Thanks to our servers for their flexibility as to the distribution of the elements.

- **Church Anniversaries** – Stephen Jackson, CEO of Anishnabeg Outreach, was the guest speaker at Rockwood on June 12. Cathy Lennon, GM of Ontario Federation of Agriculture, spoke at Stone on October 16. The combined Rockwood-Stone Choir sang “For the Beauty of the Earth”. The service at Stone was followed by a Stone Soup Luncheon and a gathering at the farm of Paul and Diane May to wrap up the Foodgrains project.
- **Orange Shirt Sunday** – Congregants were encouraged to wear orange shirts on September 25 to symbolize our standing together with our Indigenous brothers and sisters to demonstrate our awareness of the impact of the Residential School system.
- **Confirmation** – Heidi Smits, Lane Sylvester, and Emma Thomson were confirmed at Stone on October 23. A video recording of A Song of Faith, which served as the culminating project for the members of the confirmation class, was shared. Cupcakes made by Lisa and Sarah Leffler and decorated by the group were enjoyed by the congregation following the service.
- **All Saint’s Sunday** – A special service was offered on October 30 to recognize those who have died in our congregations since the beginning of the pandemic.
- **Remembrance Sunday** – Rockwood United hosted our annual Remembrance Sunday on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The combined Rockwood-Stone Choir sang “Come Home”.

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### ***Rockwood Stone Ministry and Personnel***

*Submitted by Brian Mack*

At the May 25 meeting, discussion focused on the responsibility of the Committee to have conversations with all lay employees and the minister. A suggested format for usage by committee members as they conduct these interviews was considered. Committee members volunteered to meet individually with all lay employees. Rosslyn Bentley and Brian Mack agreed to conduct the more formal annual review of Rev. Heather Leffler.

At the October 12 meeting, summaries of the conversations conducted were presented to Ministry

and Personnel and the diligent work of all our lay employees were noted with thanks. Since the choirs are meeting as one at the moment, Rosslyn Bentley volunteered to meet with Heather Blair, Liz Guthrie, and Barb Eley to review responsibilities and time allocations as organists and choir directors.

Rev. Leffler’s review was received, and she was thanked for the many ways in which she lives out the great commandment “to love one another.” Her extra efforts to build community especially during Covid-19 were applauded.

As part of her review, Rev. Leffler identified three on-going goals that would help frame her approach to Ministry in 2023.

- To continue to involve more people in worship planning, the writing of Contemplation and Conversation pieces, and the development of meaningful congregational packages
- To support our Pastoral Care Committees
- To support our congregations in reaching out in new ways to the community

M & P has a responsibility to provide input re: salaries and benefits for lay employees and Ministry Personnel for the upcoming year. Recommendations were agreed to by consensus and forwarded to the Combined Finance and Stewardship Committee, Council Treasurers, and Council Chairs for their consideration. Since Rev. Leffler will be eligible for sabbatical in 2024, it was further suggested that consideration be given in the pastoral charge budget for the setting aside of funds in advance of that sabbatical.

At the Board meeting of May 10, a committee consisting of Barb Eley, Brian Mack, Rosslyn Bentley and Rev. Heather Leffler were tasked with updating the job description associated with the position of Pastoral Charge Secretary with an eye to hiring a new secretary before year end. Given the fluidity associated with providing for effective hybrid worship, this committee has not yet met, and Lisa Leffler has agreed to continue in her position for the foreseeable future until the appropriate technology is in place.

Ministry and Personnel will next meet in March of 2023.

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**Rockwood and Stone**  
**Reopening Commission**  
*Submitted by Brian Mack*

The Reopening Commission met on August 24 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. It was agreed by consensus that

- Worship would be on Zoom and in-person at Stone beginning September 11 at 9:45 am
- Worship would be in-person at Rockwood beginning September 11 at 11:15 am
- Small groups could begin to meet in-person, if they wish to do so
- Food and beverages may now be served indoors
- Masking and social distancing will be optional – people are asked to be respectful of the needs and desires of those around them
- Choir would review covid guidelines/best practices and determine their own approach as to distancing, masking, rehearsing
- Each congregation to consider applying for UP funds to support technological improvements at both Rockwood and Stone to better support hybrid worship using zoom.
- The Pastoral Charge Board will be asked to disband the Commission with the proviso that the Council chairs, the Pastoral Charge Board Chair, and the Minister be empowered to make decisions concerning reopening should circumstances warrant in keeping with emergent provincial or Wellington Dufferin Guelph Heath guidelines

The Commission wishes to thank our congregations for their support during the past 2.5 years. We are grateful for the care and concern that congregants have shown for each other as we attempted to keep everyone safe. Thanks to Randy Dewey, Jack Ward, and Sherol Steinberg who served as gatekeepers throughout. Special thanks to Rev. Leffler for her willingness to innovate.

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**Rockwood Outreach**  
*Submitted by Marcia Haworth*

As we support our neighbours at a local and global level, and accommodate Covid restrictions, we continue trying out new fund-raising ideas.

In September we invited our congregations to stand in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters by wearing an orange shirt to demonstrate our awareness of the impact of the Residential School system in Canada. As we continue our special partnership with the Anishnabeg Outreach Program we have been involved in raising awareness about Every Child Matters Orange Shirt Day on September 30. We raised enough money to fund four Orange Shirt Pin Sponsorship Programs. Each \$150 raised provides Indigenous people with beads, workshops mentorship and guidance to establish their own business while learning traditional Indigenous beading Initiatives.

We have recently helped EWCS food bank respond to increased demand for their services by funding a “freezer fill” to enable their clients to access protein rich foods and are so grateful to our friends at MacMillan’s Frozen Foods for their generous discount on our purchases. In addition, we moved our usual Thanksgiving food drive forward by a couple of weeks so that food bank clients would have additional nutritional options prior to the actual weekend. We have also committed to providing breakfast ingredients for EWCS Christmas hamper program, and our latest Food Fix auction will go a long way in helping us meet this goal.

On November 27 we will host a new venture by holding a Christmas Market at RUC, during and after morning worship. This will feature fresh Christmas arrangements, homemade goodies for people and pets, a mini-Silent Auction, Christmas crafts, and more. The proceeds will enable us to give grocery gift cards to the clients of EWCS food bank and the women and children receiving support from the Rural Women’s Support Program.

We have received generous support from our congregation and are hopeful that we will come close to our Mission and Service Target of \$12,250 for 2022.

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## **Stone Canadian Foodgrains Bank Project**

*Submitted by Bill Allen*

Stone United Church in conjunction with the churches of Rockwood, Barrie Hill, Speedside, Erin/Ballinafad, Ebenezer and Arkell carried out their fourth Foodgrains growing project. This year, zucchinis were added to pumpkins and sunflowers for the growing competitions. The project wrap-up was held October 16 at the May's farm. In spite of the inclement weather, an enthusiastic crowd joined the Stone United Church for conclusion of the growing competitions and to recognize World Food Sunday.

The Stone Project is one of many growing projects to raise money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in its mandate to combat global hunger. Currently, it is estimated over 800 million people globally are experiencing hunger. Food insecurity is impacted by people fleeing violent conflict, climate change, natural disasters, political upheaval, and economic disruptions. This year, the conflict in Ukraine has added to the global food crisis. This past year, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank provided funding to almost one million people in 34 countries for emergency food assistance and long-term sustainable agriculture development.

Winners in the growing competitions included Flora Benham for the heaviest pumpkin, Marg Baker with the smallest pumpkin and Lisa Leffler for the best decorated. Murray Oliver grew the tallest sunflower at 14 feet as well as the largest zucchini.

At the end of October, money raised to-date for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank stands at almost \$5,000. We are still accepting donations for this important cause by e-transfer to [stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com) or mailed to Stone United Church, Box 57, Rockwood, NOB 2K0.

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## **Rockwood Stone Finance & Stewardship**

*Submitted by Heather Leffler*

The committee met on November 2 to hear reports from our treasurers and give input to the pastoral charge budget for 2023, including planning for our minister's sabbatical in 2024. The committee is very grateful to everyone who supports our churches and

outreach projects through PAR, e-transfers and envelope givings.

Bill Allen shared that the United Church is moving to self-insurance. The new program – United Assurance is expected to save our churches 15% on our church insurance costs in 2023.

Committee members gave input to the updated fee schedules for funerals and weddings and were reminded that to meet our charitable status obligations the fees need to be the same for members and non-members. It was also noted that our churches can receive gifts in kind for goods with receipts but not for services.

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## **Stone Property & Finance**

*Submitted by Jack Ward*

Once again Instead of our Annual Beef Dinner in October Marg Baker, Liz Guthrie, Edie Ward and Barb Parker planned a series of take-out dinners. Dinners were – ham dinner in May, roast beef dinner in September and turkey dinner in October. Thanks to all who supported our dinners and to the drivers who made deliveries.

Water samples are taken every three months

Volunteers helped with the yard cleanup in May and cutting up the fallen tree from the May 22 storm.

On October 24 contractors for Cogeco came to the church and installed preliminary work under ground for the final cable installation. There is no date for the completion from Cogeco. An UPFund application was sent and received in October for a grant of up to \$5,000.00 for technical equipment for Stone Church.

### **Financial Update Submitted by Bill Allen**

The Stone UC finances improved in the third quarter of this year, as a result of two take-out dinners and increased weekly givings. The Operating Statement to the end of October showed a surplus of \$1,740. The four take-out dinners this year netted \$4,839 which was virtually equal to the money raised in 2019 from our Fall Beef Dinner. Almost \$5,000 has been raised so far for our Foodgrains Growing Project. A total of \$7,800 has been donated to date for the Mission and Services Fund and \$1,525 for the Ukrainian Relief Fund.

## **Rockwood Property & Finance**

*Submitted by Sherol Steinberg*

Thank you to Cees Braamse and Kevin Anthony for mowing the lawn at the church and the house throughout the summer. They have agreed to take on snow removal for the upcoming winter. Cees Braamse has volunteered to take out the church garbage and recycling, with Kevin Anthony and Chris and Marcia Haworth as back up.

Thank you to Kevin who fixed the hole going through the kitchen wall for utilities to discourage mice from moving in over the winter.

Thank you to Colleen Baeumler and her minions for continuing to decorate our sanctuary to enhance worship.

A special thanks to Helen Ferrier who comes in and does the major cleaning of bathrooms and floors weekly.

AA continues to meet in the sanctuary. We are starting to receive inquiries for other rentals.

We had a work bee at the House of Joy to start removing items that have potential to be reused or sold. Thanks to Daryl and Marion Nichol, Ollie Darcie, and Kevin, Amanda and Liam Anthony for all their hard work. The Fire Department has been using the House for rescue and fire exercises. In preparation for demolition the gas, water and electricity has been turned off.



We remain thankful for all the support of time and resources from the members and friends of Rockwood United Church. Currently we have 20 givers who support the church with their PAR givings, and with the return of in person services, envelope

givings are increasing. Property and Finance ran a successful Garden Tour and Plant Sale. Thanks to all who attended. Next summer stay tuned for a special event featuring gardens, trails, and fellowship!

We will be decorating the outside of the church for Advent on Saturday, November 19, see the announcements for details.

Our visioning towards future projects includes: maintenance on stain glass windows, accessibility ramp in sanctuary, removal of pews to create a multi use space, creating an additional room by walling off the current choir loft/moving the choir, improving lighting and sound system, and looking for partners in the community to increase usage of our buildings.

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## **Rockwood Trustees**

*Submitted by Rosslyn Bentley*

The Trustees met twice in June and once in July. We have received final approvals for the construction of the new parking lot and a verbal offer of purchase for the existing parking lot. We are waiting for soil samples.

We are grateful to Rockwood Property and Finance Committee and volunteers for removing items of value from the House of Joy and that the Fire Department has been using it for training.

We are looking forward to a reduction in insurance premiums in 2023 as the United Church moves to self-insurance with United Assurance.

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## **Rockwood Pastoral Care and Fellowship**

*Submitted by Ellen Thomson*

Our congregation offers care for one another through groups and gatherings, like Tea and Talk and Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun that meet in person and Coffee Connections that meet online. Thanks to everyone who helped deliver Creation packs and reached out people in our congregation.

If you know of someone who would appreciate a card...special birthday, anniversary, thinking of you, get well, sympathy, please let Ian Pasmore know.

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## ***Stone Pastoral Care and Fellowship***

*Submitted by John Leffler*

Thank you to the Stone Pastoral Care members for sending cards, keeping the phone and membership list up to date as people move and keeping in touch with our minister to keep her informed of life events within our congregation.

When I think of our recent church beef and turkey take out dinners, I believe as a church this is a Pastoral Care event. Many people in the congregation, friends and family members are contacted and by purchasing a dinner(s) support the church. The people who deliver the meals and organize the delivery and pick up of meals, the people who prepare, cook and package the food, as well as the treasurer are all caring for one another.

The Foodgrains event at Stone also relates to Pastoral Care. Thank you to the people who collected homemade local food stuff for the gift basket for the guest speaker, the use of Paul and Dianne Mays for the afternoon Foodgrains event, the set up and cleanup and the silent auction – all contributed to raising money for The Canadian Food Grains and extending our care for each other to people around the world.

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## ***Stone UCW***

*Submitted by Edie Ward*

Due to Covid-19 no meetings have been held.

During the month of April ladies were invited to support Women in Crisis.

During the year some ladies sent their offering and in September we made donations for the Bakeless Bake Sale.

This will enable us to make donations to our outreach projects at the end of the year.

Six ladies met in September at noon bringing their lunch. Minutes of December 2019 were read as we have not met since then. Treasurer's report was given.

Since our group is getting smaller, we decided to disband. Marg Baker investigated the closing procedure.

A cleaning schedule was created in March until February 2023.

Funeral catering will be done at Stone Church only, no longer at funeral homes. Ladies will serve fruit loaves, cheese/crackers and coffee, tea and water.

Will meet in November for distribution of our funds.

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## ***Pastoral Charge Board***

The Pastoral Charge Board met on November 9.

The Board disbanded the Reopening Commission with thanks. Future decisions if pandemic protocols are needed will be made by the Board, Council Chairs and minister.

Recognizing the volunteer and staff time and commitment to provide weddings and funerals in our churches, the Board reviewed our policies and set the following fee schedule:

### **For Funerals**

The following costs can be paid through the funeral home or directly to the individuals as follows:

minister – \$300

organist – \$150

caretaker – \$100

use of church – \$250 – paid to church treasurers

### **For Weddings**

Fees are to be paid directly to the individuals:

minister – \$300

organist – \$150

caretaker – \$100

use of church – \$250 – paid to church treasurers

Where the minister presides at a wedding held in another location, the cost will be \$550.

Board members were reminded that to maintain our charitable status members and non-members must pay the same fees.

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## ***Wishing You and Your Loved Ones a***



***and a Happy New Year!***