

Stone's Hill Community Church

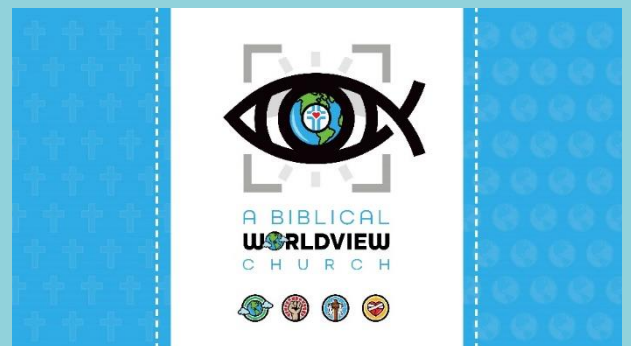


January 29, 2023

Stone's Hill Community Church

A Biblical Worldview Church

Pastor Joey Nelson



A Biblical Worldview Church

The Blessing

What a joy it has been to work and serve with each of you since 2005! I praise God for all of you and so appreciate your walk with Christ. We have had a year of steady progress in a number of areas because of you! Stone's Hill would not be possible without your faithfulness and dedication to being the body of Christ. I bless you in Jesus' Name.

The Vision

Our overall vision is *to lead people to God's forgiveness and see them restored to all that He created them to be*. We all need *forgiven* - and it's been our privilege as a church to help others recognize the forgiveness offered to them through Jesus. And, we all need *restored* – things get broken in our lives and the Bible transforms our minds and this results in changed decisions and priorities. Our church champions this goal.

One of the biggest corporate priority changes that we've identified here at Stone's Hill is the need to be a Biblical Worldview Church. Many struggle getting to Jesus because they can't get past issues related to the Creation and Global Flood, to our human origins, to the authority and reliability of the Bible, to the problem of a fallen human nature, and the unresolved issue of human suffering and injustice. By pursuing and addressing these topics and the questions related to them, our hope is to eliminate the intellectual clutter and spiritual debris that blocks the path that leads all the way to the feet of the Savior.

The Worldview

Everybody has a worldview. The question we all must ask is: "What kind of worldview do I have?" The kind of worldview that you have can be assessed by how a person answers four key questions. And every worldview must answer these four key questions (no one gets a pass): Where did we come from? What went wrong in the world? What is being done to fix it? Does suffering get resolved eventually?

I contend that the Bible's answers to these questions are for more satisfying and truthful with all the data (it doesn't ignore the facts) than any other worldview system that people espouse and endeavor to live their lives by.

We have championed the case for a "Biblical Worldview" in 2022. We have done so in the following ways:

1. By sharing sermons and special presentations in large and small groups that shape our worldview.

2. By hosting Biblical Worldview weekends with guest speakers that amplify a key worldview topic and that give practical ways to live out one's worldview.
3. By implementing the *Answers in Genesis* curriculum on a churchwide basis with an incredible teaching team that makes it possible.
4. By incentivizing and funding of all AIG participants to experience the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum – where both exhibits give a consistent Biblical Worldview of the creation, of mankind, of the flood, of the ark, of the geological evidence related to the flood, and of dinosaurs, cavemen, and the singular ice age – all of which are evidenced on the earth that we all currently live on.

*“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **Psalm 23:4***

The Metaphors

We live in a culture that has a bias against Biblical ideas and truths. Our church vision is to bend things toward God's creative norms rather than bend them toward fallen human nature. With this in mind, there are two metaphors which really describe the ministry in these current times: the *rod* and the *staff*. The *rod* - to drive back the “wolves” who attempt to mislead and harm the sheep AND the *staff* - to reach down into the ravine and lift out a “sheep” who has strayed from the fold or that needs guidance along the path.

The Rod

We have fought off “woke ideology”, Critical Race Theory, the World Economic Forum, and a secular naturalistic evolutionary worldview of our origins. We have defended Biblical marriage, cautioned against transgender mutilation, and defended the sanctity of life. We have done battle and spiritual warfare with the kingdom of darkness. And through Christ, the church has prevailed and will win the day! And like the Psalmist says “*I will fear no evil...*”

The Staff

We have preached Jesus, emphasized what He has done for the world, and held out hope to those who desperately need a new beginning. We have conducted baptisms, created discipleship connections, provided camps and VBS opportunities, offered spiritual gift assessments, and engaged weekly in Bible-centered preaching that is designed to not only explain the Bible but to live it out in practical ways. We have facilitated the feeding of families, the personal recovery of the addicted, the healing of the bereaved, and the sharing of God's truth via many technological avenues and outlets.

So, by God's grace, His work of the "Rod and Staff" will continue in the days and years ahead. I want you to be comforted by both of them. I will fight off the worldview systems that undermine the truth and seek to destroy the foundations that your kids are going to need to enjoy a thriving and flourishing life. And, I will, in grace, restore those who have been caught up in such systems and want so desperately to recenter on God's way of life in the family of God.

The Future

The future is bright. There are possibilities of teaching a Biblical worldview curriculum to the local public-school students during the school day. The New Community Initiatives group will be working with Lifewise Academy and others to make this a reality.

Here on our campus, there is the pole barn plan that would expand our youth ministry space. And, there is a pavilion plan that would create an outdoor classroom that could be used in warmer weather conditions.

There is the ongoing work of interior decoration and design here at the church where steady improvements make our campus a pleasant place to be, especially as we pursue partnerships that will enable our church to be a satellite location for many regional events and, thus, our church building use will be increasing and all who enter our building can appreciate how it all looks and feels.

There are childcare options being discussed to assist local families and teachers - and how our community can come together to meet this felt-need (as most childcare facilities in the area have a waiting-list).



And the future is bright because so many of you are intentionally living out a Biblical Worldview where you live and work and it's having an incredible impact on your families and neighbors. You are clearing away the clutter and debris so that others can get to the feet of Jesus easier and faster. Keep up the great work! And to God be the glory!

Pastor Joey Nelson

NEXT STEPS Disciple Making Vision

Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. Ephesians 5:2

And participate in leading people to Christ's forgiveness and see them restored to all that God created them to be.

-  *a disciple believes Christ's authority and follows him.....connect*
-  *a disciple trusts Christ and is being changed by him.....grow*
-  *a disciple is committed and joins Christ on His mission.....serve*

Be a disciple who comes alongside other disciples.

Next Steps... Let us look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Hebrews 12:2

Every relationship with Jesus Christ is a lifelong discipleship journey. No matter where we are, each of us has a next step in that journey. Christ is faithful to finish what he has started in our life and encourages us come alongside others on their journey, so we all grow to full maturity. Stop by the Welcome/Next Steps Table before or after Sunday service to learn more about a life changing relationship of connecting, growing, and serving Jesus Christ and others.

Connect...In Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. Colossians 2:10

Sunday Worship Service/online streaming/ and website www.stoneshill.org

Welcome & Next Steps Table/ NEXT STEPS contact QR code

"Brown Bag" Lunch-Get to know Pastor Joey and have conversations on topics of your choice

"Starting Up: 101"-conversations about faith, biblical worldview, community, spiritual growth, baptism, and communion.

"Baptism Orientation" learn about baptism with Pastor Joey

"Baptism Follow Up" meet with Miss Debbie to talk about your new life in Christ

Grow...We thank God for you because your faith is growing more and more, and the love you have for one another is increasing. 2Thessalonians 1:3

"Circle Up: 201"-conversations about trusting Christ, the scriptures, authentic community, healthy rhythms, and spiritual gifts.

The Journey- New believer and Baptism mentoring (1 on 1)

The Journey #2- Life Group with (2-4 participants)

Life Groups- Wednesdays @6:30: women, men, mixed (10-14 participants)

Support Groups-Wednesday nights: Celebrate Recovery, Grief Share

Classes: Sundays @8:45a.m.- Answers in Genesis, Worldview, Bible book and topical studies,

Special Events- Leadership training, Guest speakers, Seminars, Camps. Retreats, Fieldtrips

Serve...Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Spiritual Gift Assessment- website www.stoneshill.org About Us Tab /Spiritual Gift Assessment

"Follow Up: 301"-conversations about joining Jesus on mission, serving others, making disciples, and staying the course spiritually.

Resources

The Biblical Worldview card packet- located at Welcome/Next Steps table

The Case for Christ Booklet by Lee Strobel- located at Welcome/Next Steps table

The Journey Packet-Located at Welcome/Next Steps table

YOUVERSION BIBLE - Free Bible versions, reading plan, app & resources: Bible.com

THE BIBLE PROJECT-Free reading plan, videos, themes, resources & app: TheBibleProject.com

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2023 Rock Solid Vision Cast

The strategy—The why and what

- Biblical world view. To instill and challenge to know and apply the Words of the Bible.
- To help understand a healthy sense of self and the way they are made
- Learning life skills and tools to help minimize effects of depression and anxiety.
- What they are purposed for...plans and things for them
- Help provide an encouraging and positive environment.
- Reach to youth and families with the life changing message of Christ and help nurture meaningful relationships.

The operation—The how and when

- Sundays: 30 weeks of Answers In Genesis to support the Biblical Worldview with the opportunity to teach topics/areas of scripture needed during summer.
- Rock Solid Wednesdays: This weekly larger group gathering will involve a meal at 6, healthy social environmental with ability to connect with caring adults, fun laughs, and live peer led worship. The teaching will focus on explaining the significance of the gospel message, the value and practicality of the Bible, and how it brings joy and purpose to the human experience.
- Community: Students will understand what it means to be a contributor to society with the purpose given by Christ. Monthly involvement with Unite, which is formed with other area youth groups.
- Events:
 - We are looking at planning a community event at least once each month. There will be a concert experience once every quarter like winter jam or a worship experience.
 - Retreats—Purity/leadership retreats available every fall and spring.
- Discipleship
 - Creating guys/girls small group experiences that will help youth that struggle with larger groups and address students coming from multiple school systems.
- Teaching: Sundays and Wednesday programs
- Leadership:
 - Students and adults will be challenged to serve and lead according to their gift mix from leading worship, idea sharing, to helping create a welcoming environment.
 - Training will be available to surrounding area youth group leaders and volunteers.
- Missions: Local, stateside, and preparing for a global orientated mission trip in 2024.

Upcoming Schedule

- 2/2 Winterjam! Will leave schools at 1:30pm. Signed permission form is necessary to show the morning of 2/2. Students will bring games to entertain while in line and a bagged dinner to eat and throw away while also in line.
- 2/10 Night to Shine
- 2/12 Superbowl party. Guys bring your dad or guardian.
- 2/17-2/19 Big Chill Winter retreat? See if student leaders are interested. \$100 for students and \$60 for leaders/chaperones.
- 3/18 Night of Hope
- 3/18 Unite Glow in the Dark Night-7:00-10:00.
- 3/30-3/31 Ark Encounter-Students/adults can carryover unused scholarships
- 4/1-4/9 Spring Break Hometown missions with fun activity
- 4/29 Elevation concert in Ft. Wayne.
- 6/4 Senior Sunday (breakfast meal and honor during service)
- 6/11-6/15 To help with VBS (Kellie Phares is leading). Need times and expectations to help plan with students that are going to SOS.
- 6/15-6/17 Michiana SOS—Service project/mission trip to Michiana area.
- 6/18-6/22 Camp Michawana—Promo video son
Rock Solid Wednesdays will begin in September.
- 7/6 Dunes Trip!
- 7/22 Lake Day-- There is a growing interest in fishing. Encouraging dads/moms/guardians to join and help out according to their interest area (food prep, fishing, kayaking, skiing). Location TBA.
- 7/23-8/1 Hilbish vacation
- 8/2 Area youth worker training summit!

Stones Hill Community Church Children's Ministry

Mountain Movers Update & Vision for 2023

Praises:

-We have seen God provide in so many ways over the past 3 months. Thanks to the obedience of our church body, we have welcomed **many new volunteers** to cover various roles, including the Children's Ministry Leadership team, Sunday morning children's teaching and Wednesday night AWANA programs. As we all stretch ourselves more to serve, we are all growing spiritually on many levels. New leaders are growing in their own discipleship as we work together to train the children as disciples. Several children were baptized this year! It's a beautiful thing to participate in and we thank God for His faithfulness.

-While we continue to search and pray for a children's pastor to cover all Sunday programs/ teaching we rejoice in the addition of **Kellie Phares** as the Wednesday night AWANA administrator! She will be a great addition to our pastoral team @ SHCC.

-**Answers in Genesis**- With the addition of AIG curriculum and many dedicated teachers, we have been able to change the format of Sunday morning Children's church. This has enabled us to teach the children at age-specific levels like we have not been able to do in the past and it is our goal to keep things divided into age-specific teaching going forward.

Vision for 2023:

-To teach God's truth to every Mountain Mover and train them in the authority of God's word.

-To lead each child to a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

-To walk alongside families and support parents as they train their children to follow Jesus.

-To continue to keep our volunteer team strong, equipped, and focused on God's purposes for this ministry.

-To improve the efficiency of many processes involved in Children's Ministry, including the check-in system and volunteer onboarding processes.

-To continue to **PRAY** that God will provide His chosen leader for our head Children's Pastor position in 2023!

2023 Vacation Bible School

- Answers in Genesis
 - Keepers of the Kingdom
 - Medieval Theme
- June 11-15 (Sunday-Thursday)
 - 6-8:30
- Pre K-6th Grade
 - Toddler Class (ages 4-5)
 - Pre-Primary (Kindergarten)
 - Primary (1st/2nd grade)
 - Juniors (3rd/4th and 5th/6th grade)
 - Nursery will be provided for helpers kids
- February 12th will be the first announcement for volunteers and VBS needs
 - Volunteers assigned by March 1st and then once a month meetings will take place
 - Song leader, Class teachers, Game leader, Snack leader, Skit leader, Nursery Leader, Craft leader and lots of helpers (teens and adults)

GRIEFSHARE
A Journey,
from Mourning to Joy

Elements of the GriefShare ministry (13 sessions):

Video

Discussion about the video

Personal workbook (to do on own time)

Review of workbook (review in session the next week)

Function like a small group – keep in touch, have fellowship, encourage one another
Then to go out and be a Comfort to others!

What is GriefShare?

A. Place to reach out and receive comfort

1. Love and acceptance
(no matter where one finds their self on this journey)
2. Safe environment

B. Points grieving people to God and His Word

1. Psalms 121:1,2 I lift my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth.
2. Psalms 46:1 God is our Refuge and Strength, and ever-present help in trouble.

C. Prepares us to be a comfort to others

1. II Corinthians 1:3,4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
2. Others testimonies plant seeds of hope in those who are beginning this journey (I have seen this happen!)

We have ministered to an additional 12 people this year in the Spring (Mar-May) and fall (Sept-Nov) sessions. (Several others returned again to continue to receive comfort, or to be a comfort to others.)

Goals for 2022:

1. Blessing boxes to the families for the grieving ✓ (somewhat)
2. Card ministry to continue to remember grieving people during difficult times. ✓
3. Bible or devotional to be given to each one that finishes the 13 week course.

Goals for 2023:

1. Continue Blessing boxes, but **find a way** to be notified of those who could benefit from a Blessing box.
2. Continue card ministry
3. Give books/or Bibles out.
4. Find another facilitator (to at least sub).

The Celebrate Recovery ministry is for every adult. Unfortunately, very few in our congregation take the opportunity to utilize this ministry. CR is for everyone, it is not just a program for those struggling with alcohol or substance abuse as many seem to think. It is for those that have hurts, habits, hang-ups or an addiction that just seems to be out of control. It is for those struggling with depression, anger, codependency, abuse, control issues as well as those that have or had addictions to alcohol, drugs, pornography, food, work or anything else.

CR is a 12 step program based on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-11. It is not a quick fix, it is a process. Most of us did not develop our hurts, habits or hang-ups overnight, and in most cases we are not going to get over them overnight. It takes time to heal, it takes a willingness to want to heal and you have to do your part. CR is there to guide and support you, but ultimately your recovery is between you and God. Along with the weekly meetings, there are opportunities to do a more personal step study with a small group to assist you in going deeper in your recovery.

A Celebrate Recovery meeting basically is like church. Each meeting has a time for announcements, worship and then either a lesson or a testimony. We then break up into men's & women's open share groups. This is a time where we can talk about our struggles and support one another.

Celebrate Recovery Small Groups CAN:

- Provide you a safe place to share your experiences, strengths, and hopes with others that are also going through a Christ-centered recovery program.
- Provide you with a leader who has gone through a similar hurt, hang-up or habit who will facilitate the group as it focuses on a particular Step each week.
- The leader that will follow Celebrate Recovery's "Small Group Guidelines."
- Provide you with an opportunity to find an accountability partner or a sponsor.
- Encourage you to attend other recovery meetings held throughout the week.

Celebrate Recovery Small Groups WILL NOT:

- Attempt to offer you any professional advice. Our leaders are not counselors.
- Allow its members to attempt to "fix" one another.

My goal for the year is to have more of our congregation take advantage of the opportunity to release their burdens, begin to heal and become all that God has called them to be. We all have things that we struggle with, we are not alone in our struggles, we need each other to help us through our struggles.

Celebrate Recovery 12 Steps and Biblical Comparisons

1. We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable.

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. Romans 7:18 NIV

2. We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 NIV

3. We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Roman 12:1 NIV

4. We made a searching a fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord. Lamentations 3:40

5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16a NIV

6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. James 4:10 NIV

7. We humbly asked him to remove all our shortcomings.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 NIV

8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 NIV

9. We made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24 NIV

10. We continue to take personal inventory and when we are wrong promptly admit it.

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 1 Corinthians 10:12

11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us, and power to carry that out.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Colossians 3:16a NIV

12. Having had a spiritual experience as a result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others and practice these principles in all our affairs.

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore them gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Galatians 6:1 NIV

Celebrate Recovery's Eight Recovery Principles

Realize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable.

"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor." Matthew 5:3a TEV

Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him and that He has the power to help me recover.

"Happy are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4 TEV, NIV

Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

"Happy are the meek." Matthew 5:5a TEV

Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

"Happy are the pure in heart." Matthew 5:8a TEV

Voluntarily submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.

"Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires." Matthew 5:6a TEV

Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, except when to do so would harm them or others.

"Happy are the merciful." Matthew 5:7a TEV "Happy are the peacemakers." Matthew 5:9 TEV

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.

Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and my words.

"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires." Matthew 5:10 TEV

Missions Vision 2023

1. Christ Community Church World Mission – Guys Hill School - Jamaica
 - a. Summer Missions Trip Update – Jamaica/U.S. Missions Trip
2. Act Beyond – Don & Vicki Layman
3. SIM USA – Brandon & Cheri Boyd
4. Resource Exchange
5. New Community Initiative
6. Milford Food Bank
7. Common Grace
8. Noble House
9. Babe Store