

Stone's Hill Community Church 2024

*To lead people to God's forgiveness and see
them restored to all that God created them to be*

Church Family,

It has been another great year of ministry! The analogy that I like to use is that we have been “laying track” for the “train” of the church to run on. Life has taught me that if there is no path defined or way forward established, then the journey becomes much more difficult. But if we have the “rails” of a basic vision in front of us, then we can see where we are headed and can be more efficient at getting there.

The goal is to implement and establish Jesus-exalting ministry paths and Bible-learning routines that can be sustained at a high level over a long period of time with a group of incredible volunteers. Because of you, we have been able to establish some fantastic “tracks” for Stone's Hill to run on for years to come.

There's a Bible Learning track (*Answers in Genesis*) that has been laid. All age groups will be through the entire Bible in the next 5-6 years. People can jump in and do all or part of this journey at any time. And we have great teachers and helpers that guide these discussion groups too and make them interactive and practical.

There's a Biblical Worldview track (Worldview Weekends and Ark Trips) that has been laid. We must know how to cut a path through the ideological jungle of culture, which often seeks to tarnish the image of God in each person. But we must not forsake the culture. We must be intentional about irrigating the dry desert places of our community and world with the sacrificial love of Jesus in how we think, say things, and live.

There's a Children's Ministry track that has been running for years. Kids are growing in their walk with Christ. And this is facilitated by leaders who have both an access to great resources (*Answers in Genesis* and *AWANA*) and a love for Jesus that invests in the next generation.

There's a Youth Ministry track that has many “boarding” opportunities: discussion groups, mission trips, krave retreats, worship times, podcast involvement, and service projects. And this is not just on an internal basis local to us; there are connections built with other churches and groups who want to make the journey too.

Within Adult Ministries, there are a plethora of tracks that have been laid to help people make a necessary journey:

- Celebrate Recovery for those seeking life-healing
- Griefshare for those needing to process a loss
- Discussion Groups for walking through a life-stage
- Worship Services for growing in the Word

Of course, all of these “tracks” and routines would not be possible without all of you using your gifts, sharing your dollars, and giving your time. Because of you, we have:

- a mission’s team that enables our church to have ministry touchpoints around the world.
- people who secure our campus and the safety of those who visit.
- a team of people who greet and welcome others to all our events.
- a nursery team that looks after our little ones.
- a team that oversees our landscape, our grounds, and our buildings – keeping them clean, updated, and repaired.
- a music team that seeks to make God’s presence real through song.
- an elder board and staff that guides our policies and procedures and direction and finances.
- people who provide food, prepare meals, and serve in community ministries that meet felt needs.

And our church is routinely leading the way when it comes to making our community, our schools, and our neighborhoods a better place.

All of the effort to “lay track” and to fuel the engine of ministry are so worth it. We all get to serve something that transcends us, something that will outlive us, something that will make a difference for years to come.

And as this “engine of ministry” makes its way down a well-laid track, our calling and mission it to always make it easy for others - who may not even know Jesus yet – to make it easy for them to come aboard and make this journey too. And when people:

- consider the claims of Jesus and become His disciple;
- answer basic worldview questions with confidence and hope (questions like: who made me, what went wrong, what can be done to fix it, and how does the hurt in life get resolved);
- lead their family toward love and appreciation for one-another;
- surrender all of their abilities and gifts to God for His purposes through them;
- make their community a better place by meeting felt-needs;
- know how to self-feed and grow themselves in their faith;

When people are experiencing all of this and more, then we can say, we have accomplished our mission.

Joey Nelson
Pastor

NEXT STEPS Vision

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 on that journey. Christ is faithful to finish what he has started in our life and encourages us to come alongside others on their journey, so we all grow to full maturity.

Stop by the ***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... a disciple believes Christ's authority and follows him.....connect

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

NEXT STEPS Table/ QR code on bulletin, slides & website- Stop by for conversation and/or prayer

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

"CONNECT: 101"-conversations about faith, following Christ, Biblical worldview, the church, baptism, and communion

Baptism Orientation learn about baptism with Pastor Joey

Baptism Follow Up meet with Debbie to get into the scriptures and talk about your new life in Christ

✚ Grow... a disciple trusts Christ and is being changed by him.....grow

"Grow: 201"-conversations about trusting Christ and the scriptures, prayer, authentic community, healthy spiritual rhythms, and small groups

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-all ages on journey through the Bible. Scholarships for 10 consecutive weeks of attendance to the Creation Museum and Ark

The Chosen Discussion Groups-meet with others to discuss spiritual insights from the historical drama series about the life of Jesus Christ

Special Events-Biblical Worldview Sundays/Guest speakers, Seminars, Camps, Retreats, Fieldtrips

✚ Serve... a disciple is committed and joins Christ on His mission.....serve

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

"Serve: 301"-conversations about joining Jesus on mission, spiritual gifts, serving others, making disciples, and staying the course spiritually

Resources

The Biblical Worldview card packet- located at NEXT STEPS table

The Case for Christ Booklet by Lee Strobel- located at NEXT STEPS table

Our Daily Bread-located at Welcome Wall

The Journey Packet-Located at NEXT STEPS table

Books in the circular bookcase

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

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

Debbie Schermerhorn-NEXT STEPS deb@stoneshill.org

260.894.7528. Dial 8 (ext. 212)

2024 Rock Solid Vision Cast

Connect

- **Rock Solid Wednesdays:** Understanding the significance of gathering and being part of a community. A meal will be provided to help families with busy schedules. The night involves activities and mixers, worship, a relevant message followed by discussion in small groups afterwards with an opportunity to reflectively respond.
- **Community:** We are involved with supporting weekly activities in the school whether it be Monday Morning Prayer or FCA on Fridays. Rock Solid participates in a weekly podcast called Unite Podcast. We hopefully entertain having some fun but also work through challenges of doing community, family, and ministry. We also have a monthly Unite community activity other area youth groups.
- **Events:** Rock Solid provides events throughout the year designed for outreach and connection with youth. Lake Day, Dunes Day, tobogganing, Ark trip, or concerts are some examples. Some might not seem as spiritually minded, but we are relationship building and earning the right to be heard.

Grow

- **Sunday morning equipping:** Whether it be AIG or another series the focus is on growing in knowledge of the Word and how to apply what is learned to their own lives. When not engaged with AIG, Rock Solid will focus on something relevant (holidays) or work through a book of the Bible.
- **Growth groups:** We are excited to offer growth groups to allow students to be known and be spiritually encouraged throughout the week. This effort consists of smaller groups led by at least one adult mentor.
- **Retreats:** We have opportunities throughout the year for us to focus in on a certain group of youth or a certain aspect of living life (Krave).

Serve

- Generally, youth will experience the value of serving their community and beyond with events like Spring Break Hometown Mission, SOS, and June Rock Solid Wednesdays of service in June.
- **Missions:** Whether it be local or global, youth will have the opportunity to challenge their world view and how to generalize the “others first” mentality to the other areas of their life.
- **Leadership:** This year, there will be more of a focus on youth leadership and training for those interested becoming adult volunteers.

2024 Children's Ministry Vision

What does a typical Sunday at Stone's Hill look like for children?

Equipping: Ages 3 through 5th grade start in the game room at **8:45**. At **9:00** they are then split into two classes; preschool through 1st grade and 2nd through 5th grade. They are then taught a lesson, currently the younger kids are learning about the 7 C's of History, an Answers in Genesis curriculum, and the older kids just started "The Biggest Story" bible curriculum by Kevin DeYoung. Around **9:35** the kids are then dismissed back to the game room for parents to pick up.

We chose not to teach AIG (Answers in Genesis) during the equipping hour because of lower attendance, we felt it would be more effective and reach more kids during our regular children's church time. This is what is being taught during equipping:

Mrs. C and Me; Journey through the 7 C's of History: Children learn the 7 C's of history from creation to consummation as they discover the true history of the world and the gospel. This is a yearlong curriculum that began in November 2023.

"The Biggest Story" by Kevin DeYoung: Teaches kids key bible stories from Genesis through Revelation and connects them to how God plans to redeem the world through His Son, Jesus. This is a yearlong curriculum that began January 2024.

Once kids are picked up from equipping, they will attend the worship service until they are dismissed to children's church around **10:20-10:30**. Once dismissed, Preschool (ages 3-5 not in kindergarten) are escorted to class on the lower level. They have a lesson and a snack, with some play time. After service they are picked up by a parent or guardian from the same classroom. Kindergarten through 5th grade meet their teachers in the lobby, then walk to class together. At **11:15** Kindergarten through 5th grade gather in the youth room for a time of worship. Parents come to the youth room after service to pick up their children.

It is during children's church that we are teaching the Answers in Genesis (AIG) curriculum. Preschool through 5th grade is all being taught the same lesson on varying levels. They are taking a journey through the Bible and learning the true history of the world.

This is our typical schedule for most of the year, in the summer we do things a little differently. This summer is not yet planned, but last summer we met together as a large group and studied the fruits of the spirit as well as the armor of God. They would have a lesson and then break into two groups Kindergarten-2nd and 3rd-5th. One group would go to the game room and the other group would do a craft, then switch. They would end with worship, then are picked up by parents. Preschool stays the same year-round.

AWANA-Our Wednesday Evening Program

- Our Wednesday program has two different ministries: Age 3-Kindergarden attend Cubbies taught by Sheryl Leisure and Nora Young. We average 15 for that age group, which is amazing to see so many little ones. They meet in a downstairs classroom where they are taught a lesson, do a craft with snacks, and meet us upstairs for worship time. Our second group consists of grades first through fifth grade. We meet for our main lesson and divide into several groups. We have two Sparks groups...a girl and boy group. We then have four TT groups for the older kids. They meet for roughly 20 minutes and go over our lesson and verse for the evening. We then break into snacks/games and then meet back in the sanctuary for worship with the Cubbies groups. We are averaging around 40 this past year.
- We use the AWANA curriculum which stands for Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed. This program focuses on verse memorization, which is extremely important to me. We have really focused on bringing our bibles constantly this year and have seen a huge increase of kids not only bringing their bibles but reading it and being excited about learning His word. I remind them often to “Lock It In” and treat their bibles like a special treasure.
- In the past the kids have earned Awana Bucks and have been able to spend their money in our Awana Store. This past session we changed our rewards program a bit. We are no longer doing a store, instead the kids must attend and bring their bible on a regular basis and then memorize 10 verses. This next session they will earn a derby car in which they will build with an adult and race their car on a special evening that we will be hosting. The race will be in the sanctuary on a Wednesday evening, and we will invite the whole church to join us to make it special for the kids. We do know some kids may not have a parent or guardian able to help build their earned cars so we will have a few days in which our Elders and men of the church will be volunteering their time to help build them.
- The next events will be “Family” night, Awana Derby Night and then our 5th Grade Graduation. Our last night will be May 15th.

VBS-The Great Jungle Journey

- June 9th-13th
- 6-8:30 in the evening
- We will be officially announcing it to the church on February 4
- Our first volunteer meeting will be February 18 right after church
- We use the Answers in Genesis VBS curriculum. This ties in with our Sunday morning study. I have been a part of this program for the past 14 years and can honestly say each

year I am impressed by the theme, music, lessons and how they get the kids to learn so much in a short amount of time.

- The kids participate in a VBS offering in which we have a competition, boys/girls, and then at the end of the week we have a winner which makes it so much fun for the kids. Last year I was blown away by the kids and their heart for missions. We raised money for the Parks family who served in Bolivia for a week, and we were able to raise and give them close to \$2000!

ANSWERS IN GENESIS STUDY

- 10-WEEK SESSIONS
- JOIN IN ANYTIME!
- STUDY THE BIBLE WITH FELLOW BELIEVERS
- 10 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS ATTENDANCE = ARK ENCOUNTER SCHOLARSHIP
- SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:45 AM

For everything that was written long ago was written to instruct us, so that we might have hope through the endurance and encouragement that the Scriptures give us.
Romans 15:4

Celebrate Recovery 2024

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.

I asked those that have been attending what CR means to them or what they would say about CR. Here are some of their testimonies.

- “Celebrate Recovery has given me strength to overcome longstanding struggles, that when kept secret were crippling to my faith. Celebrate Recovery functions as the church is meant to: James 5:16 ‘Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other, so that you may be healed.’ My character flaws are healed over time with the help of others, as I also help others face the faults and find healing. CR has given repentance the teeth it needs to grab ahold of my heart and dedicate it fully to my savior Jesus!”
- “Regular connection with other men for personal accountability to achieve progressive change to Christ likeness and self-control, breaking the bonds of shame that keeps us in the cycle of brokenness and under the control of its ugly failure. Maintaining our relationship vertically with Jesus and laterally with other men keeps on the path to holiness and seeing our minds physically renewed – rewired by his words. This is the power of God at work where we are powerless. CR is the church at work.”
- “CR is the best way to walk in the way God intends us to. It brings hope. CR has brought me peace, comfort and connections. It gives a way to serve and grow in relationships with God and others. CR gives a roadmap to walk in a way God intends us to.”
- “CR is much more than people think. It is ‘EVERYTHING ANONOMOUS.’ Music, worship, teaching, sharing and prayer CR is Church by definition. “
- “Firstly, Celebrate Recovery has not only brought me a sober community but a relationship with Jesus. It is here that I have found I am loved by God. It has broken down negative self-talk by both having an encouraging community but also by seeing people society may label as perfect relating to me and my, no OUR broken hearts and desperate need for healing and forgiveness. Secondly, mental health is BIBLICAL- sound mind, being still, self-control, peace, patience, etc. This is a FREE place to provide self-care but lean on Jesus, not just myself. Thank you!”
- “CR means support from other men who understand my struggle. It means safety enough to be open and not fear shame. It has helped me with structure to pursue character building. CR has helped me most by finding a posse standing behind me. CR is part of the structure that saved my life. I tell people to go! We all have something

holding us back from where we can be. The 12 steps of recovery are a path to spiritual and personal growth.”

- “CR has helped to encourage me to see that there are others who struggle with idols- things they desire above Christ. It has been great to have a night in the middle of the week to set aside from the normal business, routine, and stress of life, to quiet my heart and mind and spend time in worship, learning, confession and fellowship- all of which is focused around struggling with temptation, sin, addiction and idolatry.”
- “CR is a place where you can be yourself and let others help you. Also seeing that you are not alone-there are others who are also broken. God works on me and helps me to become a better person. The accountability to know that people care about me and don’t want me to go backward.”

My vision for 2024 is to continue to provide this opportunity “To lead people to God’s forgiveness and see them restored to all God created them to be.”

International/Local Missions

1. Christ Community Church World Mission – Guys Hill School - Jamaica

2. Act Beyond – Don Layman – He works for an organization whose mission is to train individuals to transform unreached people groups by training and launching teams to equip everyday men, women, and children to disciple their own people. Don informed us in December that he will be retiring at the end of this month, so our support for his ministry will end January 2024.

3. SIM USA – Cheri Boyd – SIM helps prepare and journey with Christians sent by churches to make disciples of Jesus around the world. They serve more than 4,000 SIM

workers who are in over 65 different nations and 6 continents across the world.

4. Resource Exchange – Stones Hill program that is a resource for helping families in their time of need – from within and outside of the church. This includes helping out with late mortgage/rent payments, utility payments, etc.

5. New Community Initiative – faith-based group of local Ligonier leaders who look for ways to help serve the needs of the Ligonier community.

6. Milford Food Bank – Food bank serving 130 partners throughout northern Indiana giving away an average of 300,000 lbs. of food per month. They collect and purchase

food in bulk and redistribute it to local food pantries.

7. Common Grace – Local group who helps support a wide array of international and local mission organizations through financial support.

8. Noble House – Organization located in Albion that provides a safe environment for individuals and families overcoming difficulties through helping those in need who are on a journey of rebuilding, learning, and emerging.

9. B.A.B.E. Store – Unique program offering merchandise for infants through age three using vouchers earned by participating in various services and parenting education classes. Locations are in Kendallville and here at Stones Hill Community Church.

The vision for 2024 is to increase worship participation and engagement. We will employ these three strategies to achieve this.

- I. Teach the congregation about worship (singing).
 - a. What is worship?
 - i. Worship is declaring the greatness of God because of his attributes, his works, and current activity.
 - b. Why do we do worship?
 - i. The Bible prescribes it.
 - ii. It teaches and reminds us about God.
 - iii. It demonstrates surrender to his lordship.
 - iv. It provides a means to enter God's presence.
 - c. How do we worship?
 - i. Sing the words and melodies
 - ii. Mouth the words
 - iii. Pray and/or meditate on the words
- II. Make worship participation easy
 - a. Lyrics that are Biblically sound
 - b. Lyrics that are rich and compelling
 - c. Melodies that are simple yet captivating
 - d. Melodies that familiar
 - e. Ranges that are accessible for men and women
 - f. Style and instrumentation that is culturally relevant
 - g. Songs are executed with excellence
- III. Purchase two digital sound boards to improve participation and engagement
 - a. Allows us to host conferences, which encourages participation and engagement
 - b. Provide a more transparent experience for online attendees

	Approved 2023	2024 Changes
Expenses		
Celebrate Recovery Exp	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00
Mission Trip Exp.	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
The Gathering Exp	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00
Fight Club Exp (Change)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 500.00
Adult Ministry Exp	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Biblical Worldview	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
JMen/Sm Groups	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00
Children's Ministry Exp	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Student Ministry Exp	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,500.00
Technology Exp	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 9,600.00
Creative Arts Exp	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 9,500.00
Streaming	\$ 856.00	\$ 856.00
Reserve Exp	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Griefshare	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Camp Michawana	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
In/Out Exp	\$ -	
Total Expenses	\$ 71,456.00	\$ 64,256.00
General Expenses		
Flowers	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
Hospitality Exp.	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 6,000.00
Funeral Exp	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Telephone	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Postage	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00
Pastor/ Staff Training	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
College Scholarships	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Guest Speakers	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,100.00
Pastor Appreciation	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Copier Lease	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 5,000.00
	\$ 36,200.00	\$ 35,100.00
Trustee Expenses		
Property Tax	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Insurance	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
Mower	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Sewer	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,600.00
Electric	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Gas	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Building USE		
Building Security (Wed)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Building Security Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Building Capital Improvements	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -
Building Repair Exp	\$ -	
Building Phase 2 Exp	\$ -	
Cleaning Supplies	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,700.00
Pest Control	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Waste Disposal	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,200.00
Water	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,800.00
Total Expenses	\$ 80,600.00	\$ 59,500.00

Approved 2023 2024 Changes

Mission Expenses			
SIM-USA (Cheri Boyd)	7,000.00	\$	7,000.00
CCCOJ (Guys Hill)	12,000.00	\$	14,300.00
Resource Ex Missions Exp	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
NCI Missions	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
Common Grace Missions	2,600.00	\$	2,600.00
Babe Store Missions	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
Milford Food Bank	8,400.00	\$	8,400.00
Noble House	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
Act Beyond (Don L)	2,500.00	\$	200.00

Total Expenses	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>	\$	50,000.00
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	<u><u>\$ 238,256.00</u></u>	\$	208,856.00
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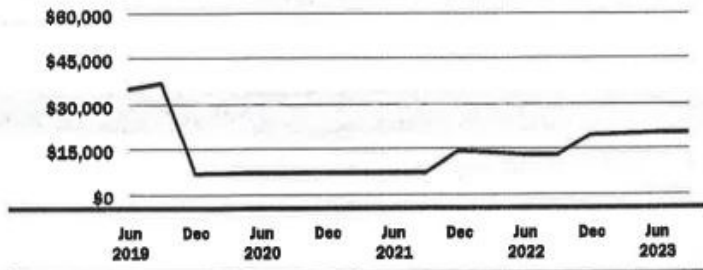
Difference from 2023-2024	\$ 29,400.00
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Account Value

\$20,588.19

1 Month Ago	\$20,095.18
1 Year Ago	\$12,966.76
3 Years Ago	\$7,042.05
5 Years Ago	\$0.00

Value of Your Account



Value Summary

	This Period	This Year
Beginning Value	\$20,095.18	\$19,556.04
Assets Added to Account	0.00	0.00
Assets Withdrawn from Account	0.00	0.00
Fees and Charges	0.00	0.00
Change In Value	493.01	1,032.15
Ending Value	\$20,588.19	

For more information regarding the Value Summary section, please visit www.edwardjones.com/mvstatementguide.

Rate of Return

Your Personal Rate of Return for Assets Held at Edward Jones	This Quarter	Year to Date	Last 12 Months	3 Years Annualized	5 Years Annualized
	1.96%	5.19%	5.37%	-0.16%	0.38%