

# Old Stone Church - March 2023



## **WORDS FROM WANG** – “*Sometimes We Go Flat: a Musical Analogy for Sin*”

Recently, Judy and I had the good fortune to observe a choral festival for children’s choirs sponsored by an organization within the Roman Catholic Church. The festival took place at Holy Name Cathedral; one of the prominent churches owned and operated by the Chicago Diocese. Our son Josh, who works as music director for Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Golden Valley, Minnesota, was in attendance with one of the children’s choirs from his parish that he leads. The two-day festival culminated with all the choirs joining together in a Saturday evening mass; and being that we only live an hour from Chicago it was convenient for us to attend as spectators.

The Most Reverend Mark Bartosic (a bishop with the Chicago Archdiocese) offered the evening homily which was themed for the season of Lent. At one point, addressing the children in the choirs, the bishop recalled his younger years when he sang with his school choir and how his favorite choir director would sometimes walk over to the piano and play a chord right after the choir had finished rehearsing an a capella piece (without the aid of accompaniment) and thus quickly pointing out that “they had gone flat.”

Eventually, the Bishop tied in the idea of our ability to go flat musically with our human tendency to slip into sin; or the human inclination toward sin and evil. Then he used a word that was possibly foreign to some of the kids and the word was *concupiscence*. To Catholics, “concupiscence” is actually this inclination toward sin and evil. That while it is highly likely to cause sin, concupiscence is not sin itself.

Baptism represents that point in our lives when our slates are considered wiped clean and the human faith journey begins with all its twists, turns, temptations, and transformations. But our leaning toward sin and evil persists, however, and we must resist the “inclination” to sin by avoiding taking that first step in the wrong direction; in essence to stop ourselves before we go too far.

Though the different sects of Christianity vary slightly on the theology of sin and evil, most agree that words like contrition, remorse, regret, or penitence are used in worship to provide all we sinners with the opportunity to regain our footing with God, so to speak, and thus receive the gift of God’s grace, forgiveness, and redemption. And not just in Lent, but 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 52 weeks a year.

As any musician knows, a lot of discipline and practice goes into preparing a piece; to make it “performance ready.” And nobody likes to be told “you were flat” at any point in the process, especially when we “go public.” And even the most seasoned musicians agree that once we stop utilizing the tools that we have received in our musical training, we will surely go flat. The same is true in our faith experiences and our inclination to slide into sin. For even the most mature Christian will tell you that the instruction we receive is crucial to our maintaining a right relationship with God and the world around us and will help us to avoid the tendency to stray. But when we do go flat, we always have the option of getting back on pitch. With God’s help.

Note: spell check reminds us that when we drop the “G” from the word “SING,” it becomes SIN. And let the people LOL. Here’s wishing you a blessed Lenten journey.

See ya’ in church.

*Pastor Bob*

## Worship Opportunities (March)

**March 5:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** John 3:1-17

**Sermon Theme:** *Using Our God-Given Smarts*

**Note:** The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



**March 12:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

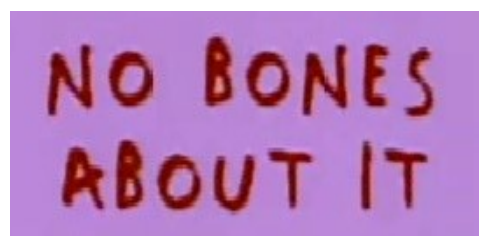
**Scripture:** John 4:5-42

**Sermon Theme:** *From Living Water to Soul Food*

**March 19:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** John. 9:1-41

**Sermon Theme:** *Open Minds Open Hearts*



**March 26:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Sermon theme:** *No Bones About It*

**Note:** This is a “fellowship first” Sunday and will take place in fellowship hall.

**April 2:** The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:11-66

**Sermon Theme:** *On the Wings of A Dream*

**Note:** The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



### **Looking Ahead:**

*Maundy Thursday Service: April 6 (6:00 supper, 7:00 worship) OSC*

*Community Good Friday services: April 7 (3:00 p.m. at OSC, 6:30 at 1<sup>st</sup> Cong. In Pecatonica)*





*"Crooked River Ministries is a collaboration between First Congregational Church of Pecatonica and the Old Stone Church of Rockton. Our Mission is to work together to expand ministries beyond the walls of our churches and includes forming community partnerships."*

The shared ministry advisory committee had another meeting and continue with planning and policy for our shared ministry. Our February coffee house/open mic saw a great turnout and included some new talent. We are looking forward to our March 18<sup>th</sup> coffee house at OSC. The flier with details is included elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Please note:** the doors to the coffee house open at 6:00 for those participating in the open mic and performances typically start around 6:30.

### **Family Game Night**

As was announced previously, we are happy that a new task force has convened with reps from both churches in order to plan joint children and youth ministries programming. We are offering a **"family game night"** on **Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>**. Any families (parents/kids, grandparents/grandkids, siblings; you get the idea) are welcome to join us at the Old Stone Church for some good, old-fashioned fun with board games for all ages. Munchies and beverages will be provided, but anyone attending is free to bring a snack or dessert to share.

We will begin at 1:30 and end in plenty of time to attend or participate in the community concert that the OSC music staff and choir are hosting later that day. Those interested in attending the game day should email Lindsey in the OSC office [oldstonchurch@oldstonechurch.net](mailto:oldstonchurch@oldstonechurch.net) or speak with someone on the planning team (Jason Plessner, Dawn Lucas, Lindsey Lancaster, Nichole Carlson, or Jacqui Miller).

Please note that "Crooked River Ministries" now has a Facebook page and we need everyone to "like" and "follow" us on FB. It's quite easy to do!! The Pec church will have a new website which will help to promote all of our joint events.

After further discussion, a trip to Chicago is probably not feasible at this point so we are considering a joint trip this summer to the Fireside Theatre in Ft. Atkinson to see *Mary Poppins*. Details forthcoming.

We remain excited about the possibilities that exist as we explore and envision opportunities that our shared ministry provides. Please feel free to approach any members of the team with ideas or questions.

For 1<sup>st</sup> Cong. – Kathy Spataro McGinty, Dawn Lucas, and Sally Landin

For OSC – Jason Plessner, Chelsea Dorr, and Steve Herdklotz

And Pastor Bob, of course.

# Crooked River Coffee House and Open Mic Nights

**Saturday February 18, 2023 (Valentine themed)**

1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church of Pecatonica  
633 Reed St. Pecatonica, IL

**Saturday March 18, 2023 (Irish themed)**

The Old Stone Church  
101 E. Union St. Rockton, IL

**Admission:** gently worn, used, or new shoes to support the missions of Crooked River Ministries

The doors will open at 6:00 for open mic sign-up. Performers can plan 2-3 pieces to play, sing, recite, etc. A cash food/drink concession will be available.



Like us on FB  
Questions call 815-624-6212 or email  
[pastorboboscrockton@gmail.com](mailto:pastorboboscrockton@gmail.com)



**Veritas Christi Theater/Choir Team  
AND  
The Choir of The Old Stone Church**

**PRESENT...**

# Back to the Summer

**You are invited to a short musical play about a group of kids who wish to return to the beginning of summer so they don't have to return to school. One invents a 'time machine' that takes them back to the 80's where one of them meets his dad as a child. Continuing on to different times, the students eventually return with a whole lot of new friends!**

*So come dressed like it's the 80's and...*



## LET'S PARTY!

*Get ready for the "Dance-Off"  
——— and ———  
a round of "Chubby Bunnies."*

**SUNDAY NIGHT BABY!  
March 26 @ 6 p.m.**

**Reception with Refreshments to Follow**



**OLD STONE CHURCH  
OF ROCKTON ILLINOIS**

101 East Union Street    Rockton, Illinois 61072

**A Family Friendly Community Event for all!**

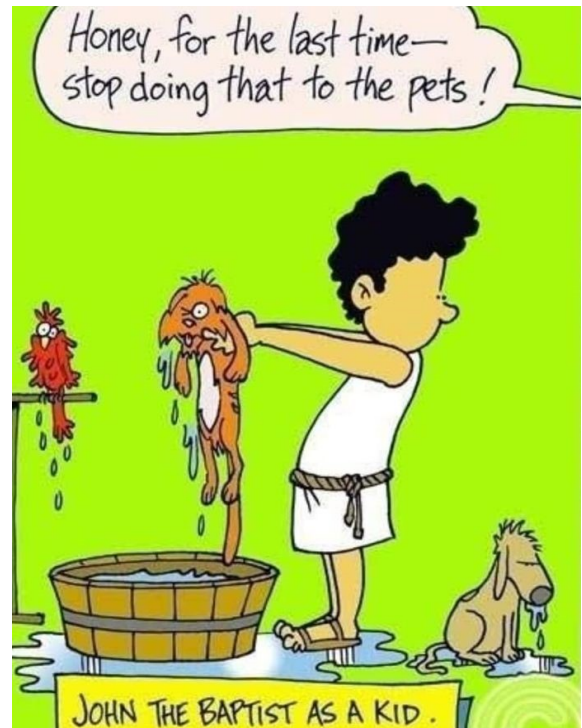
**WE WILL BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THESE TWO TALENTED GROUPS**

## Curbside Cookie Event

Nora's Girl Scout Troop, #384, is having a cookie drive thru on Saturday, March 4th. Drive into the OSC lot, find a parking spot, and let the girl scouts do the rest! The girls are excited and ready to make this a great booth experience, so come on out and support some local girls as they raise money for community projects and an overnight trip at a museum or the Shedd Aquarium! The event will be held from 10-2pm, so let all your friends and neighbors know, too. See you Saturday!



## Comic Corner





# Reminder...



Don't forget to set all  
of your clocks one  
hour ahead!

**The time has  
come for more  
daylight hours!**

**Don't forget to  
set your clocks  
AHEAD for  
Daylight  
Saving's Time  
on March 12th,  
2022!**

Christian Ed is on the hunt for eggs!



We will again be  
hosting an Easter  
Egg Hunt for the  
youth on Easter  
Sunday. If you have  
any fillable plastic  
eggs you could  
donate, please leave  
them with Lindsey  
in the office.

## Bible Study for Lent (Rockton)

We are happy to report that we have had a great response to our recent decision to offer a Bible study during Lent, even though we started a little before Lent began. And other than some winter weather affecting attendance for one of our February sessions, we are looking forward to our March studies.

The format includes sharing some background and history on the bible, as well as looking at specific scriptures; but always with ample time for questions and discussion.

The following dates and sessions for the month of March (all Wednesdays from 10:30-12:00):

March 8 and 22

(With a possible session on April 12, which is the Wednesday after Easter)

Participants are welcome to join in anytime, even if you have not attended previous sessions. Just let Pastor Bob know by emailing him at [pastorboboscrockton@gmail.com](mailto:pastorboboscrockton@gmail.com) or by speaking to him by calling the church office.



## March Birthdays



**10th- Chris Gantz**

**13th- Amy Steward**

**15th- Cameron Newmes**

**19th- David Proudfoot**

## March Anniversaries



**2nd- Jeff & Heather Porter**

**27th- Shaun & Amanda Slocum**

# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Grief Group 10:30 Choir 7pm	2 Pantry 9-11	3	4 Cookie Drive Thru 10-2p
5 Communion Bell Choir 8:15a	6	7 Worship Team 7p	8 Bible Study 10:30 Choir 7pm	9 Pantry 9-11	10 Girl Scouts 5:30	11 Rehearsal 4-8p
12 Bell Choir 8:15a	13	14 Council 7p	15 Grief Group 10:30 Choir 7pm	16 Pantry 9-11	17	18
19 Bell Choir 8:15a	20	21	22 Bible Study 10:30 Choir 7pm	23 Pantry 9-11	24 Girl Scouts 5:30	25 Dress Rehearsal 2-5pm
26 Fellowship First Bell Choir 8:15a Musical 6pm	27	28	29 Choir 7pm	30 NO PANTRY	31	

Old Stone Church  
 101 E. Union St  
 Rockton, IL 61072  
 (815) 624-6212  
 Email: [oldstonechurch@oldstonechurch.net](mailto:oldstonechurch@oldstonechurch.net)  
[Oldstonechurch.net](http://Oldstonechurch.net)



## Old Stone Church Staff:

**Pastor Bob Wang:** (262) 945-8475  
**Lindsey Lancaster:** Office Administrator  
**Bob Estrada:** Custodian

