

Old Stone Church - May 2022



WORDS FROM WANG – “What Inspires You?”

On May 6th I will be happily sharing another concert featuring the music of John Denver which we’ve dubbed, “Mothers and the Earth.” There is one song that I am choosing to sing as a bit of a theme song for the concert. The title of that song is “*The Flower That Shattered the Stone.*” The lyrics provide an image that inspires us to love as children love but with the strength to dream the impossible; to live like a flower that has the strength to shatter even the hardest of stones. In other words, to love with the power that can break through those barriers that hold us down. Or better yet, to be the change that is needed to overcome to odds. I offer the lyrics here that you might use them as your own personal devotion.

The Earth is our mother just turning around
With her trees in the forest and roots underground
Our father above us whose sigh is the wind
Paint us a rainbow without any end

As the river runs freely the mountain does rise
Let me touch with my fingers and see with my eyes
In the hearts of the children a pure love still grows
Like a bright star in Heaven that lights our way home
Like the flower that shattered the stone

A sparrow finds freedom beholding the sun
In the infinite beauty we're all joined in one
I reach out before me and look to the sky
Did I hear someone whisper did something pass by.

As the river runs freely the mountain does rise
Let me touch with my fingers and see with my eyes
In the hearts of the children a pure love still grows
Like a bright star in Heaven that lights our way home
Like the flower that shattered the stone

In these post-pandemic times when the hearts of many have grown cold and hardened and bereft of hope, I encourage you to hold on to that which inspires you most and give you hope. And may all that inspires you help you to regain your sense of belonging to something that is greater than the sum of its parts. In these tumultuous times may we all have the drive and wherewithal to carry on in the ministries of grace, love, and understanding that we are called to. And may we trust that God has plans for us though those plans may at times be unclear. And may we continue to give God the glory as we work to become all that God has created us to be as individuals, as faith bodies, and as lovers of the good works of God’s creation.

I look forward to seeing many of you on May 6th as we celebrate and give thanks for mothers and for our earthly home. See ya’ in church.

Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities (May)

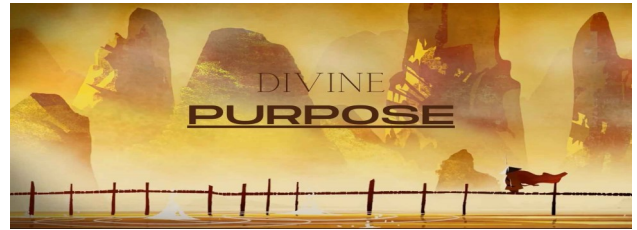
Worship will be at 9:15 until further notice.

May 1: The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 9:1-20

Sermon Theme: *Instruments of Divine Purpose*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



May 8: The 4th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:17-23

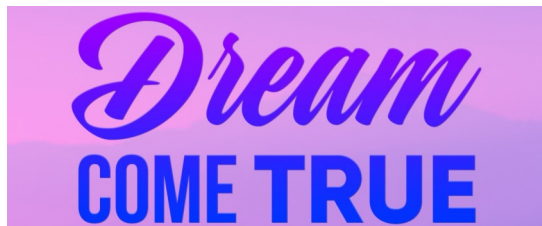
Sermon Theme: *Heirloom Seeds*

Johnson's[®]
baby

May 15: The 4th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6

Sermon theme: *Johnson's Baby Shampoo*



May 22: The 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15

Sermon theme: *A Dream Come True*

May 29: The 6th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Joshua 4:1-9

Sermon Theme: *In Remembrance*



June 5: Confirmation Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Theme: *Wind Song*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



Flames of the Spirit: Rekindling the Flame

(Note: We will begin our second year theme of “**Flames of the Spirit: Hearts on Fire**” on June 5, Pentecost Sunday).



Updates on Our Shared Ministry Proposal

By now, most of our readers are aware that we have been in conversation with the members of our sister United Church of Christ in Pecatonica. The joint task force has officially met on three occasions along with a meeting of the joint finance team to continue hammering out the details on shared responsibilities and for financing the operations of a shared ministry.

At our most recent joint task force meeting we welcomed the Rev. Stephanie Perdew who is the Associate Conference Minister of the Illinois Conference assigned to work with us in developing the proposed model. Under her advisement, we will engage in the next step in the process which will be to create two separate documents; a revised contract with the Pastor, and the covenantal agreement for the actual shared ministry plan. A special sub-committee will be meeting very soon to complete this task.

Once the two mentioned documents are completed, the task force will meet one more time and then make a formal announcement to the members of each congregation; first in an all-church mailing, and then followed up with a brief meeting after worship on a Sunday, God willing, during the middle or latter part of May. We are grateful for all those who have engaged in the process and are truly excited about the bright prospects that will come with this proposal.

In the meantime, we will be conducting a test run of our new 9:15 worship time. This earlier time will allow pastor Bob sufficient time to drive over the Pecatonica to provide worship leadership and preaching (pulpit supply) at an 11:00 service as a way of transitioning into the new plan which we hope to roll out by the first of June. We welcome continued prayers from all of our members and friends that things might continue to go smoothly.

Pastor's Note: I want to remind readers that this proposal comes as a result of some serious reflection on our role as God's church - which includes practicing compassion and being able to think beyond ourselves. Should we move forward with this plan, I ask you to think of it more as a mission project; allowing us to become greater than the sum of our parts. This might mean making a few sacrifices and being more adaptable and accommodating to the changes that will come. Let's all be patient with the process and do our best to see the larger picture.

Mothers and the Earth Concert

Friday May 6 @ 7:30 p.m.

Old Stone Church

101 E. Union St. Rockton, IL (815-624-6212)

A celebration of mothers and planet earth featuring Bob Wang and friends performing the music of John Denver and others from the singer-songwriter era. The concert is free to the public.

There will be a free will offering to assist with Ukrainian family relief efforts.



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5th 2022

Settlers Park

NOON

“Exalt the Lord who has
established us.”

Colossians 2:6-7

In the event of rain, service
will be held at

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH
FREEPORT ROAD



National Day
of Prayer



May Birthdays

2nd- Kevin Davies
11th- Gerri Harshbarger
12th- Kyle Middleton
21st- Maddie Wallace
24th- Dave Provance
25th- David Black
25th- Heather Bode
27th- Jodi James
27th- Will Wallace



May Anniversaries

3rd- Mike & Julie Bailor
20th- Tom & Patti Christenson
21st- Randy & Becky Stutzel
29th- Dan & Kadie Heron



May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Confirmation	2	3 Worship Team 7	4 Grief Group 10:30 Choir 7	5 Pantry 9-11	6 Concert @ 7pm	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10 Council 7	11 Choir 7	12 Pantry 9-11	13	14 Stateline Challengers
15 Confirmation	16 Boy Scout Mtg 6p	17	18 Grief Group 10:30 Choir 7	19 Pantry 9-11	20	21
22	23 Girl Scouts 5:30p	24	25 Choir 7	26 Pantry 9-11	27 Old Guys 8:30	28
29	30	31	27 Choir 7	28	29	30

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