

Old Stone Church - May 2023



WORDS FROM WANG – “What Inspires You?”

Two years ago, as part of a “leadership Summit” that was convened on a Saturday here at OSC, we adopted a three-year theme. The theme was carefully thought through and was intentionally sequential in nature; considering that the timeline coincided with my commitment to work with you as your designated term pastor. The theme was rolled out on Pentecost Sunday 2021. So, let’s review:

Year 1: *Flames of the Spirit: Rekindling the Flame* (navigated our way out of the pandemic)

Year 2: *Flames of the Spirit: Hearts On Fire* (began a trial period of a shared ministry)

Year 3: *Flames of the Spirit: Keep the Fires Burning* (ratified the shared ministry)

If you stop and think about it, it does seem that we have stayed the course. Although, sharing ministry with another congregation was not in our original plan, we are still in line with our original objectives for year three, which was (and I quote), “to build on the past two years and continue with the game plan for maintaining our church vitality with programs, events, and worship that inspire, attract, connect, and strengthen our presence in the community.

Furthermore, to explore ways to uphold old and new traditions and practices – all while preparing for a transfer of pastoral leadership. Namely, that all the work we have been doing the past two years was for the purpose of empowering the congregation toward sustainability and for establishing a vision that will help attract the right leader to guide us in the years to follow. The search committee will be active for the duration of this year with the hope of searching out and calling a new pastor - that the torch may be passed yet again.” (unquote)

One of the scriptures we chose for year 3 was 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. *According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - the work of each builder will become visible, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.*

This text seems fitting on many levels as we come down the home stretch - though we all have our work cut out for us. But by faith, we can and will complete the tasks before us and (stronger together) will continue to trust in the God who will never abandon us.

I recently read (and now have borrowed) the theme and description of the 2023 Wisconsin Conference annual meeting because it is so fitting for our context here. The theme “*Changing Church: Following Jesus Forward*” summons the memory of our ancestors in faith, who time after time found themselves journeying toward unfamiliar, even unknowable, destinations, trusting that they were following God’s call. We know how that feels. After all, we have spent three years wandering toward a future church whose outlines we sometimes perceive only dimly. Yet we know we’re not alone – we’re following Jesus forward.”

On Pentecost Sunday 2023 (May 28th), I hope you will join us as we gather together to celebrate the journey past, present, and future. That with God’s help we will **keep the flames burning** by tending to the tasks necessary and engaging in the many service opportunities that await us.

See ya’ in church.

Pastor Bob

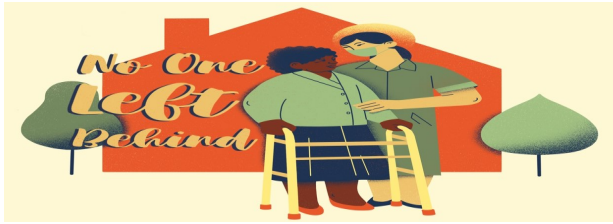
Worship Opportunities (May)

May 7: The 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 14:1-14

Sermon Theme: *Global Positioning System*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



May 14: The 6th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 14:15-21

Sermon Theme: *No One Left Behind*



May 21: The 7th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Sermon Theme: *Casting Our Anxiety on God*



May 28: Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Theme: *Flames of the Spirit:*

Keep the Fires Burning

Note: This is a "fellowship first" Sunday and will take place in fellowship hall.

June 4: The 1st Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

Sermon Theme: *The Ministry of Presence*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



A resolution to ratify the shared ministry between the 1st Congregational/Old Stone Church, United Church of Christ of Rockton, IL and the 1st Congregational United Church of Christ of Pecatonica, IL

Whereas the 1st Congregational/Old Stone Church, United Church of Christ of Rockton, IL and the 1st Congregational United Church of Christ of Pecatonica, IL, as member churches of the Prairie Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ recognize the covenantal relationship that we share together;

Whereas it has been noted that 1st Congregational/Old Stone Church, United Church of Christ of Rockton, IL and the 1st Congregational United Church of Christ of Pecatonica, IL, having created a shared ministry covenant document, have engaged in a trial period of a shared ministry for approximately ten months (beginning on June 1, 2022) and have, during that time, successfully shared pastoral leadership and church resources, and have organized joint events;

Whereas the 1st Congregational/Old Stone Church, United Church of Christ of Rockton, IL and the 1st Congregational United Church of Christ of Pecatonica, IL have successfully established the Crooked River Ministries; a wider parish concept complete with logo and a mission statement and are furthermore working to establish community partners to work in collaboration with one another with a shared mission for bettering our communities; and

Whereas the Old Stone Church has reported the necessary budgeted income needed to support a 2/3 time pastor based on Illinois Conference Guidelines and the 1st Congregational Church of Pecatonica realizes annually an amount in giving to support a 1/3 time pastor as well as nominal funds to pay their portion of weekly worship bulletin expenses and printing conducted in the office of The Old Stone Church; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the 1st Congregational/Old Stone Church, United Church of Christ of Rockton, IL (OSC) and the 1st Congregational United Church of Christ of Pecatonica, IL (PEC);

1. with the blessing of the Prairie Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, agree to ratify the original covenant for a shared ministry replacing the original covenant with a newly revised covenant document to be signed by both parties as well the Associate Conference Minister thus officially sanctioning the shared ministry;
2. will officially engage in a shared ministry together which will include supporting a full-time settled clergy person, sharing resources when possible and, under the direction of a shared ministry advisory committee, will continue to work together in planning joint events;
3. agree to further develop and promote our joint identity as the Crooked River Ministries while working to establish community partners with the shared goal of helping to improve the quality of life within our communities; and
4. agree to support financially the full-time salary and benefits of the called pastor as suggested in the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ compensation guidelines and will base each church's portion on the percentages agreed upon in the shared ministry covenant (OSC: 65% and Pec: 35%).



"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."

Shared Youth/Children's Ministry

Thanks again to the extended Plessner family who made our *family game day* happen in March and our trip to see the new *Super Mario Brothers* movie in April. Unfortunately, like the game day, the movie day only saw light participation from the two churches. But we're not giving up and will try, try, try again hoping to find the right combination of events and dates that will attract those still hanging back on the fringe.

We do really want to see our shared children and youth programming succeed but it can't without YOUR PARTICIPATION to make it happen. Namely, families with kids (from both churches) who desire to have youth fellowship and Christian education as part of our shared ministry. So, remember that we are stronger together!! Please support this worthy ministry.

We Are Official

The weeks after Easter typically see less activity with church life however the SMAC (shared ministry advisory committee) did have a very important meeting just prior to Easter which included a presentation by our Associate Conference Ministry, Rev. Dr. Stephanie Perdew, as she described the steps we need to take in order to enter into the search process for a settled minister.

The first step, of course, was to ratify the shared ministry covenant. And on April 23rd, both churches had congregational meetings to review the revised covenant and to vote on the resolution to do just that. And the outcome was a unanimous decision to move forward TOGETHER. And we give thanks for this exciting decision and furthermore, believe it will continue to bear fruit in the days ahead. We're including the resolution for those who have not seen it yet.

The Search Process

Very soon the SMAC will be reporting on their most recent meeting which will include any decisions regarding the selection of a search committee for a settled pastor - which is in accordance with the shared ministry covenant (article 6-F) which states:

F. In the event of a change in pastoral leadership, the Shared Ministry Advisory Committee will oversee the selection of a joint search committee and work directly with the search committee as well as the Prairie Association in the search process and to negotiate the terms of the call agreement.

The recommendation by the conference regarding how many bodies to have on the search committee is the magic number seven. Given that OSC pays the larger portion of the pastor's salary and benefits, it makes the most sense that there will be four members to represent them on the committee. Stay tuned!

Next Crooked River Sponsored Events

More information will be coming soon on a joint trip this summer to the **Fireside Theatre in Ft. Atkinson for dinner together and to see a performance of *Mary Poppins***. This will be open to anyone in either church and guests as well. We're also considering a late spring/early summer coffee house and open mic.

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 has also launched their new website which is pecatonicaucc.com. This will help to promote all of our joint events.

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 including any nominations for persons to serve on the pastoral search committee.

For 1st Cong. – Kathy Spataro McGinty, Dawn Lucas, and Sally Landin

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

And Pastor Bob, of course.

PM&L Theatre Special Event

MOTHERS & THE EARTH:

A Celebration of the
Musical Artistry of
JOHN DENVER

Featuring
**Bob Wang
& Friends**



Saturday, May 13 at 8:00 PM
Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 PM

Presented in The Dolly Spiering Memorial Auditorium

pmltheatre.com ♦ (847) 395-3055 ♦ 877 N Main Street, Antioch, IL



Bible Study (May dates)

It goes without saying that our every-other-week bible studies have been filled with lively discussion and heartfelt sharing by those who continue to join in (and we're always open to newbies). Through the month of May we will continue having sessions on the alternating Wednesdays with the grief group. We will continue to delve into the weekly lectionary scriptures (the ones that the pastor preaches on during Sunday worship) with thought provoking commentaries and more lively discussions.

Note: the weekly lectionary texts are noted in the "worship opportunities" section of each monthly newsletter. Due to summer schedules and vacations we will not be meeting during the summer months. Stay tuned for options available in the fall.

The following dates are for May (all Wednesdays from 10:30-12:00):
May 10 and 24

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 or by speaking to him or by calling the church office.

May Birthdays

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

ROCKIN' OUT IN ROCKTON!

**A
STUDIO 3**
(THE PIANO TEACHER'S HOUSE)
AND THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF ROCKTON EVENT
101 EAST UNION STREET

JUNE 26 THRU 30

8 a.m. TO 12:30 p.m.

MAKIN' MUSIC AND HAVIN' FUN

Students will participate in outdoor musical events featuring both sport and water activities which teach basic music notation and theory. At week's end, a

**"A Musical Olympic Champion"
will be Celebrated!**

Group music making with "Boomwhackers" and "Rhythm Cups" teach strong rhythmic and tonal concepts making fun percussion exercises. Students will perform several delightful Patriotic Musical Numbers at the end of the week using these training techniques.

Music of the World Lapbook Curriculum

A fun summer camp learning curriculum that features different tunes from around the world incorporating craft projects, participatory musical experiences and classroom learning time to explore the musical cultures and history of music from several countries. Students will make their own instruments and complete a lap-book to take home with them.

Lunch and Snack Time will be included each day.

Don't Miss it...

The Friday Night Concert and Presentation for Parents from 5-7 p.m.

**SUMMER
MUSIC
CAMP
2023**

REGISTER ONLINE AT: WWW.STUDIOTHREETODAY.COM

OR PHONE: 815.988.3021

➡ BY MAY 26, 2023

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Worship Mtg. 7pm	3 Grief Group 10:30	4 Food Pantry 9-11	5	6 Stateline Challengers
7 Communion	8	9 Council Mtg. 7pm	10 Bible Study 10:30	11 Food Pantry 9-11	12 Girl Scouts 5:30p	13 PB Concert PML
14 PB Concert PML	15	16	17 Grief Group 10:30	18 Food Pantry 9-11	19	20 Tea Party on the Prairie Event
21	22	23	24 Bible Study 10:30	25 Food Pantry 9-11	26 Girl Scouts 5:30p	27
28 Fellowship First	29	30	31			

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