

Old Stone Church - August 2021



God
is still
speaking,

Words From Wang – “Acceptance Leads to Serenity”

I was reminded recently of a concert my son Josh attended at the Lyric Opera auditorium in Chicago a few years ago. The concert featured the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the world-renowned pianist, Lang Lang.

When Josh came home that night, we naturally expected him to report how wonderful the performance was. Instead, the first thing out of his mouth was that someone’s cell phone went off during one of the most poignant moments of Lang Lang’s performance of a Chopin nocturne. But that wasn’t the end. A short time later someone just a few rows in from of them got sick all over the aisle. And then, just when it seemed things might calm down, two police officers entered the auditorium and hauled somebody out of the audience. But the musicians never skipped a beat - they never missed a beat.

Life can be like that. Just when we seem to be in our “zone” something happens; an interruption occurs. It might be receiving the results of a recent medical exam, or an accident of some sort; it could be a knock on the door, a loss of income, or worse yet, the horrific news of the death of a friend or loved one. In any case, the challenge is how we work through the process in order to come to some resolution and eventually, with God’s help, acceptance. But also, to trust that the music will go on.

As Robert Frost one once wrote, “In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: it goes on.” The challenge to acceptance is understanding that it will take time. My prayer for all those enduring a setback or loss is that you are able to be patient and to ask for help. God knows, we can never go it alone. Of course, “The Serenity Prayer” is always a good “go to” when working through our grief or anxiety.

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next. Amen. --Reinhold Niebuhr*

See ya’ in church.

Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities (August)

August 1: 10th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: John 6:24-35

Sermon Theme: *Hungry Hearts*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



August 8: 11th Sunday After Pentecost (outdoors)

Scripture: *Ephesians 4:25-5:2*

Sermon Theme: *Thumper Theology: An Imperative For All*



August 15: 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *Ephesians 5:15-20*

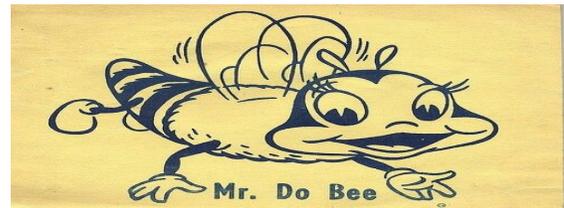
Sermon Theme: *Music Therapy*



August 22: 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *Psalm 84*

Sermon Theme: *On Feeling At Home in Worship*



August 29: 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *James 1:17-27*

Sermon Theme: *Mr. Do Bee Wisdom*



September 5: 15th Sunday After Pentecost (Outdoor)

Scripture: *Mark 7:24-37*

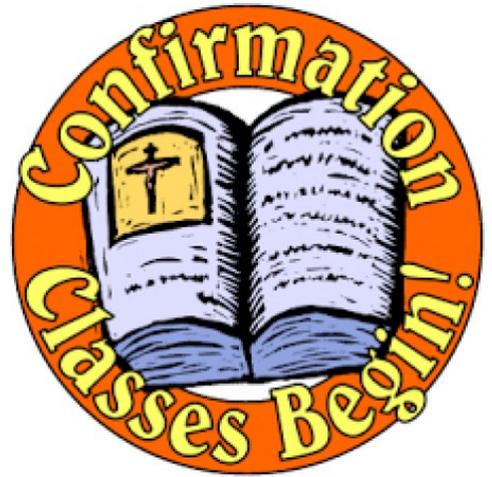
Sermon Theme: *Finding Our Voice*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



Confirmation Class to Form

If you or someone you know has a son or daughter who will be entering the 7th or 8th (or higher) grade this fall, let them know that Pastor Bob is organizing a group of youngsters to begin a confirmation program. We have already identified a core group but we're hoping to expand it to include any and all interested. Youth do not have to already be members of OSC, they only need to possess a desire to explore their faith further. After all, there is a reason why it is called "faith formation." Please let Pastor Bob or the church office know of your interest as we hope to roll things out mid-September (meeting times to be determined).



Flames of the Spirit: *Rekindling the Flame*

A New Page: Each month the church newsletter will feature any items that can help represent our three-year "Flames of the Spirit" initiative that we rolled on Pentecost Sunday. Each board, team, and committee of the church is being asked to support our 2021-22 mission of rebuilding community (rekindling the flame) as they discuss plans and programs for the coming year.

For instance, our all-church retreat that took place in July.

Let's Go To Camp!

And go to camp we did. And a good time was had by all. And all who went share one opinion to this day. Let's do it again. If you want to find out more about the whole retreat experience, just ask anyone who attended. And be sure to ask them their retreat nickname!

Ken Thomson, Mari Weikel, Carol Hensen (We missed you Jim), Amanda, Cameron, Calli Newmes, Karin Bohr, Kathleen Dearth, Jim Yowler, Jason, Katherine, Jordan, and Molly Plessner, Bob and Bonnie Estrada, Homer and Teresa Barefield, Sharon Funk, and Pastor Bob.



THE OLD STONE CHURCH IS PROUD TO PRESENT: *The First Annual Bag Night*

Given our fine legacy of having one of the most successful food pantries in the state line area, we want to celebrate those whose constant support help us in providing this important service to the community. Every sponsor and volunteer is inspired to offer their time and financial support because they know we are making a difference. That's why we want to have a special event to recognize and give thanks to the countless individuals and organizations that makes the OSC Food Pantry viable.

We are therefore happy to announce that the first annual *Bag Night* is scheduled to happen on **Tuesday, August 17 from 6:00-8:30**, featuring a **corn hole tournament** (a.k.a. "Bags") with prizes being given to the first, second, and third place winners, and free food hot off the grill. Those wishing to participate in the tournament are simply being asked to bring a "bag" of groceries (dry/canned goods) to benefit the food pantry. Those who want to attend as "spectators" are welcome, and will be eligible for free food but are encouraged to make a food donation as well. A good time will be had for any and all who want to join in on the fun.

We are hoping to extend the invitation to many of our donors and do want them to come as our guests as a way of saying *thank you*. Anyone willing to share their corn hole set, please let us know. We are also looking for OSC church members to assist with hosting the event (food servers, registrars, etc.) and/or to help with securing prizes (actual items or cash to purchase). If you have questions or need more information, please speak with Pastor Bob or Donn VanSchelven.



Sunday School Starting 9/19!

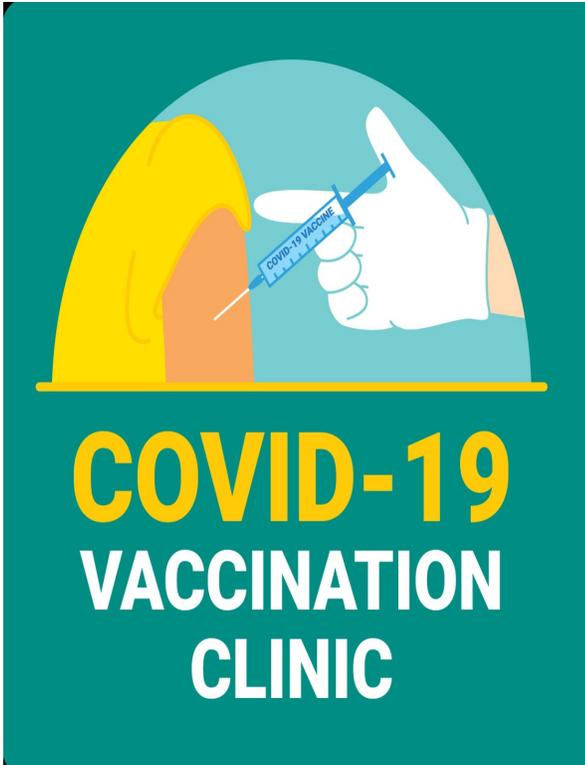
The school year is quickly starting in our area, and our Sunday School is no exception! This year, we will be continuing with our one room Sunday School class beginning Sunday, September 19th!

As Covid is still holding it's ground in our area with new variants on the rise, and with the Governor's mask mandate in schools, the Christian Education committee at the Old Stone Church feels that it would be safest for kids to continue to mask up at this time. (Our youngest students are not yet eligible for the vaccine.)

We look forward to seeing all of our young people back in church! If parents have any questions or concerns, please contact Lindsey in the church office, or send an email to oldstonechurch@oldstonechurch.net.



Old Stone Church To Host A Vaccination Clinic



The Illinois Department of Public Health is asking churches to consider being a host site for a vaccination clinic. After final approval, we will be inviting residents in the area (and any church members) to come by on **Thursday, September 2** between the hours of 9:00-11:00 (food pantry time) to receive the Pfizer vaccine and then return for the second shot on the 23rd during the same hours. Walk-ins are welcome but there is also a registration sheet in the church office to guarantee a spot. If the weather allows, this will all be done outside the church building. This is just one way we can do our part to help the spread of the Covid virus.

August Birthdays

- 3rd- Tim Coomer
- 5th- Bob Leach
- 7th- Claire Miller
- 9th- Sara Butler
- 13th- Dan Herron
- 14th- Julie Bailor
- 16th- Steven Herdklotz
- 18th- Jessica Wallace
- 25th- Dee Dee Balsley
- 26th- Suzanne Provance
- 28th- Molly Plessner
- 29th- Judy Wang



August Anniversaries

- 4th- Jim & Carol Henson
- 4th- Steven & Karen Herdklotz
- 20th- Gerald & Laura Bode
- 30th- Gregg & Deb Seyler



August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2	3 Diaconate 7pm	4 Grief Group 10:30	5 Pantry 9:15-11:15	6	7
8	9	10 Council 7pm	11	12 Pantry 9:15-11:15	13	14
15	16	17 Bag Night 6-8:30	18 Grief Group 10:30	19 Pantry 9:15-11:15	20	21
22	23 4-H 6-8p	24	25	26 Pantry 9:15-11:15	27 Old Guys 8:30	28 Wedding @ OSC 2p
29	30	31				

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