

Old Stone Church - July 2021



God
is still
speaking,

Words From Wang – *Ode To Old Stone Church*

If you were in worship on Sunday, June 27 you were able to witness history in the making. Actually, it wasn't that big of a deal but it was an opportunity to hear and sing the newly released OSC (unofficial) theme song; written and humbly shared by yours truly. All it took was a casual conversation with Jim Burdick to inspire it's composition. Here are the lyrics (which are still subject to some tweaking):

Chorus:

*We are strong, we are united
Our cornerstone is Christ, God's son
Our faith is built on loving kindness
and walking humbly with our God*

*We love our rich and storied history
A faith-filled past and legacy
This church was built on faith-filled promises
That we may live a hope that's free*

*We are more than just a building
We are young and we are old
We are called as faithful servants
We are the living Spirit's fold*

It goes without saying the essence of church is as organic as the grass of the fields and the fleshy nature of humankind; for we are the body of Christ, the collective mind of God, and the all fluid and nebulous Holy Spirit. We certainly celebrate this remarkable building which has graced the corner of Union and Blackhawk since 1850. But, as the song states, we know that we are so much more than a building.

As we continue to "return to church," the more we realize that we are not returning to *all things familiar* or *just the way things were* prior to the pandemic. As one author puts it, "we are only beginning to emerge from under the pall of the pandemic. Beginning is the operative word. Ours is not a completed project with a sure and certain outcome, but rather a beginning, a re-emerging, a re-engaging." In the words of the Apostle Paul, *do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and complete* (Romans 12:2)

So, after a year of scrambling to stay afloat, we have to ask ourselves, what's next? How can we move from responding to the crises of the moment to defining our work over the next few years? Lest we be naive, these are some of the questions that we need to be thinking about over the coming weeks and months. *We are called as faithful servants. We are the living Spirit's fold. See ya' in church.*

Pastor Bob

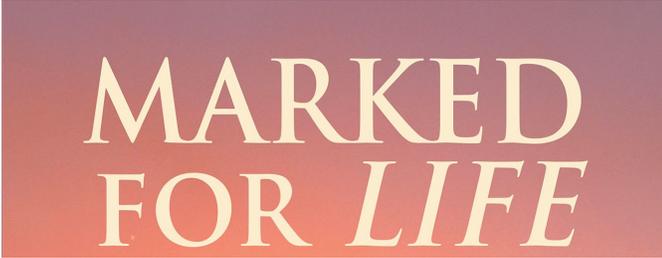
Worship Opportunities (July)

July 4: 6th Sunday After Pentecost (outdoors)

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

Sermon Theme: *Shaking the Dust Off*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served

A black rectangular graphic with the words "SHAKE THE DUST" in a bold, white, distressed, stencil-like font. The letters are slightly irregular and have a weathered appearance.A rectangular graphic with a light red background. The words "MARKED FOR LIFE" are written in a large, white, serif font. "MARKED" is on the top line, "FOR" is on the second line, and "LIFE" is on the third line.

July 11: 7th Sunday After Pentecost

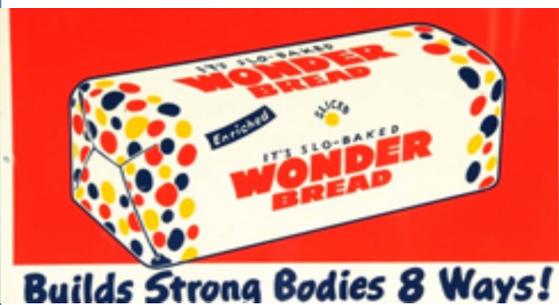
Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

Sermon Theme: *Marked for Life*

July 18: 8th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sermon Theme: *On Seeking Balance*

A photograph of a stack of smooth, grey, rounded stones on a beach. A small stream of water is pouring over the top stone and down the side of the stack. The background shows a sandy beach and the ocean under a cloudy sky. A white text box with the words "Seeking Balance" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

July 25: 9th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: John 6:1-21

Sermon Theme: *Wonder Bread*

August 1: 10th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: John 6:24-35

Sermon Theme: *Hungry Hearts*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served

A dark blue rectangular graphic with the words "HUNGRY HEARTS" in a white, sans-serif font. Below the text is a red heart icon with several small white stars inside it.

Looking ahead: Outdoor worship services are being planned for July 4, August 8, and September 5.

A graphic with a blue, textured background that looks like water or a sky. The words "SEE YOU" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with "SEE" on the top line and "YOU" on the bottom line. Below this, the word "Sunday" is written in a large, white, cursive script font.



A New Logo

To go along with our church campaign of “Flames of the Spirit”, year 1 “Rekindling the Flame”, we have had a local artist working with us to create some logos that we will be able to roll out and use in the following months and years. We are excited to unveil the first of those logos to you in this newsletter! Be on the lookout for this logo throughout the year as we continue to rekindle the flame here at the Old Stone Church!

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, the *Fellowship Committee* is doing a wonderful job with our weekly coffee hours that we may enjoy Sunday morning fellowship after worship. And then there’s our all-church retreat this month:



Let's Go To Camp!

Old Stone Church Presents: an “All Church Summer Vacation Retreat”
July 22-24 (Thursday-Saturday) at Pilgrim Park Camp in Princeton, IL

It’s not too late to sign up. Please help *Rekindle the Flame* and consider signing up today to reserve a spot at camp.

Participation: Any age singles, couples, families (any combination), grandparents/grandchildren, and/or guests of church members, etc.

Location: Pilgrim Park, our UCC camp located in Princeton, IL (approx. 100 miles from Rockton)

Lodging: Pilgrim Park Conference Center (hotel-style rooms with private baths)

Meals: Buffet style in the attached camp dining room.

Cost: \$200 for individuals or first member of your family and \$100 for each additional family member. (cost includes 2 nights lodging, and five meals beginning with breakfast on Friday and ending with lunch on Saturday.)

Activities: Ample time for community building, campfires, vespers, late night chats, movies, group singing, group games, crafts, archery (staff supervised), paddle boats, swimming (guarded camp pool), hiking, creek walks (staff led), bible study, discussion groups, nature studies (camp naturalist), more community building, activities for kids, scheduled free time, and optional off-site trips into Princeton.

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.



Old Stone Church Snappers Baseball Game

Well, it's that time again...are you ready for some baseball?!? This is the farewell season for the Beloit Snappers at the old stadium. Let's get together and give them a good send-off by celebrating one of their last games at the old stadium.

Here are the details:

Date: Saturday, August 7th, 2021

Game Time: 6:35pm

Price: \$11 per person

Please contact Jim Burdick by July 11th if you are interested in joining us!

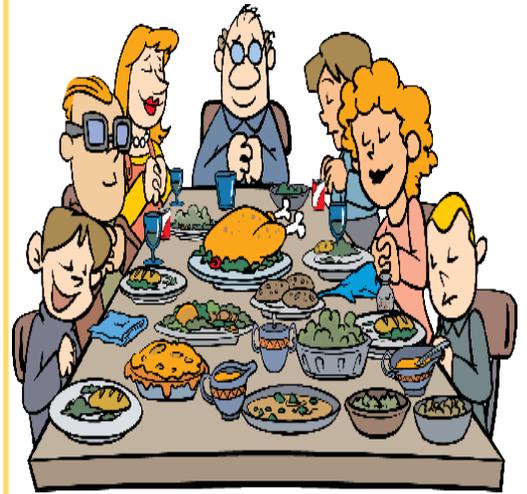
Phone: 815-988-1112 or **Email:** wiscabin@yahoo.com



Dinner Meets With the Pastor

Our Pastor meet-n-greets went over so well we've decided to take it to the next level. Pastor Bob would like, therefore, to begin having Tuesday evening dinner meets (meats?) with anyone interested. This could best happen at a local restaurant now that it is fast becoming safer to gather in small groups. Some of you may even want to consider coordinating a pastor dinner meet with a small group of other church members or friends; the more the merrier! (If not dinner, then perhaps a scoop at Dairyhaus or an afternoon coffee at Dee Dee's!)

Any Tuesday will work although we'll need to conclude by 7:00 on the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays for church meetings. Anyone interested in any of the above can simply call the church during daytime hours to make arrangements, or call/email Pastor Bob directly (262-945-8475 or pastorboboscrockton@gmail.com). This is just one more way for us to *rekindle the flame* at the Old Stone Church.



Welcome to the World, Timothy Evan Lancaster!

For those who may not have heard the news already, Lindsey and Mike Lancaster welcomed Timothy Evan Lancaster into the world on 6/1/2021. He was 7lbs 5oz, and 19 inches long. Both mom and baby are doing fine. Please keep the Lancaster family in your thoughts and prayers during this joyous time. Mom and baby both intend on returning to the office in August.

July Birthdays

- 2nd- Howard Harshbarger
- 6th- Dick Truman
- 7th- Bonnie Estrada
- 10th- Barb James
- 11th- Jordan Plessner
- 12th- Jennifer Bode
- 13th- Kadie Herron
- 14th- Jason Plessner
- 14th- Jake Piper
- 17th- George Ruper
- 18th- Marilyn Kiefer
- 22nd- Terry Eck
- 24th- Jeannie Williams
- 29th- Jack Eck, Jr.



July Anniversaries

- 5th- Chuck & Diane Piper
- 9th- Kevin & Lisa Rudy
- 13th- Larry & Barb Anderson
- 23rd- Russ & Barb James
- 28th- Dave & Suzanne Provance



July 2021

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

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



Old Stone Church Staff:

Pastor Bob Wang: (262) 308-4180
Lindsey Lancaster: Office Administrator
Bob Estrada: Custodian

