

Old Stone Church - June 2021



God
is still
speaking,

Words From Wang – *Don't Take A Vacation From God*

There is not one among us who isn't extremely grateful as we welcome the warmer weather once again and the numerous opportunities that await us in the coming summer months. More than any other year, this year is filled with great hopes, wishes, and expectations. And why shouldn't it be? It's almost like we are experiencing a "great awakening" of sorts as we can finally come out of our isolation to fully enjoy good fellowship, renewal, travel, and yes, even worship, like never before. The summer season is truly a gift that we can all benefit from in so many ways. And it's always important to count our blessings, to name them one by one, as the hymn says. To count our many blessings and see what God has done and to give God the glory and the honor; and to be truly thankful.

Over the coming months, I really look forward to hearing about all the adventures that you and your loved ones will be fortunate enough to experience together. And yes, come fall I expect you all to be prepared to write a theme; "what I did on my summer vacation." So, my friends, as you venture out, may you know that God goes with you; that the spirit of our Creator God is portable and is there to bless your travel, your leisure, your family and/or class reunions, and all your comings and goings.

All of this means that you never really take a vacation from God. Even though you may not be in church every Sunday. We do however, hope that many of you will make worship and prayer top priorities for your summer days and happenings. And we trust that those of you who have been holding back from attending worship for some very good reasons, will finally feel comfortable enough to join us on Sunday mornings.

We will continue to exercise minimal cautions, however. With more fresh air blowing in and the majority of people being vaccinated, we hope to be able to worship together with full-voice singing, face to face fellowship, hand shakes and hugs, and whatever is necessary to rekindle the flames as the community of Christ that is the Old Stone Church. Note: we do hope that we might be able to have a couple more outdoor worship services and maybe even a summer church potluck. Stay tuned. See ya' in church.

Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities (June)

June 6: 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Sermon Theme: *You're Not Getting Older You're Getting Better*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



June 13: 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 4:26-34

Sermon Theme: *Seeds of Hope*

June 20: 4th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Sermon Theme: *On Doing It Afraid*



June 27: 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

Sermon Theme: *Taking Matters Into Our Own Hands*

July 4: 6th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

Sermon Theme: *Shaking the Dust Off*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



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 mission of rebuilding community (rekindling the flame) as they discuss plans and programs for the coming year.

For instance, the *Fellowship Committee* is working to reinstate a weekly coffee hour to follow Sunday morning worship. We give thanks for their efforts and the wonderful opportunities that await us in the coming weeks for fellowship. Please watch for any and all announcements of upcoming events or opportunities for us to be moved by the “flames of the spirit.”



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

Pastor Bob has been a long-time supporter of and participant in the many outdoor ministry opportunities availed us in our various church camp settings throughout the country. During college years, he even spent three summers working on the site staff with the Ohio Conference camps. The United Church of Christ camps have worked in covenant with the various conferences and associations and have historically been breeding grounds for those who are called to serve as local church pastors. Needless to say, the outdoor ministries of the UCC remain invaluable to the churches that have supported and directly benefited from involvement with the camps.

But, like so many institutions, our camps have taken a hit during Covid times and it's up to the local churches to help keep our camps open and functioning as a vital extension of our church's mission and purpose. This year, our two Illinois Conference camps (Tower Hill and Pilgrim Park) are not able to open again for their usual summer sponsored events which presents local churches with the unique (and rare) opportunity to actually use the camps for their own summer programming. Therefore, it is our prayer that the Old Stone Church can rally around this cause and this “once in a lifetime opportunity” to gather at camp to make some great memories, build our own community, and get closer to God in the process. A more detailed flier will be arriving at your homes via first class mail. Please help *Rekindle the Flame* and consider signing up to go to 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.

Spring Clean-Up 2021

Spring clean up at the Old Stone Church may have been rained out on the 15th, but the weather was beautiful for our make-up date on the 22nd! The day was filled with cleaning, creation, creativity, and concert! Thank you to everyone who came out and made the day a huge success. Also, a big thank you goes out to the following for their donations to the grounds:

-Bud & Sue's Market Roscoe, IL

-S&H Nursery Roscoe, IL

-Home Depot & Lowes Machesney Park, IL

-Roder's Elegant Gardens Roscoe, IL

-Lane's Farmers Market Loves Park, IL



And our very own Wendy Eltman, Gordy & Sue Pierson, and Bill Midgett, who also deserves a special thank you for always taking such great care of the pots in front of the building. (Thank you, Bill!)

Moving forward, all of the hard work to the grounds will need some help with maintenance. If you might be available to take a day or two to water the plants, please reach out to Wendy Eltman to volunteer.



New Name, New Voice, Same Great Service...

The time is near, and Lindsey will officially be out of the office as of June 3rd. **Stephanie Butera**, a resident of Rockton, answered our prayers (and our call for help), and has graciously stepped in to help the Old Stone Church office run smoothly while Lindsey is out with baby. She has been busy training, and is more than ready for the job! Also, she has heard much about the warmth and friendliness of the people at the OSC, and she is looking forward to hearing from you! (by phone or stop in for a visit!) Let's make sure Stephanie receives a wonderful OSC welcome!

Summer Music

The Old Stone Church is seeking musicians for summer music. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in providing some special music this summer, please reach out to Karin, or leave a message with Stephanie in the church office.

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.

Pastoral Concerns and Prayer Requests

Just a reminder that Pastor Bob is always willing to respond to any situations that may arise where pastoral support and response is desired. Upcoming surgeries or procedures, a family crisis or loss, or anything else where the pastor could be involved or may be able to provide guidance, prayers, or support.

Also, when appropriate and with permission, these issues can be shared during prayers on Sunday mornings. Please pass any info to the church office via phone or email, or even directly to Pastor Bob (pastorboboscrockton@gmail.com) or his cell (262-945-8475).

June Birthdays

2nd- Gavin Bailor
6th- Callista Newmes
8th- Reeve Franklin
10th- Tom Streck
15th- Lexi Herman
17th- Carm Herman
18th- Jeff Halom
21st- Neil Cuthbertson
21st- Chelsea Burns
24th- Bev Peters
25th- Sandy Lynch
30th- Ben Herman
30th- Eric Butler



June Anniversaries

3rd- Jan & Erik (Barth) Huff
12th- Howard & Gerrie Harshbarger
18th- Jeff & Vickie Halom
18th- Jason & Katherine Plessner
21st- Tim & Nadine Slocum
24th- Steve & DeeDee Balsley
24th- Bob & Bonnie Estrada
24th- Ken & Bev Peters
24th- Bob & Jean Leach



June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Diaconate 7pm	2 Grief Group 10:30	3 Pantry 9:15-11:15 GA Mtg. 6:30-8	4	5
6 Communion	7	8 Council 7pm	9	10 Pantry 9:15-11:15 GA Mtg. 6:30-8	11	12
13	14	15	16 Grief Group 10:30	17 Pantry 9:15-11:15 GA Mtg. 6:30-8	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Pantry 9:15-11:15 GA Mtg. 6:30-8	25 Old Guys 8:30a	26
27	28 4-H 6:00p	29	30	*GA- Gambler's Anonymous		

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