

# Old Stone Church - June 2022



## **WORDS FROM WANG** – “How long, O Lord?”

*And we hear the cry of the Psalmist, "How long, O Lord?"* How long will we continue to endure such horrific tragedies? There is not a single compassionate person on this planet who was not sickened when hearing of yet another mass shooting in an elementary school. There are simply no words to express the grief and anger I am feeling as I write this column.

*And here we go again; our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of the victims.* Our esteemed conference minister of the South-Central Conference of the United Church of Christ wrote compelling words the day of the Texas school massacre. He wrote, “as one who believes in the power of prayer, I recognize the importance of it in ordinary things. But this is an extraordinary thing.” And extraordinary things deserve so much more than our thoughts and prayers; extraordinary things deserve our best response and so far our responses have continued to fall short and fail us as a society. And consequently, today we have too many angels in heaven. And our God weeps with those who mourn.

If you think that I’m getting too political because I am raising the issue here, then by all means, feel free to come and speak with me – and then we can hopefully engage in a respectful dialogue about it. Because it needs to be talked about - but not as a political issue, but as a moral issue that is plaguing our communities. Because the church has a lot more to offer the conversations than just thoughts and prayers. We have a moral obligation to share our thoughts, concerns, and to be advocates for change.

And to cry “How long, O Lord” like the Psalmist, is as good as asking God to do something about it. But truth be told, God is waiting for us to do something about it. And as I struggle to find the words, I turn again to one of our church leaders to drive this home.

“When chaos happens and there are no clear answers and lives are lost for no good reason, as the church, we are called to help people grieve. To help in mourning. To journey with those who suffer and offer the love and compassion and grace that may witness to the fact that joy will, in time, come again into their lives. We are the witnesses to resurrection, to death not having the final word. As followers of Jesus we are responsible to communicate that message, and are accountable to the Divine for our so doing.”

“So, tonight, as I write these words listening to my children sleep nearby, I sure wish our leaders would lead. In Texas. Nationally. We don't need their thoughts and prayers – we, the church, will take care of that on their behalf. We need them to lead. We need to hold them responsible to common sense legislation that will protect our children. We need to hold them accountable for getting it done. And we need to communicate that message with clarity and resolve. Because sometimes, when we're waiting on a miracle, we forget that the miracle is us. Let's do something.” (Phil Hogson, South-Central Conference Minister UCC)

See ya’ in church - where we can join together in prayer...

*Pastor Bob*

## Worship Opportunities (June)

June 5<sup>th</sup> will be our last 9:15 service



**June 5:** Confirmation Sunday

**Scripture:** Acts 2:1-21

**Sermon Theme:** *Wind Song*

*Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served*

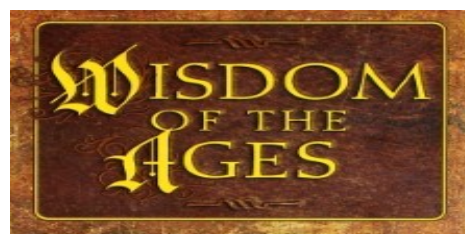
Beginning on June 12<sup>th</sup> worship will be at 9:00

**June 12:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

**Sermon Theme:** *The Wisdom of the Ages!*

*Note: We hope to worship outside in the parking lot, weather permitting.*



**June 19:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** Luke 8:26-39

**Sermon theme:** *My Name is Legion*

**June 26:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** TBA

**Sermon theme:** TBA



**July 3:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**Sermon Theme:** *Shaking the Dust Off Our Feet!*

*Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served*



## “Flames of the Spirit: *Hearts on Fire*”



On Pentecost Sunday last year we launched a three year campaign called *Flames of the Spirit*. The first phase, *Rekindling the Flame*, has been completed and we are therefore pleased to announce phase 2 which is “*Flames of the Spirit: Hearts on Fire*”

**Roll out date:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, June 12 (June 5<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday but the focus that day will be on confirmation).

Our focus text is **Luke 24:30-32)** *When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us[a] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”*

**Mission:** to build on the previous year with programs, events, and worship services that inspire, including the community around us (provide an alluring “glow”); that our burning hearts may create a sense of wonder from the wider community; that we might find ways to appeal to those seeking a connection with a faith community (community outreach). We will further celebrate the resiliency of our vocal and bells choirs, and will continue to build on that burning desire to praise God through music.

With our new shared ministry covenant with 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational U.C.C. of Pecatonica, we look forward to planning joint activities and events to further our mission and outreach as the “Crooked River Ministries” as well as establishing community partners in and around both parishes.

We hope that these new endeavors will help to inspire our own people to do some personal witnessing (a.k.a. elbow evangelism) and instill in people a desire to invite their friends, family, and neighbors to church programs. Remember, faith is not taught, rather faith is “caught.”



### **Confirmation Corner** – June Schedule

**Confirmation Sunday is June 5.** Eight young people have completed a year of study, fellowship, and service. Along with their families, mentors, and friends we wish to celebrate with them during the worship service that morning.

Each youth has a role to play in the service and will be rehearsing at 8:00a.m. that day. Let’s join at 9:15 in congratulating them for all their accomplishments. A special fellowship time after the service will be offered in their honor.



## Crooked River Ministries Launch and Lunch - July 17 @ 3:00

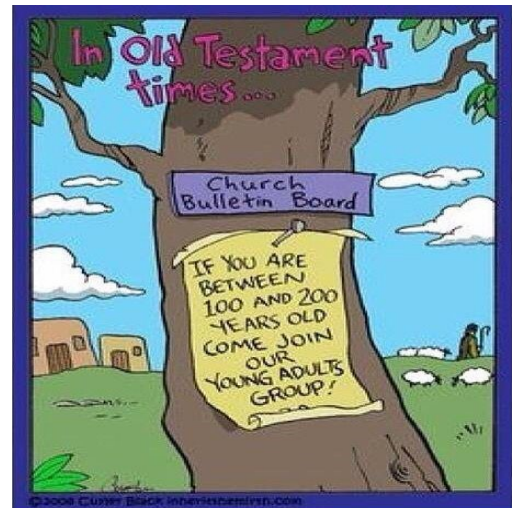
We are happy to announce that our shared ministry with the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational UCC of Pecatonica will officially begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>. To celebrate and dedicate this partnership we are holding a special event to ritualize our covenant, share in a common meal, and to get to know each other better.

We have dubbed this joint effort “Crooked River Ministries.” So, consider this day as the ceremonial “Crooked River Launching.” The location for this inaugural event is yet to be determined but will most likely take place one of the Winnebago County forest preserves located between Rockton and Pecatonica. Stay tuned for further announcements and information.

We’re also looking for a few volunteers from each church to guide us in the planning process. There’s a rumor that we might even have a special choral piece prepared just for the occasion featuring singers from both churches. Don’t miss it!



# Comic Corner



## 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 Lindsey in the church office.



## June Birthdays

- 1st- Timothy Lancaster
- 2nd- Gavin Bailor
- 6th- Callista Newmes
- 8th- Reeve Franklin
- 10th- Tom Streck
- 18th- Jeff Halom
- 21st- Neil Cuthbertson
- 21st- Chelsea Burns
- 24th- Bev Peters
- 25th- Sandy Lynch
- 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 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Pantry 9-11	3	4
5 Confirmation & Communion	6	7	8	9 Pantry 9-11	10	11
12 Piano Recital	13	14 Council 7pm	15 Grief Group 10:30	16 Pantry 9-11	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22	23 Pantry 9-11	24 Old Guys 8:30	25
26	27	28	29	30 Pantry 9-11		

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