

Old Stone Church - March 2022



WORDS FROM WANG – “*Lent: The Season of Re*”

Ash Wednesday signifies the official start to the Lenten season; a season for reminding us about the redeeming power of rebirth, restoration, and renewal. And it all begins with some personal reflection, repentance, recompense, remorse, and even a little reproach from others.

Traditionally, Lent is a time to relinquish and release ourselves from those things that bring us a certain amount of pleasure and enjoyment thus making more room for a little retrospect on life’s priorities; to reevaluate our current practices that we might reconnect with matters of the spirit. This practice of “giving up” or “sacrificing” or “resisting temptation” does allow for some re-calibrating and reorienting, but it isn’t always enough for us to fully experience a sense of the resurrection when we come to the Easter event; something that occurs at the culmination of the Lenten journey.

Of course, the most responsible thing for us to do as “Christian practitioners” is to renegotiate our priorities which can best happen if/when we take time to recess, refresh, recreate (to play), or even recline that we might realign our bodies, minds, and spirits. It means taking time to regenerate, to recreate (make new), to rehabilitate, to reconstruct, to reorganize our lives (likened to a spring house cleaning) that we might reaffirm our faith in a way that can bring amazing and grace filled returns!

In the process we can also identify those places and with those people where reparation is needed and where reconciliation is possible. This can be a painful reality but is the only way to rebuild those relationships and return to a true sense of peace and harmony in our lives at every level, but mostly in our relations with others and the natural world.

Let us therefore, resolve and be resigned to some actual realignment with others and things - that we might rededicate our efforts in seeking renewal and revitalization in all matters under the sun. Let us make this Lenten journey an opportunity for reformation, reaffirming our faith, and for reconditioning our souls. That we may refine our understanding of the teachings of our faith and seek to rebuild and restore all that is good in the world. For this is the season of “re” and we must respond with a sense of integrity for it is our responsibility to make every day of the journey count. For redemption is drawing near.

See ya’ in church.

Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities (March)



March 2: Ash Wednesday

7:00pm Worship in the Sanctuary

Join us for a quiet, spirit-driven service of contemplation, music, and message.

March 6: Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon Theme: *Trials and Temptations*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



March 13: The 2nd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35

Sermon Theme: *Tapping the Maternal*

March 20: The 3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9

Sermon Theme: *Begging Your Pardon*



March 27: The 4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon Theme: *A Long Way Home*

April 3: The 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 12:1-8

Sermon Theme: *Living in the Mary-Moment*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



Flames of the Spirit: *Rekindling the Flame*

By now most of you are aware that we have opened dialogue with the members of our sister United Church of Christ in Pecatonica. We are assembling a task force to explore, negotiate, and develop a plan for our possible shared ministry with the Pec church and the establishment of wider parish identity and purpose. Diane Piper, Bonnie Estrada, Terry Eck, Chelsea Burns, Lindsey Lancaster, Jeannette Smith, and Pastor Bob have expressed an interest in being on the task force.

The important work of this team will be reported over the course of the next couple of months with a more formal document and plan being presented to the congregation at a date to be determined.

In the meantime, we are looking for a few other willing persons to be part of another team with the purpose of doing some visioning for OSC with an emphasis on fundraising, fellowship and community outreach. Part 2 of our three-year theme is "Hearts On Fire" so that will certainly give us some direction for transitioning on Pentecost Sunday in the later spring, early summer.

Some of the topics we will be exploring together are, but not limited to:

- New fundraising ideas
- Staffing models
- Building use
- Impact investing of our property and assets
- Reexamining and redefining our purpose as a faith community
- Community Outreach events such a Coffee House (open mic night)
- Fellowship events (church member events as well as member-guest events)

Prospective members for this task force will be invited to participate but we are also open to anyone else interested in joining in on the conversations. If you feel called to get involved with our visioning team, and possess an entrepreneurial spirit, then speak to Pastor Bob.



Faith Formation Retreat - March 4-6

We are looking forward to the "Faith Formation" retreat being offered at the UCC camp in Green Lake, WI (the Daycholah Center). This will be an amazing opportunity to meet youth from other UCC churches who are also going through the confirmation process. Much of the time shared will be discussing current events and how our faith helps us deal with the many challenges that we are all being faced with. All of our church camps, of course, continue to monitor the health crisis and are always following current mandates and protocol.

The retreat begins at 8:00 p.m. on Friday night. So, we will carpool from Rockton, stop somewhere for a fast-food dinner, and arrive at camp in time to get checked in before programming begins. The actual departure time from Rockton will be determined but probably somewhere around 5:00 p.m.

A special word of thanks to the fellowship team for planning the soup supper and to the other generous supporters who helped us raise around \$1100 to help defray the cost of the retreat (although a couple more donations are pending so the amount could be higher). As usual, the good people of the OSC are stepping up to support a worthy cause!!

Streaming Video Help

Every Sunday, a small team of us work to bring those at home a live streaming service. This small team has been doing this work for almost a year now, and we would love to open up the opportunity for people who may want to help, and give them a chance to learn what we do.

On Sunday, **March 13th**, after our Sunday Service, we will be running a training session on how to run the equipment for live streaming. If you would be interested in learning how to run the streaming equipment, please contact Lindsey in the church office at 815-624-6212, or send an email to oldstonechurch@oldstonechurch.net.

This will be any easy, informal way to learn about the streaming services in the church. We hope to see you!



Easter Egg Hunt



The Christian Ed. Committee is on the "hunt" for plastic, fillable easter eggs. We are planning a church youth Easter Egg Hunt as part of our Easter service this year, and are reaching out to see if anyone has any eggs they may be able and willing to donate. If you are able to spare some eggs, please bring them to the church office by April 10, 2022, so that we may prepare them before Easter Sunday. Thank you for your continued support!

Reminder...



Don't forget to set all of your clocks one hour ahead!

The time has come for more daylight hours!

Don't forget to set your clocks **AHEAD** for Daylight Saving's Time on March 13th, 2022!



March Birthdays



10th- Chris Gantz

13th- Amy Steward

15th- Cameron Newmes

19th- David Proudfoot



March Anniversaries



2nd- Jeff & Heather Porter

27th- Shaun & Amanda Slocum



March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Worship Team 7	2 Grief Group 10:30 Ash Wednesday 7	3 Pantry 9-11	4 Youth Retreat	5 Youth Retreat
6 Youth Retreat Communion	7	8 Council 7	9	10 Pantry 9-11	11	12
13 Live Stream Training	14 Girl Scouts 5:30p	15	16 Grief Group 10:30	17 Pantry 9-11	18	19
20 Confirmation	21	22	23	24 Pantry 9-11	25 Old Guys 8:30	26
27	28 Girl Scouts 5:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p	29	30	31 Pantry 9-11		

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