

Old Stone Church - November 2021



God
is still
speaking,

Words From Wang – “Language Without Love”

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (1 Corinthians 13:1)

From the time we could speak, our parents taught us the importance of saying “please” when asking for something, and saying “thank you” when receiving something. The meaning behind these seemingly trite words is profound. In simple terms, it’s all about common courtesy, a concept that has been lost to many in recent times. And with the current battlement of language and words these days, many of us still believe in the power of using words that build up and not tear down.

Our words are an expression of who we are and what we stand for. From politics to religion, our backgrounds and families of origin, even down to the teams we cheer for, with every word we utter there is always an underlying and inherent bias that conveys to others the essence of our very being. In short, our words are an extension of our personality; for better or for worse, a reflection of our true nature.

What we’re hearing these days in our everyday language has gone beyond the level of disgusting. Common decency is sorely missing. But beyond some of the many profanities that are spoken even in the most casual settings, it’s often the deceitful and disrespectful nature of our words, spoken and written, that are the most offensive. When speaking their minds, people no longer use filters. The level of irreverence and disrespect in our words is extreme and many people don’t really care that their words offend.

This is the world we live in and I for one want to challenge each and every one of you to join me in a new revolt; that we call for a moral revolution of words. In short, that we hold people accountable for what comes out of their mouths. Maybe a metaphorical “Lifeboy” moment is in order (inspired by the generation that washed their children’s mouth out with soap). And we can call it a “common language revival.” This would require a return to the basics. So, we would do well to remember certain parental advice like “Mind your P’s and Q’s,” whatever that means. That we reclaim the meaning of common courtesy.

So, if we considered launching this worthwhile revolt in November, then the obvious go-to theme for our common language revival would be in how we express gratitude; giving thanks to God and to one another.

There’s an old phrase that we don’t hear used much anymore; a phrase that conveys a stronger message than simply saying “thank you.” That phrase is “much obliged.” As the words imply, it’s about showing gratitude but with a sense of obligation - that we owe something in return. So, when we give thanks to God, “much obliged, Lord” we’re saying in essence, “God, I am indebted to you and want to repay you for all that you’ve done for me.” Likewise, if we extend gratitude to a friend or loved one by saying, “much obliged, honey, mom, dad, brother, sister, or friend,” it’s like we’re saying, “I owe you one.”

Never has there been a better time for speaking words of kindness than the times we are living in. The theme of compassion runs deep in the gospels of Jesus Christ and as the Apostle Paul wrote, *when we speak without love we’re just like the clashing symbol.* So, remembering what I said about words being an extension of who we are, as Christians we should therefore put our faith where our mouths are. Actions do speak louder than words but the words we speak are no less important. Speak therefore, that your words become a reflection of what you truly believe as a disciples of Christ. The time is now! For our words are the script that define us; what we believe, what’s in our hearts, and how true we are to our calling.

See ya’ in church.

Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities (November)

November 7: 24th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Romans 12:14-13:7

Sermon Theme: *On Living Our Stories*

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



November 14: 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: John 1:1-18

Sermon Theme: *God's Beloved*

Note: *The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated.*

November 21: Thanksgiving Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 126

Sermon Theme: *Hearts Full of Gratitude*



November 28: The 1st Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Luke 21:25-36

Sermon Theme: *Signs, Signs, Everywhere Are Signs*

December 5: The 2nd Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Sermon Theme: *Some Things Are Worth Waiting For*

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



Flames of the Spirit: *Rekindling the Flame*

Each month we continue to feature those items and events that can help represent our three-year “Flames of the Spirit” initiative. 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.

Our annual Turkey Dinner, for instance, resumes this month so we celebrate that flame of the spirit being reignited with higher hopes that next year it will be in person.

Looking forward to December we are happy to announce the long awaited “*A John Denver Christmas*” featuring the music of the late singer songwriter.

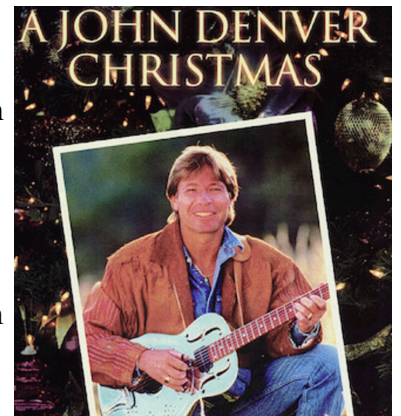
The Old Stone Church Presents:

A John Denver Christmas **December 3 at 7:00 p.m.**

Bob Wang, who cut his guitar-playing-teeth on Denver’s music, will present a concert featuring many of the JD classics; all of which Denver performed on his Christmas albums and TV “specials.” Original songs like *Aspenglow*, *Christmas For Cowboys*, *A Baby Just Like You*, and the iconic Christmas carol sing-a-long. But to not disappoint, supported by a small combo, Bob will also perform many other non-holiday classics like *Take Me Home Country Roads*, *Annie’s Song*, *Sunshine On My Shoulders*, and *Thank God I’m A Country Boy*.

The concert will take place in the OSC sanctuary which will be transformed into a country-like family room setting – guaranteed to put us all in that nostalgic holiday mood that we all yearn for this time of year! There’s also a rumor that Bob’s wife, Judy, will be “in the house” and might even join him on stage for a couple numbers. During a brief intermission, a free will offering will occur to help support the missions and ministries of the Old Stone Church.

Light refreshments will also be served.



In addition to the concert, we will also be holding a basket raffle featuring gifts and goodies donated by Rockton area businesses and church members. If you would like to help organize or support the basket raffle, or wish to provide a basket, please speak to someone on the planning team (Ken Thomson, Jacquee Miller, Bonnie Estrada, and Carol Hansen).



Confirmation Corner – *November Schedule*

November 7 Faith Formation 3 @ 10:45 am

November 21 Faith Formation 4 @ at *Midway Village*

Immediately following worship, we will caravan from church down to *Midway Village* for a discussion on the historical role of the church in society. Thanks to Ken Thomson (he works there), we will have exclusive use of the Victorian Village for a scavenger hunt and lesson. Please dress for the weather though we will adapt accordingly and keep things indoors if necessary. Parents and mentors are welcome to attend and/or help with transportation.

Stewardship Drive Dedication Ceremony to be Held November 14th

Known as "Consecration Sunday," on November 14th Pastor Bob will ask God's blessing as we dedicate our pledges and ministries for the new year. Everyone is invited to participate in this annual celebration of the joy of giving as a congregation.

Despite the unprecedented challenges all churches, and we as individuals and a congregation have faced during the past year and a half, our OSC and our congregation remain as strong and hopeful as ever. As of Thursday, November 4th, \$90,000 has been pledged in support of our 2022 budget goal of \$135,000!

While this still leaves us with some additional fundraising to do, (we'll have a better idea of the final results of our 2022 Stewardship Drive by Consecration Sunday), the pledges we've already received are an amazing vote of confidence and hope for our historic OSC and our many ministries. Together, we will indeed continue to work with God to keep **Rekindling the Flame**.

Pledge cards are always available from our church office and from our ushers at Sunday service.

2 Corinthians 9.7: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

With sincerest appreciation,

Your OSC Stewardship Committee



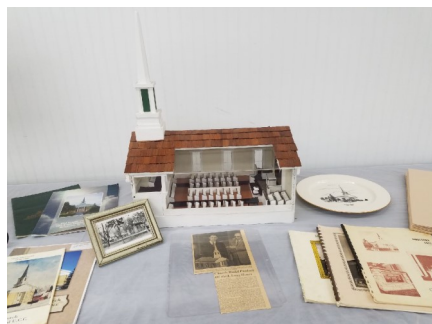
Old Stone Church

REKINDLING THE FLAME

2022 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

Heritage Sunday

On October 17th, the Old Stone Church celebrated our history with Heritage Sunday. The service was well attended, and most of us stayed to celebrate our first church potluck in 18 months! It was wonderful to be able to learn more about our church history while also being able to celebrate where we are and where we are headed! A special thanks goes out to the organizers of the event, and the Fellowship Committee for providing us a lovely potluck lunch!





TRUNK OR TREAT



November Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

- 3rd- Theresa Adams
- 6th- Randy Stutzel
- 7th- Shaun Newmes
- 8th- Nora Lancaster
- 10th- Nate Steward
- 11th- Barb Anderson
- 14th- Dean Middleton
- 14th- Scott Wallace
- 18th- Lois Proudfoot
- 18th- Donn VanSchelven
- 18th- Lindsey Lancaster
- 19th- Amanda Newmes
- 22nd- Bob Estrada
- 22nd- Megan Stutzel
- 26th- Alberta Kane
- 30th- Adelaide Coomer

Anniversaries

- 2nd- Tim & Jaci Coomer
- 4th- Neil & Jan Cuthbertson
- 26th- Donn & Judy VanSchelven
- 28th- Mark & Amy Steward
- 30th- Darrell & Jeannie Williams

Happy Anniversary



November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Grief Group 10:30	4 Pantry 9:15	5	6
7 Communion	8	9 Council 7pm	10	11 Pantry 9:15	12	13 Turkey Dinner
14 Consecration Sunday	15	16	17 Grief Group 10:30	18 Pantry 9:15	19	20 T-Baskets 7:30a
21	22 4-H 5:30p	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29 Cub Scouts	30				

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

