

Old Stone Church - October 2022



God
is still
speaking,

Words From Wang – *Doing A lot With A Little*

President Biden recently announced that the pandemic was over. But he quickly inserted that we still have to deal with the Covid-19 virus. This is the reality we live in on so many fronts, including our existence as a mainline protestant church. While we celebrate the encouraging news of the present, the challenges of moving forward as an institution remain on the hearts of all. And it's usually in the autumn season that we contemplate the role of giving as stewards of the church and the planet.

And we often find ourselves wringing our hands as we worry about there being enough; enough volunteers, enough money, and enough energy to continue the work of God's church; the institution entrusted to us. This is called the fear of scarcity and it too can function in the same way that a persistent virus does. Many biblical texts seek to address these fears. And many even challenge our priorities when it comes to the ministry of money and the lack of it.

Jesus' parable of the mustard seed is a useful analogy in the area of stewardship and giving. *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."* (Matthew 13:30-32)

The parable eloquently speaks about the hidden promises of even the smallest of the of seeds; so tiny yet holding so much possibility. When we consider the gifts that we are, blessed by God, even if we feel small, we can still hold on to the promise of God's awesome power at work within us. The parable reminds us of our pure potential; as individuals and as members of a faith community.

In his book, *We Aren't Broke*, Mark Elsdon writes, "The church, if it measures anything at all, has traditionally resorted to counting bodies and bucks – the number of people showing up in church and the dollars given to the church. But these are output measurements, not outcome measurements." His comment is not a critique of the need to provide financial oversight and accountability. He's merely suggesting that there is a greater issue at the core of the mission of the church; namely, that we are impacting lives. Simply put, is personal transformation with those whom we serve the real outcome of our ministry together?

The image of the tiny mustard seed resonates with us as pure potential and with the resources we have. Namely, that we truly can do a lot with a little. That doesn't mean we stop inviting people to support the church with their resources. God knows that we must do our part to inspire generosity within our church community. However, Mark Elsdon points out that "membership and giving may have declined, but that God has not declined. God's love and care for all creation is as strong as it has always been. God is still at work and invites us to join in the planting and cultivating of God's garden. The needs are great and the opportunities are even greater. And the resources are there." Oh, yes, the resources are here!

See ya' in church.

Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities (October)

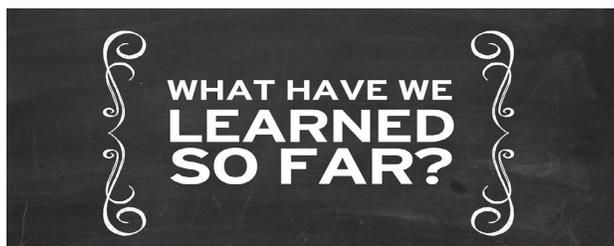


October 2: The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Tim. 1:1-14

Sermon theme: *Cowards, Please Excuse Yourself*

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



October 9: The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

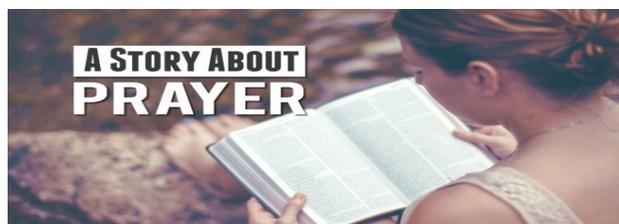
Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

Sermon theme: *What Have We Learned in 2000 Years?*

October 16: The 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 18:1-8

Sermon Theme: *Is This Really a Parable About Prayer?*



October 23: The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14

Sermon Theme: *Narcissism: The Original Sin*

October 30: The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Sermon Theme: *Why A Sycamore Tree?*



November 6: The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 98

Sermon Theme: *Strike Up the Band*

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



Crooked River Ministries - **SMAC**

As mentioned last month, the Shared Ministry Advisory Committee (which we are informally referring to as “SMAC”) is set to roll out very soon. The committee will have its first official meeting sometime this fall. We wanted to wait until after **Chelsea (Burns) Dorr’s** wedding to **Mitch Dorr** which was on September 24th. Congrats to the happy couple. (Chelsea, of course, is one of the three reps from OSC on the committee.)



Crooked River Calendar of Events

October 8 - Crooked River Coffee House (Rockton)

Our first coffee house/open mic night will be at 1st Congregational (Pecatonica) on September 17th was a success and we look forward to having the next one at Old Stone Church. Sign up to perform will begin at 6:00 p.m. with music starting at 6:15. Music, poetry reading, comedy, whatever your talent please join us. Or, simply come to enjoy. Admission to the coffee house is a non-perishable food donation of any size. Refreshments will be offered throughout the duration. If you wish to volunteer to help host or serve, please let church leadership know. See enclosed flyer. Please help spread the word!



November 2-4 - Autumn Blessings Adult Retreat (Cedar Valley Retreat Center)
(See the enclosed flier for details and a registration for)

December 9 or 10 - John Denver Christmas Concert (Pec)

The 2nd annual John Denver Christmas concert is being planned for some time in early December and will take place in the sanctuary of 1st Congregational Church, Pecatonica at 7:00 p.m. More details forthcoming.



December ? - Chicago Day

How about a trip to Chicago? This event is being considered and would include bus transportation (maybe coach!) into Chicago with a stop on the Miracle Mile; Christmas lights and display on Michigan Avenue, the museum of Science and Industry, restaurants, etc.



Crooked River Ministries Present:
**Crooked River Coffee House
and Open Mic Nights**

Saturday September 17th
1st Congregational Church of Pecatonica
633 Reed St. Pecatonica, IL

Saturday October 8^h
The Old Stone Church
101 E. Union St. Rockton, IL

**Admission: non-perishable food items to benefit the
Pecatonica and Rockton Food Pantries**

The doors will open at 6:00 for open mic sign-up. Performers can plan 2-3 pieces but it will depend on how many want to play, sing, recite, etc. Things will wrap up by 9:00 p.m.

Assorted hot/cold beverages and snacks will be served



Questions call 815-624-6212 or email
pastorboboscrockton@gmail.com

Autumn Blessings Retreat - November 2-4, 2022 (Cedar Valley Retreat Center)

Nestled in the heart of Washington County and Wisconsin's Kettle Moraine region, Cedar Valley Retreat Center is located on 100 acres of natural beauty. Cedar Valley is part of the United Church Camps, Inc. (United Church of Christ); one of three outdoor ministry sites in the Wisconsin Conference.

Pastor Bob is planning programming for attendees to dig a little deeper in their faith but will also allow ample time for fellowship and to enjoy God's natural sanctuary that is Cedar Valley. The rooms for overnight lodging are very quaint and include private bathrooms. All linens are provided. The country-style dining room offers delicious homemade breakfasts, lunches, and dinners—all included in the overnight rates! We encourage interested parties to read all about Cedar Valley and view color photos of the site by going to ucci.org and following the links to Cedar Valley.

The per/person cost is determined by room preference. In other words, if retreat participants prefer a single room for themselves, the cost is a bit higher. If participants are willing to share a bedroom (two beds), then the cost is a bit less.

All six meals are included in the lodging cost so it is quite a bargain. And the meals are excellent and offered buffet style in their cozy country-style dining room (all in the same building as our sleeping and meeting rooms).

- Single occupancy is \$260 for two nights and six meals.
- Double occupancy is \$230 for two nights and six meals.

Retreat participants can plan on arriving any time after 4:00 on Wednesday November 2. We will conclude our time together after lunch on Friday the 4th. Anyone connected to 1st Congregational Pecatonica and the Old Stone Church are encouraged to attend. And what a great opportunity for the two church communities to be better acquainted. Guests of church members are also welcome. Another ministry opportunity brought to you by the Crooked River Ministries.

Registrations can be made by completing the enclosed form and returning with a check made out to the Old Stone Church. **Deadline to register is October 18th**. Note to Pec: Pastor Bob is willing to be a courier between Pec and Rockton! If unable to make payment prior to 10/18, a verbal commitment is acceptable though we will be liable for all reservations once we have confirmed our numbers with Cedar Valley. Please refer any questions to pastor Bob via email, text, or phone call (pastorboboscrockton@gmail.com or 262-945-8475).

Cedar Valley is located at 5349 County Road D. West Bend, WI 53090. For assistance with directions to Cedar Valley contact or speak with Pastor Bob.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Room Preference: (Circle one) Single Occupancy Double Occupancy

If double, I will be rooming with: _____

Make a Difference, Pledge Your Support for 2023

Everyone in our OSC family is encouraged to participate in our annual fall Stewardship Drive. Our Church Council uses the results of our annual drive to determine our Church's budget and ministries for the coming year.

Your pledge will help ensure that our historic OSC remains a welcoming place to turn to for hope and worship; and contribute to important ministries that impact you, our members, and our community. The good works we accomplish as a congregation depend almost entirely on the success of our annual pledge drive.

2023 Stewardship Pledge Cards were mailed on September 28th, with a requested return date of October 31st to help us finalize our budget for next year. As in previous years, so everyone can share in the joy of giving as a congregation, our progress board will be updated regularly throughout October.

Every pledge matters. If you haven't already, please "give thought and take action" on what you feel God calls you to share. A member of our congregation may call you if you have not responded by late October to remind you to return your pledge card and/or to offer assistance with any of your questions or concerns. Pledge cards are available from our office manager and from our ushers at Sunday service.

Together, we will work with God to continue setting *Hearts on Fire!*



Old Stone Church

HEARTS ON FIRE!

2023 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

Veteran's Day Turkey Dinner

Since WWII the Old Stone Church, 101 E Union Street Rockton, IL, has served an annual sit-down Veteran's Day Turkey Dinner to the public in honor of all veterans. This year's meal will be on November 12, and in the interest of safety, will be curbside only, with pickup between 4:30 and 6:00 with designated pickup times.

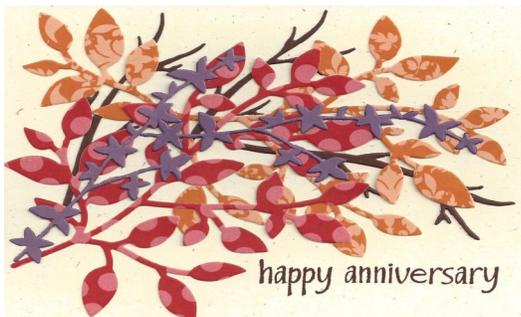
Cost is \$13.00 per meal or \$10.00 per meal for 5 or more. We do request that reservations be made and paid for by Nov. 1st. Reservations are limited, so please call the church at 815-624-6212 for details and to make your reservation as soon as possible. There will be no sales the night of the dinner. Please be on the lookout for more information on how to get involved!



October

Anniversaries

5th- Shane & Megan Stutzel



The Christian Ed Committee is excited to announce we are bringing back the Trunk or Treat event at the Old Stone Church!

The Event will take place on Sunday, October 30th, from 1-3pm in the Old Stone Church Parking Lot. This event will be open to the public, and **held in tandem with the Main Street Trick or Treat event downtown**, so we will need plenty of volunteers to help us make this as successful as last year's event!

We need volunteers to decorate their vehicles and pass out candy. We need people to help direct families through the event, and if you are unable to make it the day of the event, a donation of candy or non candy items, or funds for those items is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Lindsey in the church office.

Let's make this a safe, family friendly event that can continue to be enjoyed for many years to come!



October

Birthdays

1st- Kevin Rudy

2nd- Joan Plessner

7th- Andrea Gantz

9th- Tess Provance

12th- Becky Stutzel

12th- Huxley Coomer

17th- Karin Bohr

18th- Lilly Halom

18th- Shane Stutzel

19th Sandy Eck

21st- Pastor Bob Wang

22nd- Mary Henthorn

22nd- Pat Insko

23rd- Katherine Plessner

26th- Reed Thompson

28th- Jean Truman

29th- Karen Herdklotz

30th- Jocelyn Piper



October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion	3	4 Worship Team 7p	5 Grief Group 10:30	6 Food Pantry 9-11a	7	8 Coffee House/ Open Mic 6p
9	10	11 Council 7p	12	13 Food Pantry 9-11a	14	15
16	17 Cub Scouts 6p	18	19 Grief Group 10:30	20 Food Pantry 9-11a	21 Girl Scouts 5:30p	22
23	24	25	26	27 Food Pantry 9-11a	28	29
30 Trunk or Treat 1-3	31 Happy Halloween					

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

