

Old Stone Church - September 2021



God
is still
speaking,

Words From Wang – “Dear Mr. or Ms. Anonymous”

Dear Mr. or Ms. Anonymous,

First of all, thank you for your recent note. It should come as no surprise that I’ve received a lot of notes like yours over the years. Funny thing, though. In over three decades, I’ve never been able to discuss the issues with the unidentified senders - which is really what I would prefer doing.

When it comes to polls or surveys, when you or I anonymously participate in with literally dozens or even hundreds of other concerned people, that, well suffice it to say, the results can be quite useful and can potentially achieve some amazing results; we receive data that we could never have without having conducted the survey.

However, in the larger scheme of things, a single anonymous question or concern in any form about church practices or matters is generally not helpful. As a matter of fact, most individual anonymous concerns (or complaints) about church matters can be quite troublesome and may even cause a level of undue anxiety or frustration. First, because we’re trying to second guess the tone with which the comment was written or spoken; or the underlying meaning; which is never easy. Are they angry? Are they unhappy about something? Or are they themselves hurting and in need of some support or a compassionate listening ear? There is so much of the individual person that is missing by remaining anonymous.

On the flip side, I’m happy to report, that over the years I have had some awe-inspiring conversations with people who have either written to me and signed their name, or who actually came forward with their concerns or questions. There’s nothing better than a good heart to heart, face to face conversation between two of God’s beloved. And the amazing thing about it, the outcome of the conversation always includes a plan for moving forward. But more importantly, the conversation included a mutual understanding between both parties because we were able to engage in kind and respectful dialogue where both sides were heard. Now in my humble opinion, that’s amazing grace.

Did you know that when Thomas Paine wrote his famous pamphlet, *Common Sense*, which included his support of American independence, he published the pamphlet anonymously because he feared retaliation from King George the III? Well, if it is the fear of retaliation that motivates you to anonymously raise issues in the church, then rest assured, that by signing your name to it, I guarantee you will receive nothing but admiration and respect for being courageous enough to do so. And, I promise open ears and minds to the issue (s) you bring. And who knows, it might just be the beginning to a new era void of the need for anonymity and simply abounding in love and productive work together as the church of Jesus Christ. Sincerely, Pastor Bob

See ya’ in church.

Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities (September)

September 5: 15th Sunday After Pentecost (Outdoor)

Scripture: Mark 7:24-37

Sermon Theme: *Finding Our Voice*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



September 12: 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 8:27-38

Sermon Theme: *There is No I in Disciple*

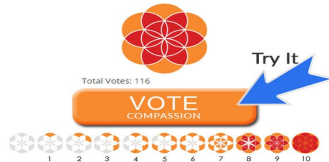
September 19: 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37

Sermon Theme: *Servitude: Not Just A Suggestion*



THE COMPASSION GAUGE TOOL
Measuring Compassion By Detecting Your Energy



September 26: 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Esther 7:1-6, 9:20-22

Sermon Theme: *On Measuring Compassion*

October 3: 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Ruth 1:1-18

Sermon Theme: *Now That's Commitment*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



Old Stone Church COVID Updates

As the world continues to deal with an ever present pandemic, and the information and numbers change and shift, so must we be flexible in what we are doing to keep ourselves and our friends, family, and neighbors safe. It is presently mandated in the state of Illinois that masks be worn for all indoor congregating. The Old Stone Church remains steadfast in our commitment to keep each other safe, so we will therefore be following the state mandate. We understand that masking, along with vaccination, is a way to slow the spread of this virus. These things are indeed acts of love, and small ways in which we can do our part to slow the spread.

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 2021-22 mission of rebuilding community (rekindling the flame) as they discuss plans and programs for the coming year.

Confirmation Orientation – Sunday, September 12 @ 10:45 (following worship)

Given the interest level in starting a confirmation program this year, we have scheduled an orientation meeting for September 12th following 9:30 Sunday morning worship. The meeting will last no more than an hour but will include an overview of the program and we will be comparing notes on meeting times that best suit the schedules of those choosing to participate.

Anyone who is currently in the 7th or 8th (or higher) is welcome to join us. If you haven't already expressed an interest, please let Lindsey or Pastor Bob know. Youth do not have to already be members of OSC, they only need to possess a desire to explore their faith further. After all, there is a reason why it is called “faith formation.” This is just another way that Old Stone Church is working to “rekindle the flame.”

October is Stewardship Month

Autumn is just around the corner and so is the start of our annual fall Stewardship Drive. The theme for this year's pledge drive, ***Rekindling the Flame***, is taken from the three-year *Flames of the Spirit* late/post-pandemic church revitalization program we adopted at our April Leadership Summit and rolled out on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd.

Watch for upcoming news and join us on Sunday, October 3rd, as we kick-off our 2022 Stewardship Drive!



Old Stone Church

REKINDLING THE FLAME

2022 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

THE OLD STONE CHURCH IS PROUD TO PRESENT: *The First Annual Bag Night*



On Tuesday, August 17th, the Old Stone Church, along with members of the community, came together to celebrate and appreciate the work of the Old Stone Food Pantry. We took the time to celebrate Donn VanSchelven, and his many hardworking volunteers, as well as other volunteers and donors in our area.

The evening started with food (provided by our fellowship committee) and music provided by the SOBO Jazz Band, led by our own Dave Provance, which consists of high school band members as well as Jr. High and veteran band members. We were also provided with music from the worship band from the Roscoe United Methodist Church later in the evening.



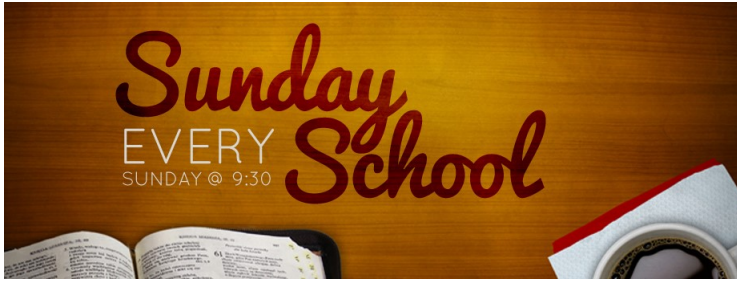
The Bags tournament was a success with 12 teams participating, and our top two teams giving us a great match to watch, and both walked away with prizes for their efforts.

We are happy to say that this was a successful event, and it was successful due to the hard work of all who came out to assist and participate in this wonderful event!

First Annual



Bag Night



Sunday School will be kicking off on Sunday, September 19th! We will again be using the single classroom model, and will have the kids starting in the sanctuary with their families before being led out for Sunday School. Please remember that masks are required for indoor gatherings, and as always, if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

If you are planning on your children participating in Sunday School, please contact Lindsey in the church office, so we can be sure to get a good estimate of how many kids we can expect to see week to week.

We are excited and looking forward to a fruitful year of learning! We cannot wait to see you in Sunday School!

*Celebration of Life for
Deedra "Dee Dee" Black*



DeeDee Black, beloved wife and mother, passed away peacefully in her home after a long illness. We invite her friends and loved ones to join her family to celebrate her life.

Sunday, September 19, 2021 at Rockford Country Club, 2500 Oxford St., Rockford, IL 61103 from 11:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

September Birthdays

- 1st- Vickie Halom**
- 1st- Jerry Steward**
- 4th- Chris Fleissner**
- 5th- Jaci Coomer**
- 17th- Tom Christenson**
- 17th- Angie Streck**
- 22nd- Jean Leach**
- 25th- Bob Plessner**
- 25th Amanda Slocum**
- 26th- Katie Middleton**



September Anniversaries



- 13th- Bob & Joan Plessner**
- 16th- Dick & Jean Truman**
- 21st- Mike & Lindsey Lancaster**
- 22nd- Chris & Andrea Gantz**



September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Grief Group 10:30	2 Pantry 9:15-11:15	3	4
5 Communion	6 Cub Scouts (pm)	7 Diaconate 7pm	8	9 Pantry 9:15-11:15	10	11
12	13 Cub Scouts (pm)	14 Council 7pm	15 Grief Group 10:30	16 Pantry 9:15-11:15	17	18
19 Sunday School Starts!	20 Cub Scouts (pm)	21	22	23 Pantry 9:15-11:15	24 Old Guys 8:30	25
26	27 4-H 6-8p	28	29	30 Pantry 9:15-11:15		

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