

Old Stone Church - April 2026



Welcome to April

The New Madrid Fault begins near Mound City, IL., and extends south into Arkansas. This seismic zone is still quite active, though it was in 1812 when it last saw a 7.0 earthquake—one which shifted the earth enough to change the course of the Mississippi River.

The earth shakes on Easter morning. The Gospel of Matthew does not ease us into resurrection with birdsong and soft light. Matthew opens the story with the ground convulsing beneath the women's feet. An angel descends like lightning. The stone groans as it rolls away. Guards collapse in fear. These seismic details are unique to Matthew's resurrection narrative. Earthquakes appear at pivotal moments throughout this Gospel: Jerusalem trembles when Jesus enters on Palm Sunday, the earth quakes when Jesus dies on Good Friday, and again here on Easter morning. Three times Matthew reminds us that God's power can shake the whole world. God's power can also remake it.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary come to the tomb expecting the world to behave the way it always has, expecting the certainty of death. They carry spices and sorrow, ready to perform the final act of love for the one they followed. Then the earth shakes and the angel speaks what was once impossible: "He is not here; for he has been raised." The women leave the tomb, Matthew says, "with fear and great joy." Joy, because Christ is alive. Fear, because if Christ is alive, everything is different, new, and disorienting. In many ways, these women are us: Trying to make sense of a world that is shaking.

New and dangerous wars are erupting. Anger pulses through public life. Communities fracture along lines of suspicion and fear. Institutions we once trusted to last forever feel fragile. It can feel easier to believe the old certainty - that violence, power, and despair will have the final word. Yet Easter bolsters us with hope and proclaims something even more radical. The tomb that should have sealed the ending becomes the place where God begins again. Christ died. Christ rose. And suddenly the old certainty — that death always wins — no longer holds. The women at the tomb are not invited to sit down and process the theological implications of resurrection. The angel sends them immediately: "Go quickly and tell his disciples."

Easter is not only the celebration we have awaited through the long weeks of Lent, our chance to sing songs of praise, and fill our sanctuaries with lilies. Easter is also our commissioning.

Go and Tell. Go and tell that death does not have the final word. Go and tell that love is stronger than violence. Go and tell that God is still remaking this shaking world.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed.

~~ Pastor Randy ~



Easter Flowers given to beautify our church

Karin Bohr - In Memory of Kendall & Scott Bohr

Harold & Sheli Bright— In Thankfulness to God for their daughters and grandchildren & In Memory of Jack & Sharon Funk

Bob & Bonnie Estrada— In Thankfulness to God for their Family & Church

Howard Harshbarger— In Memory of Gerrie Harshbarger

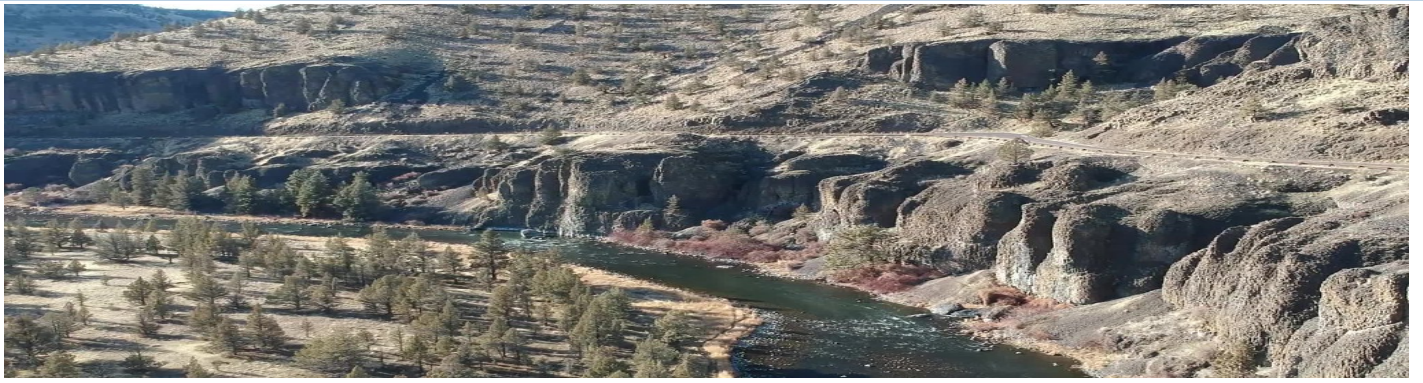
Jan Barth—Huff— In Memory of her beloved Parents: Bob & Jackie Reynolds

Elizabeth LaLande— In Thankfulness to God

Gordy Pierson—In Thankfulness to God

Jeanette Smith— In Thankfulness to God for son David who passed.

Marlene Street—In Memory of Carl (Bud) Street



With Spring upon us we will be starting up the once a month shared service with our sister church in Pecatonica. The first joined service will be April 26th at the Old Stone Church in Rockton, at 10:00 am 101 E Union St Rockton IL. 61072 — Come Join us for this combined church service! Service is at 10:00 am.

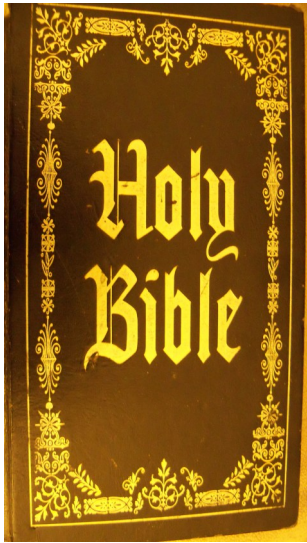
Worship Support News:

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service will be held on April 2nd at 6:00 pm at the Old Stone Church. This is a free symbolic dinner and service to be a part of as we reenact Jesus's last supper. Let the church office know if you plan to attend—815-624-6212.

Join Us For Easter Service on April 5th at 9:00 am.



Bible Study



Pastor's Bible Study : Pastor Randy is holding Bible study on **Thursday nights at 6:00 with dinner provided: Come share different biblical teachings with Pastor Randy and fellow members. Bring a friend and enjoy fellowship.**

About 10 of us are meeting on Friday's at 12:30 in the conference room at Old Stone Church to discuss the Bible Study called: Heaven by Jennifer Rothschild. We are finding this series very informative as it applies to our ideas of Heaven. This series just started on March 26th if anyone would like to join us, we still have books.

April Pantry News

During these slow times of giving to the Old Stone Church food pantry we are asking our congregation to help us with keeping our shelves stocked. The item for the month of April will be: **Boxed Cereal**

Please drop your donation off Monday—Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm or bring with you on Sunday morning.



Old Stone Church Council News:

The Church Council members will again be meeting on April 7th at 7:00 pm . All are welcome to attend . You can find council meeting minutes hanging up on the bulletin board by the church office and downstairs on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall.

May Tea Party 2026 News—

Once again the Old Stone Church will be having a Spring Tea Party. This years Tea Party will be on Saturday May 16th, 2026. The Tea Party theme this year is The Founding Mothers in celebration of USA's 250th year. The tea is open to church members, family, friends and the community. Let's make it as successful as lasts years Tea Party. More Information to come.

April Birthdays

5th— Mark Steward
6th— Marlene Street
13th— Hannah Middleton
15th— Lindsay Rudy
19th— Gordon Pierson
19th— Steve Gleasman
21st—Jim Burdick
28th— Russ James
29th—Donna Hubble



April 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|--|-----|
| | | | 1 Grief Group 10:30 | 2 Maudy Thursday Dinner -6:00 | 3 Good Friday Bible Study 12:30 | 4 |
| 5 Easter Bells Perform | 6 Bells—6-7 | 7 | 8 | 9 Bible Study 6 Food Pantry 9 | 10 Bible Study 12:30 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 Bells—6-7 | 14 Council 7:00 | 15 Grief Group 10:30 | 16 Bible Study—6 Pantry—9-11 | 17 Bible Study | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Bells—6-7 | 21 | 22 | 23 Food Pantry Woman's Club | 24 Bible Study 12:30 | 25 |
| 26 Shared Service OSC 10:00 | 27 Bells —6-7 | 28 | 29 | 30 Bible Study 6-7 | | |

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Old Stone Church Staff:

Pastor :Randy Nicholas
 Sheli Funk-Bright: Office Secretary
 Tonay Rieffer: Custodian

