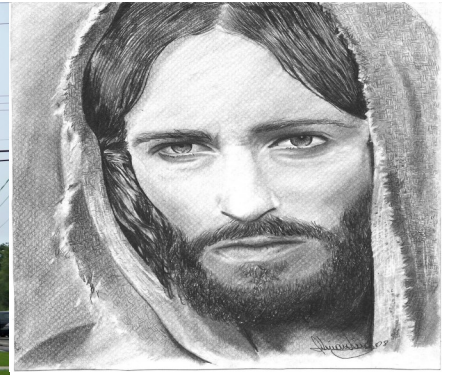


Old Stone Church - August 2026



Welcome to August

The church budget represents a special type of terror for pastors and lay leaders, especially in a difficult economy. During tough financial times, giving often goes down while expenses rise. I am very hesitant to talk about finances because I am at least 60% of the budget.

High prices and global unrest make discussions about financial stewardship extra challenging. If you wonder how your church will meet its goals or balance its books this fiscal year, you're not alone.

Charitable giving is often one of the first things to feel the pinch when living costs increase. Everyday needs now absorb the money that many Americans once donated to church. Financial pressures and declining attendance are a reality. Yet, in-person worship attendance at U.S. congregations has increased for the first time in 25 years. Studies also found that volunteer engagement has rebounded since the pandemic.

Another important finding: Online giving is now available in 76% of churches, up from 58% in 2020. Electronic, automated giving accounts for about 40% of congregational revenue. The digital option that many churches set up out of pandemic necessity is paying lasting dividends.

The gap between what our congregation can give right now and what our church ministry requires is real. That means broadening the giving conversation beyond the offering plate. I invite every person to be a part of what God is doing in and through the church. We must tell members specifically what we need. And treat giving as a discipleship opportunity, not just a finance strategy.

As more people walk through the doors, our support and relationship—building will bear fruit. Trust Jesus, who multiplied a few loaves of bread and fish, to provide in abundance.

~~ Pastor Randy ~~

Building and Grounds News

Thank you Robin Schroeder for all your hard work. You can find Robin working in the church yards making them presentable as people pass by. We are thankful for your constant presence here at the church to make it look beautiful!



The church shutters have been inspected and there are a few in need of securing to the building. Look for that to be done soon.

August 4th

Watch your step as the church carpets are going to be Shampooed on August 4th and the walk area's may be wet.

Crooked River Calendar of Events

Our Shared Sunday Service with First Congregational UCC of Pecatonica will be held August 31st at 10:00 am. The Service will be held at UCC Pecatonica, 633 Reed Rd. Pecatonica. Hope to see you all there!!

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Pantry News

A huge thank you to the Roscoe Garden Club who has been bringing weekly donations of their fresh produce to the Food Pantry!! What a blessing!



The Food Pantry will be closed August 6th —

July's Shared Sunday at Hoo Haven

Thank you to Steve and Karen Herdklotz for providing their grounds at Hoo Haven for our July Shared Sunday Service with UCC Pecatonica. Thank you to all who attended~~



New church Members

In July we welcomed Robin Schroeder and Elizabeth LaLande into our church family. When you see them please give them a huge welcome!



August

Birthdays

- 14th- Julie Bailor
- 16th- Steven Herdklotz
- 25th- Dee Dee Balsley
- 28th- Molly Plessner



August

Anniversaries



- 4th- Steven & Karen Herdklotz
- 20th- Gerald & Laura Bode



August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion	3 Bells—6:00	4	5 Grief Group 10:30	6 Pantry closed	7	8
9	10 Bells—6:00	11 Council 7pm	12	13 Pantry 9-11	14	15
16	17 Bells—6:00	18	21 Grief Group 10:30	20 Pantry 9-11	21	22
23 30 — Shared Service PEC —10:00	24 Bells—6:00 31 Bells—6:00	25	26	27 Pantry 9-11 Woman's Club 6:00	28	29

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Old Stone Church Staff:

Pastor - Randy Nicholas 815-713-7702
 Sheli Funk-Bright - Secretary
 Tonya Riefer—Custodian

