

Old Stone Church - September 2026



Welcome to September

When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” — Exodus 16: 14-15

One of the first activities my wife taught in physical education classes each fall was called orienteering. She would hand out instructions and a compass to pairs of students, then say, “Find this.” While most of the students understood the general concept of orienteering, they were confused by the compass. Most had never seen one much less use one. A student even said to her, “What is it?” She likes to buy my kitchen gadgets as well. Most of them are useless—like the avocado pitter (a device which removes the pit from the fruit... just like a paring knife), a garlic press (they do make minced fresh garlic you know), and the apple peeler (insert apple, move the blade to touch the surface, and crank!!). The last item never got used—I can quarter and peel an apple in less time than it takes to set up the contraption! Rather than turning down the gifts, or saying “What is it?” I gratefully accept them, then hide them in the pantry.

The Israelites are starving. So hungry they’re ready to turn back to the enslavers in Egypt. Moses assures them: God is going to give you a gift. Then next morning, there’s dew on the ground at their camp. And when the sun dries it, a fine flaky substance is left behind.

Moses says, “There it is! A gift from God!” the people look at him confused and ask, “What is it?” Within a day or two, the students figured out the use of the compasses—and really enjoyed being out and about instead of in a stuffy classroom. Over the 20 years she taught orienteering, once the kids learned how to use the compass, they had no reason to ask, “What is it?”

It turns out that the best gifts are the ones that confuse us, that show up just before we know what to do with them and teach us who we’re going to be.

Like that “bread” for which the Israelites developed a taste, was the food that made them into God’s people, and the gift that guided and sustained them through the wilderness toward what was next. And there was no need to look for mossy bark on a tree.

~~ Pastor Randy ~~

Fellowship News & Worship Support News

Shared Sunday Service September the 27th 2026

Join us at 10:00 am on Sept. 27th at the Pecatonica River Forest Preserve, 7260 Judd Rd. Pecatonica. Please bring a dish to pass, Table service and your beverage as we worship and have a picnic together.

—— Bible Study Info coming in October ——

November News

The Annual Veterans Turkey dinner is just around the corner on November 7th. As always we will be looking to our members for their help. A committee meeting will be held in September—More information on the meeting is forthcoming.



Pantry News

September is Hunger Action Month

As a Congregation, with a joyful heart, please donate to our food pantry that feeds 65-70 families a week —

Tuna — Beef Stew — Canned Fruit — Salad Dressing — Gravy-
Canned Vegetables — Cereal — Canned Meat — Soup—



One of our Pantry Donors, Kettle Chip's out of Beloit Wi. came through with a huge donation this month. We are forever grateful for all the company's who contact us for donations to the Old Stone church food pantry!! We are blessed!!

October is Stewardship Month

Coming up—October is the time of year we dedicate to promoting stewardship with our annual fall pledge drive. The stewardship of our beloved Old Stone Church is an important part of running our church. The results of our annual pledge drive will determine our Church's budget and ministries for the coming year.

Stewardship time reminds us that we are privileged to be able to join God's generosity for good works. Stewardship letters and cards have gone out and we hope to receive many back in the mail. Please take the time to consider pledging this year so the council knows how to budget for 2027.



September Birthdays

1st- Vickie Halom
4th- Chris Fleissner
17th- Tom Christenson
25th- Bob Plessner



September Anniversaries



13th- Bob & Joan Plessner
16th- Dick & Jeannie Truman
24th- Mitch & Chelsea Dorr



September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Grief Group 10:30	3 Pantry—9	4	5
6 Communion	7 Bells—6 Hairy's	8 7:00-Council	9	10 Pantry—9	11	12
13	14 Bells -s Hairy's	15	16 Grief Group 10:30	17 Pantry—9	18	19
20 Mary's Market 11-2	21 Bells—6 Hairy's	22	23	24 Pantry—9 Woman's Club	25	26
27 Shared Servic Picnic—10	28 Bells—6 Hairy's	29	30			

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Old Stone Church Staff:

Pastor : Randy Nicholas

Sheli Funk-Bright: Office Secretary

Pianist: - Jerry Pratt

Tonya Rieffer: Custodian



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