



# The Rolling Stone

Rollstone Congregational Church

February 2019

## The Greatest Commandments are.....

*34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"*

*37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

All of the great religions of the world have always stressed the importance on the commandment "To Love", love God and love your neighbor." It seems to be relevantly easy to understand the first piece "To Love God" because each of us have a vision of what God is in our own minds. Some of our visions may differ as to the God we worship, serve, and love; but we do have some sort of vision in which we strive to observe the love we are commanded to observe. We all know that everyone has a god in their lives that they love, it can be the God Almighty of creation, or it might be as different as loving our homes, our family, our materialistic things that give us pleasure in life. When Jesus spoke those words to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, he was addressing the need that as people of faith we should strive to honor and worship the God of the Universe. There is little to dispute that we should be loving God and honoring God, we don't have any argument on that first portion of the Great Commandment

The dispute arises between people in the interpretation of loving your neighbor. When Jesus spoke these words did he literally mean the people who lived next door? He did mean the people next door, but who they are seems to be the basis of our differences and arguments. We have many different neighbors and neighborhoods that have been created by man and not God. A neighbor is someone defined to be next to or near in proximity. Our definition of neighbor is then defined by our own perspective, there is no given distance to clarify who is or isn't our neighbor. In today's global language and perspective we could easily hear Jesus clarifying his statement as "Love God and Love Everyone." That clarification would be so much clearer and easily understood as to how we can honor God. When we are able to love our neighbors and everyone we are clearly demonstrating that we are "Loving God with everything we got." The lack of love has led this world to become a world of hate and absent of caring and compassion. It is unfortunate the hate that exists in the world because most of it would avoidable if only the churches and religions began to practice the commandment to love. The world suffers because we don't know how to love anymore, nor have we ever been taught to love in a way that honors God.

In this month of February, which is meant to honor those whom we love, may our love begin to focus on "Loving God and Others" as the foundation to love everyone in our lives. May we experience a revival of Love each and every day throughout the year rather than just the one

day of February 14<sup>th</sup>.

May Love fill the world and your hearts always!

Blessings,  
Pastor Dave



### Missionary Ladies

Edwina Olcott's house and worked on material for next year's

Our boxes were packed and delivered to Children's Aid and Family Service, Battered Women and Our Father's House.

We will be meeting again in February.

Becky Capone-Colwell  
Edwina Olcott  
Marilyn Wales



### New Church Directory to be Issued!

We have finally pulled together a directory of folks related to the church. Initial copies will be available at the annual meeting. Please look it over and let us know if you see any needed additions or corrections. This will be the key element in communicating with people interested in Rollstone. Please be sure we have correct information for you, especially email addresses.

As things get busier with activities at Rollstone we will use the information in the directory to help us keep you up to date with everything going on. Our preferred communication method will be email, but we have also set up a phone tree to pass critical information to parishioners. This will be used any time we have to cancel church.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas on how we can communicate better please be sure to talk with us.

Paul Stansel

# Church School

It is nearly Valentine's Day – So Why the Christmas Pageant Pictures?

Well... Because I made promises to a few kids that it would be their turn to be a sheep, Mary, and Angel Gabriel this year. How could I keep this promise with only a few students in Church School?



It was possible with adult members herding the kids, our youth who co-operated no matter what was asked, and PRAYER! I trusted and kept saying aloud (for myself as much as others) – **we should be fine!** And we were more than fine – our humble Pageant was VERY well received and lots of fun. Promises kept, new friends & special guests participated, and of course HE was there!

Our curriculum this week suggests a lesson from Deuteronomy 31:8 “Jesus will never leave us alone” and “he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Perhaps even when it is difficult, we should trust that He will not only never leave us alone but instead bring us new members and special guests. The student lesson talks about change and how scary it can be – Here is the prayer that ends the student lesson:

Dear Lord... Thank you for staying with us... you promise you will never leave us and that you will take care of us... no matter what happens this year. Thank you for the truth... your Bible and your promises... we love you. Amen

Let us ALL keep Christmas in our hearts ALL year!



So now we move on to our winter lessons and planning for our week of **DAY CAMP** - June 24 – 28, 2019. Watch for info in spring!!!

Blessings, Beth and Hal



## **St. Valentine's Day – A Love Story for the Ages**

Even for a militaristic society such as ancient Rome, the third century was a nightmare. The Empire was fraying at its far corners. Barbarians were massing at its borders. And there was a fierce battle waging in the interior between the proponents of the old pagan gods and the new Christian philosophy.

Roman Emperor Claudius ordered an edict prohibiting young people from marrying because Rome needed victories. He believed that unmarried soldiers made fiercer fighters. Rome's Christians greeted the edict by welcoming young lovers; marrying them in secret and even raising dowries for needy women. This new faith, which offered its adherents love, charity and good works, grew in popularity. As Rome's emperor, Claudius was a god in the Roman pantheon. He worried that this new sect would stir rebellion, so the Empire stepped up its persecution against Christians.

During this time, two obscure Christian bishops named Valentine were beheaded for their Christian faith. They were Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Terni, local leaders striving to bring Rome to Christ. Two centuries later in 496, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day and, at the same time, canonized Valentine a saint. He did not say which Valentine the date was predicated upon. Hence, over the centuries we have only heard of one.

Historians believe the proclamation was not as much about Valentine as it was about promoting the Christian strategy for wiping out paganism. The new St. Valentine's Day coincided with an especially hideous Roman fertility celebration, Lupercalia. In its heyday, it was a three-day bacchanalia that began with pagan priests running naked through the streets of Rome slapping pretty girls with bloody strips of goat meat.

Through his work with young people, particularly young women, Valentine became a thorn in Rome's side. He was arrested, tortured and sentenced to death. As he sat in prison awaiting his fate, Valentine is credited with a miracle. He cured his jailor's daughter of blindness. The jailor converted to Christianity and offered to help Valentine escape. But the future saint said, "No". It is said that the night before his death, Valentine sent a reassuring note to the jailor's daughter, signing it "from your Valentine." This act is said to have launched the tradition of Valentine cards.

Valentine's message of love in action did not die with him. It has appealed to writers and thinkers -- Chaucer, Shakespeare, John Donne -- down through the ages. The custom of sending Valentine's day cards started in 18<sup>th</sup> century England. The first mass produced Valentine's Day cards -- all hearts and lace-- originated in nearby Worcester in the 1850s. Today, St. Valentine's Day and its message of love and generosity is celebrated in dozens of countries throughout the world. -

**Eileen Berger**



CAMP WELLVILLE INC.

The Camp Wellville Annual Meeting will be on Thursday, February 7 at Rollstone Church at 7:00 pm. Come hear about the upcoming summer program, meet the Board of Directors and offer suggestions for summer programs.

#### DEACON NEWS

Hi everyone, I believe winter has finally arrived. It has been so brutally cold the past few days.

January has just flown by. Pastor has gotten some copies of the upper room and distributed them. He will be getting more and some in big print.

Hal Smith is having valve repair surgery in February at Mass General hospital. We must remember to keep him in our prayers.

If you know anyone who needs a card, please see Mary Anne Smith.

On Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> after church we will be having a Yankee Swap. Everyone who wants to participate should bring a gift wrapped or you can put it in a bag. The price limit is \$5. This is a lot of fun. If you forget a gift, we will have extras. Ask someone if you don't know how to play.

The kitchen committee has just had a spaghetti supper which was yummy! They also had a meat loaf supper and luncheon. If you haven't come yet you will be pleasantly surprised. It is so wonderful to have our kitchen back. It is beautiful.

If you have any ideas on any activities, you would like to do please see one of the deacons. The deacon's names will be in the annual report.

I don't have much more.

Linda Haas, Deacon Chair

# Calendar of Events



## 27 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Rollstone Congregational Church will be held in Cookman Hall on Sunday January 27th, 2019 following the morning worship service. A luncheon will be served prior to the meeting being called to order. All are invited and encouraged to attend as we hear the reports for the year 2018, vote upon the slate of officers and boards for 2019, act upon the annual budget for 2019, and to conduct any other business that may legally come before the congregation.

Community Dinner • Saturday, February 2nd • 4pm -

6pm

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Sunday, February 10th

## Valentine's Day Yankee Swap

Come celebrate Valentine's Day and the approach to the midpoint of winter!

We suggest that the gift be a value of about \$5.00 and wrapped. Join us as we have a few laughs and share in the family fun of our church. This will be held in Cookman Hall following worship and fellowship. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Diaconate, for assistance.

Spaghetti Supper \* Wednesday, February 13th 4 pm - 6 pm

The kitchen is up and running! Join us at one, or all of, our upcoming events.

Saturday, February 2nd our community dinner will feature Roast pork with roasted vegetable medley applesauce and of course dessert. (but it's a surprise!)

Wednesday, Feb. 13th our amazing spaghetti supper with salad garlic bread and ice cream for dessert!

Both of these run from 4 to 6 pm. \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$28 for a family, children under 5 free.

Saturday, February 16th from 11:30-3:00. Soup and sandwich luncheon.

Choose from 3 homemade soups and a variety of sandwiches served grilled or cold.

Soup and sandwich combos are very reasonably priced.

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## All Things Chocolate and Devilishly Sinful

On **Sunday, March 3rd** we will be trying a new and exciting fellowship hour to mark the end of the Epiphany season before we enter into the Lenten season with a time of fellowship.



*All are asked to bring a dessert that is either chocolate or devilishly delicious.*

