

# The Rolling Stone

Rollstone Congregational Church

April 2019

## 40 Days of Lenten Living

It is hard to believe that the Lenten season is half way completed and that we will be celebrating Easter morning proclaiming that “He is Risen.” We so look forward towards the joy of Easter, but the joy can be experienced throughout the year, especially during the Lenten season. We have been taught that Lent is a time of journeying to be closer to Christ. Some of us have grown up with the tradition of giving up of some materialistic thing during Lent that we might have found some pleasure. I am always on the lookout for something new that might offer us some greater insight and perspective about our Christian rituals and observances.

I might have suggested that we fast for 40 days, like Christ did when he went into the wilderness for the 40 days to pray. We could have taken the opportunity to open the church up at a designated hour for the 40 days, but that would have been difficult to accomplish this without having some individuals having to do the bulk of the burden to see that the church was open and then locked up again. We could have distributed the Lenten coin envelopes/folders, but that was more work for some and a minimal sacrifice for others. I knew that there had to be something, but I wasn't quite sure what we could do that would make a difference in our observance of the Lenten season. Then a few days prior to Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent I saw something that Mary Pilesky Lyman reposted from her nephew. Here is what she wrote in response to her nephew.

***“My nephew posted this. I think it's a wonderful idea. I think our church could do this. I am definitely doing it myself. I think as a church we could give back to our food pantry at the schools. This week is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent and the Easter season. It's the time of year we all start talking about what we will "give up". My family has, instead, decided to "give". Each day of Lent we will put 1 non-perishable food item in a box and on Good Friday it will be delivered to a local food pantry. I am now going to suggest this "challenge" to all my friends and family, and I am starting with you my church family. Get a box and add 1 non-perishable food item each day for the 40 days of Lent and donate to a food pantry. Do it with your family or even join up with others if 40 items are too much to do alone. I'd love to see all of us make it possible for some less fortunate families have some food on their tables. If you chose to accept but are unable to get to a pantry, we can bring the boxes to church and deliver them as a group. Thanks in advance!!!”***

This simple post created an idea which in response has created a meaningful way to

observe Lent. The idea went from a small seed and has turned into an opportunity to give back to the less fortunate who struggle to see anything positive in themselves. We are collecting not only food items, but we have asked for donations of personal hygiene products that will be distributed to MIHN (Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network) and Our Father's House.

I invite everyone to contribute to this project in whatever ways you are able. If you can contribute one item or forty items, the quantity is irrelevant, the fact that you believe in doing this mission in the name of Jesus will speak loudly as it touches the least of these that Jesus spoke about.

May your Lenten journey be filled with compassion and caring as we strive to emulate the compassion and caring that Christ demonstrated throughout his earthly journey. Looking forward to seeing and celebrating with each of you on Easter morning and throughout the year.

Pastor Dave

## Hearing assistance devices available

Hearing assistance devices are available in the Sanctuary. We have small, wireless receiver devices with an earphone to hook onto your ear or a neck loop to wear around your neck. This device will increase the sound volume coming from the sanctuary's sound system which includes the microphones used by Pastor Dave and the Liturgist.

The device works with an earphone or a neck loop. The neck loop is for use with T-Coil switch hearing aids.

To use the hearing device: Insert the earphone or neck loop cable into the headphone jack on the device. Turn the device ON and adjust volume control as needed.

For more information or help with a hearing device see Pastor Dave or Andy Lipasti.

## **WAYSIDE PULPIT**

### **What are the Rules?**

A recent *Daily Devotional*, e-published by the UCC, was about holiness codes, such as circumcision. There are rules and practices which define who is within and who is outside of a given community of faith. Romans chapter four asserts that at least this one rule was made obsolete by Christ's invitation of both the circumcised and the uncircumcised to His table.

A magazine editorial I read the same day discussed *shibboleth*. In the book of Judges, it is explained how the Gileadites used the pronunciation of that word to identify enemy Ephraimites, whose language lacked the “sh” sound.

Whether by physical characteristics, modes of dress or speech, social position or political orientation, we humans establish rules to define who is, and who is not, “one of us.” But the Gospel makes it clear that the maintenance of such divisions is antithetical to participation in the Kingdom.

So, we try to root out the unwritten rules by which we differentiate ourselves from “them.” But this is no easy task when some of “them” are taking rifle shots at school children or senators, or at worshipers in mosques. I confess that I am far from eradicating from myself the unwritten rules that still have me thinking of some as outsiders, never to be a part of our community of faith.

**Chuck Funk**

## **Four Stars for the Rollstone Café**

Fitchburg’s newest and decidedly best eating spot opened in January in the Rollstone Congregational Church’s basement with a newly remodeled kitchen and a team of talented volunteers.

Kim Bourque and Mary Lyman head up a group of inspired chefs and waitstaff including: Pam Beaulac, Linda Gallant, Carolyn Barney, Mary Lou Barney, Cathy Fontaine, Becky Caldwell, Mary Anne Smith, Janet Lane, Anne Westerman, Ruth Carpentier, Beth Porell, Rick Lane to name a few.

Jay and I had been hearing great things about the new Café, so we decided to try it for ourselves. We missed the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Baked Ham and Macaroni and Cheese Community Dinner, but we heard about it from several of our Rollstone friends. “Best macaroni and cheese I ever had,” said one.

We showed up early for the Spaghetti Supper on March 13. I must admit to being entirely partial to Jay’s spaghetti sauce, but I was pleasantly surprised by the red sauce and gigantic meatballs served up by the culinary team. The small salad bar allowed customers to choose their add-ons and the warm, crispy bread enabled me to scrape up the last drops of that tasty sauce. Afterward, there were ice cream sundaes for those who wanted them.

We brought our son’s family to the St. Patrick’s Day luncheon on March 16, which featured three soups: loaded baked potato, beef barley and vegetable; and an assortment of sandwiches including a Ruben “special of the day”. We tried the potato and beef barley soups and

proclaimed them “best ever.” Our two grandchildren, ages 6 and 5 and normally picky eaters, asked for a second grilled cheese sandwich. The corned beef on the Ruben was no “deli special”. Mary was at the kitchen until late Friday night preparing the briskets by hand. The Rollstone Ruben was so good, I can never eat anyone else’s, ever.

Did I mention that on both occasions the dining room was laid out festively with green tablecloths, gold shamrock doubloons, beads and other seasonal decorations?

While meal prices are very reasonable, Kim and Mary say they have managed to make a profit on each occasion. All profits go to the church. Although patronage is building up for the monthly events, the team says they could always use more customers.

The Rollstone Café is open to all. Here is the April Schedule and prices: Community Dinner, Saturday, April 6 from 4-6 p.m. featuring a pot roast supper with all the fixings. Spaghetti Supper, Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. Prices: Dinners are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and children (under 3 eat free.) With spring coming, the St. Patrick’s Day lunch will be the last luncheon until soup weather (next October).

So, mark your April calendar and join us.

-Eileen Berger

### **What is Habitat for Humanity?**



Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 in Americus, Georgia and helps hard-working, low-income families seeking affordable homeownership. Simple, decent, affordable homes are built or rehabbed in partnership with families, donors and volunteers who share a vision where everyone has a decent place to live. Our local affiliate, Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts was founded 30 years ago and serves 25 nearby communities. It has been headquartered in Fitchburg but now has its office in Acton, MA. Carleton “Zeke” Finch was one of the original founding members of this chapter.

A Critical Home Repair Program was launched in 2015. This is a home preservation program that provides needed interior and exterior repairs for low-income homeowners, so that they

may maintain a safe, decent, and affordable place to live. This program focuses on safety, security, accessibility, weatherization, and keeping houses up to city codes.

Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based organization. Their mission statements refer to God, Jesus, and the prophet Micah. See the mission statements below:

## **MISSION VISION**

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

## **MISSION PRINCIPLES**

1. **Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.** We undertake our work to demonstrate the love and teachings of Jesus, acting in all ways in accord with the belief that God's love and grace abound for all, and that we must be "hands and feet" of that love and grace in our world. We believe that, through faith, the minuscule can be multiplied to accomplish the magnificent, and that, in faith, respectful relationships can grow among all people.

2. **Focus on shelter.** We have chosen, as our means of manifesting God's love, to create opportunities for all people to live in decent, durable shelter. We put faith into action by helping to build, renovate or preserve homes, and by partnering with others to accelerate and broaden access to affordable housing as a foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty.

3. **Advocate for affordable housing.** In response to the prophet Micah's call to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God, we promote decent, affordable housing for all, and we support the global community's commitment to housing as a basic human right. We will advocate for just and fair housing policy so that poverty housing becomes socially, politically and religiously unacceptable.

4. **Promote dignity and hope.** We believe that no one lives in dignity until everyone can live in dignity. We believe that every person has something to contribute and something to gain from creating communities in which all people have decent, affordable places to live.

5. **Support sustainable and transformational development.** We view our work as successful when it transforms lives and promotes positive and lasting social, economic and spiritual change within a community; when it is based on mutual trust and fully shared accomplishment; and when it demonstrates responsible stewardship of all resources entrusted to us.

Note:

1. Some information copied from the Habitat for Humanity website and from their Policy Handbook.

Andy Lipasti

## Church School News

*Palm Sunday is April 14<sup>th</sup> The service will begin with a joyful procession into the church swaying palms and singing Hosanna. There will be a few families plus we invite all kids to join the procession during the first Hymn. (Please see Beth or Hal if you know of children or youth who wish to be part of the procession).*



Just as people celebrated two thousand years ago, we have come here today to celebrate Jesus. What better day to do that than on Palm Sunday?

Father, we celebrate today just as people celebrated in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. This is the day that You have made; we will rejoice and be glad in it! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Hal will demonstrate how to fold palms into crosses – find him during fellowship!

*Easter Sunday is April 21<sup>st</sup> It will be a **Family Service** – No Church School Class and all children are invited to enjoy the service with their families!*

Coming Soon >>>> **Day Camp is set for: June 24 –**

**Our Theme: Living in Massachusetts !**

Applications are available during fellowship just ask Beth or Hal. Or we can email them to a parent. Jane, our Day Camp director, is excited to see our camp friends both old and new. We need applications returned by May 15<sup>th</sup> – spread the word or submit your family's applications to save your spot-we take only 50 kiddos! We met many new campers last season – who will join us this year?



Beth and Hal



**“Well, I’ve finally  
reached the  
wonder years ...  
Wonder where my  
car is parked?  
Wonder where I left  
my phone? Wonder  
what day it is?”**

# Calendar of Events

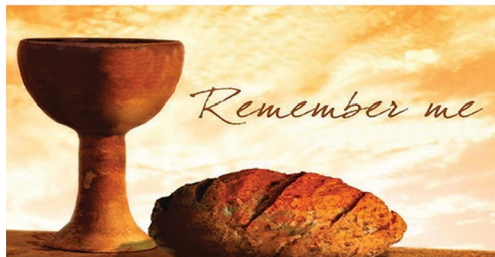
Community Dinner

Saturday, April 6th \* 4pm - 6pm

Spaghetti Supper

Wednesday, April 10th \* 4 pm - 6 pm

## Palm Sunday April 14th



Maundy Thursday

April 18th • 6:00 pm



EASTER MEMORIAL  
PLANT ORDER FORMS  
DUE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th



04 Community Dinner  
Saturday, May 4th • 4pm - 6pm

08 Spaghetti Supper

Wednesday, May 8th \* 4 pm - 6 pm