



The Rolling Stone

Rollstone Congregational Church

October 2019

Fasten your Seatbelts and Get Ready

Welcome to Autumn 2019! It seems like we were just preparing for and celebrating Easter, then in the blink of an eye summer came and is gone. It does feel like time is fleeting quickly and if we close our eyes for a moment another month or year will be gone. With that sentiment expressed I can confidently state that we are becoming a very busy church community, more than we might actually realize.

I do want to state first and foremost to everyone, welcome back and I hope that each of you had a restful summer. As October rolls out into November, then December, there are going to be many events happening that will keep us active. These are opportunities for us to worship and share fellowship, to pray and play together, to grow in faith and community. These opportunities become the foundation for us to grow individually and collectively as a church. I hope that each of you take time to enjoy each opportunity offered in the weeks and months ahead.

Starting in October we will see the continuation of the monthly community dinner (typically first Saturday evening of each month.) Then on the second Wednesday of the month there will be the Spaghetti Dinner. These are more than just an effort at fundraising, they are fellowship and create an opportunity to minister to the community. At the prices being charged you cannot go wrong.

Make your calendar with the date of October 20th, we will be celebrating the music ministry of Katharine Dodd. We will be recognizing Katharine's 20 plus years as our organist. Following the 10:00 A.M. Service there will be reception and traditional English Tea in Cookman Hall. The Deacon's will be at the church on Saturday October 19th setting up the church and Cookman Hall, we will welcome anyone that wants to help to join us as we do this.

On Sunday October 27th we will be welcoming Rev. Jeff Conlon into our pulpit. Pastor Jeff is not a stranger to any of us and he has so graciously agreed to fill the pulpit as Rev. Hanks is away on vacation.

We are calling all crafters to join us on November 9th as we create Christmas ornaments for our own individual use and to have extras that can be sold at the Relay-for-Life Christmas Fair. We had so much fun making the Victorian ornaments for last Christmas that we are trying build upon it again this year. Bring a friend, family member, neighbor, or anybody that enjoys crafting. Let's have some fun!

November is Stewardship Month!!! On the first three Sundays we will have speakers from each of our major governing boards offering some insight as to how their serving in their current positions helps the church. As we begin to prepare the budget for 2020, we are also trying to recruit new faces to serve in the leadership. While talking about stewardship, I would be remiss to say that while our finances are better than they have been in years, we need to continue in our giving and support if we want to see the church grow.

On Sunday November 24th we will be having a Service of Dedication of the newly installed sound system. This system was graciously donated by the family of Walter and Norma Schrader who were a part of this church for so many years. In their later years both Walter and Norma had issues with their hearing which made it hard for them to enjoy many parts of worship. This gift now makes it possible for all with hearing difficulties to enjoy worship to its fullest.

November 30th will be filled with two activities; we will start the day with the decorating of the church in preparation of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Then at 4:30 that afternoon we are having an adult fellowship opportunity by going for dinner at Il Forno's in Fitchburg. This will be dutch treat and I encourage that you sign-up so that we have the proper number of seats available.

On the four Sundays of advent there will be time for study using materials based upon Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". As the materials must still be ordered, we will need to know approximately the number of individuals interested in joining us.

Portions of the December schedule and events are still being developed, but trust me, the opportunities will be there to have fun, to pray, to learn, and to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child.

Looking forward to seeing each of you often.

Pastor Dave

DEACON NEWS

I can't believe Sept. is almost gone and fall is nipping at our heels. Fall is so pretty with all the beautiful foliage, but I hate the thought of all the cold, snow and ice to follow.

There is going to be a celebration on October 20th after church honoring our long-time organist and choir director Katharine Dodd. Katherine has had to retire due to a shoulder injury. We have had the pleasure of hearing her play every Sunday and at many other occasions. She is a wonderful organist and person and we miss her a lot.

It is early but just a reminder our annual meeting will be here before we know it. Think about how you might serve on some committee in the church Mary Lyman, Amy Larsen and myself are on the nominating committee. In the near future, there will be explanations what is involved in being on each committee. We can use new people with new ideas.

On the bulletin board in Cookman hall there are new sign-up sheets for lay liturgist, ushers, and greeter. Please sign up. Any questions see one of the Deacons.

Looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming dinners. Bring your friends and enjoy a nice evening of fellowship and no cooking!!!!

Remember if you have any questions about the worship service see Pastor Dave or one of the Deacons.

Looking forward to a great year of worshiping and fellowship together.

Until next time,
Linda Haas

WAYSIDE PULPIT

Common Language

Winston Churchill said that England and America are two peoples "separated by a common language." Most of us are familiar with "prams," "lorries," "brollies" and "lifts" ("baby carriages," "trucks," "umbrellas" and "elevators"), but what are those pavement separations on highways that jostle our cars? Not "bumps," but "ramps." "Speed ramps," when deliberately placed to slow us down. But if those are "ramps," What are the things we follow at exits? "Slips." And "slips" are not at "exits," but at "junctions."

To learn to communicate effectively with congregations, we send pastoral candidates to seminaries to learn the meaning of phrases like "prevenient grace." ("Grace" is the intention to provide for us that which is good. "Prevenient grace" is grace that comes to us even before we seek it, or are even aware of it.) When were these words last useful in a Sunday sermon?

The words we choose when trying to be precise, sometimes produce barriers between us, and impede our understanding. The necessary words are simple and clear: God loves us, and thus we are to love God, and likewise to love one another and all of creation. Let these be our watchwords until we take that slip to our final junction.

Chuck Funk



Relay for Life took place on June 7th and 8th, 2019

MT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

444 Green St. Gardner, MA 01440.



The 2019 Relay for has wrapped up another year. The Rollstone Roller raised \$10,026.00 and ranked 5 out of 109 teams. Members included Mary Lyman, Kim Bourque, Mary Lou Barney, Victoria Bourque, Pam Beaulac, Ruth Carpentier, Janet Lane, Aurelia Lyman, Charles Funk, Emily Funk, Marie Stansel, Carolyn Barney and Sam Permenter



WAY TO GO TEAM



THANK YOU to all who contributed to our team! We couldn't do it without you.

Also. a very special thank you to Michael Bourque, Alex Lyman and Joe Lyman for helping us set up and break down again this year.

Our Vendor's Fair Saturday November 23rd from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Breakfast Sandwiches and Soup and Sandwich Luncheon will be served

If you would like to join the team or make a donation for next year.
Please go to Greater Gardner Relay for Life find Rollstone Rollers or use this link.

This is our Team Page

[https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR/RelayForLife/RFLCY20NER?
team_id=2483273&pg=team&fr_id=96448](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR/RelayForLife/RFLCY20NER?team_id=2483273&pg=team&fr_id=96448)

Mary Lyman & Kim Bourque
Co-Captain Rollstone Rollers



October



**Roast Pork w/ Homemade Apple Sauce
Roasted Vegetables Medley
Rolls
Applesauce Cake for Dessert**

No Community Dinner In November



December



**Baked Ham
Homemade Mac & Cheese
Broccoli, Cauliflower and Carrots
Fruit Cocktail Cake For Dessert**



January



**Chicken Pot Pie
Salad
Peach Cobbler for Dessert**



February



**Baked Haddock
Scallop Potatoes
Green Beans
Vanilla or Chocolate Cake for Dessert**