



THE ROLLING STONE

Rollstone Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
199 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA

Pastor: Rev. David B. Hanks 978-821-9571
www.rollstone.org

JUNE 1, 2021

Pastor's View

The phrase of “Welcome Back” has been on my tongue for so long that I was starting to wonder when I will be able to actually speak it. With everything opening it is no longer a dream but a reality. Welcome, welcome, welcome back! It sounds so good to say it out loud and I hope that you too are excited about the future that is before us. In this time of exceptional distancing, I am sure that we have all had experiences that we want to share with one another. In the many next days and months as we are able to be with one another I invite you to share the stories of how the pandemic has impacted your life.

At church there are several changes happening since I last wrote to you. The greatest impact is around how we minister to you, to each other, and the community. Hopefully these past 16 months has taught us the importance of community and how to be present to each other, even when it was at a distance. This period has helped us to learn that change can be sometimes necessary and good. With the changes we learned that we need to be flexible in how we preach and teach the Word of God. Many of you have shared your stories of when and how you have come to worship. Some have watched the videos on Sunday morning, but so many have also adapted to alternate times. The videos have also made it possible to see the service when you were feeling under the weather, when you overslept and were still in your pajamas, and even when you had a chance to be with family when the service would normally have been going on. The good news is that we will continue to tape the services, but they will be recorded and then uploaded to the digital world a couple of days later. The videotaping has also given us the opportunity to reach out to new people and created a mechanism to reconnect with others who found our 10:00 on Sunday morning impossible in your schedule. However, you became connected to us we say “Welcome, it is wonderful to have you in our fellowship.” I invite each of you to extend a warm welcome and the hospitality, that should be the foundation of our faith community, to those unfamiliar faces in our midst.

Welcome Back

What should you expect as you are Welcomed Back? As the mandates of the governor’s office and the CDC change to recommendations and as things are relaxed is that we always need to be considerate of one another and their own sense of safety. We are urging everyone to use common sense and practice safe practices, especially if you have not been vaccinated. We are still a congregation of many folk that have the potential for one or more morbidity that are seen and unseen. Please be respectful of one another. I hope that we are all ready to return to a life where we can be present to each other as we worship God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

One day we will look back at 2020 and laugh, smile, and even cry at what we endured and learned. No matter what you encountered, let us give thanks and praise to our omnipresent God who reigns on heaven and earth. “Welcome Home” and I hope to see each of you in worship in the weeks to come.

Pastor Dave





Paul ...The Missionary

Acts; Letters of Paul

Most of us come to know God in a gradual manner. If we grow up in a religious family, we learn about him as we learn all our other lessons. There are some, though, who meet God in a radical conversion. Life suddenly makes no sense except in the context of God.

Paul of Tarsus is one of those who met God in a most radical manner. It is not that he wasn't a religious man, for he was that from his youth. One might even say that he was exemplary for he strove to observe the law perfectly. The only problem was that although he was highly religious, he really didn't know God. He was serving theories and law and not God Himself. Since the new sect of Christians was opposing the traditional religious beliefs, he combated them with all his force. They were dangerous for they opposed religion as he knew it.

Then one day while on the road to Damascus he had a vision. It was a vision of Christ asking Paul why he was persecuting him. In that vision Paul met Christ as a person, and it completely changed his life. Paul saw that the law was relative and practices were relative as opposed to the eternal truth found in Jesus. He served that truth with his every breath from that day on.

It was about the time that Paul was converted that the Church had to make a crucial decision. Its leaders had to decide whether they should continue to evangelize the Jews alone or whether they should go out to the pagans as well.


Paul, who before his conversion was enslaved to tradition, saw this as a tremendous opportunity to spread the word

of God. He spearheaded the drive to convert the pagans to Christ. Paul defended the rights of these newly converted Christians by arguing that, since they were freed from sin by faith in Jesus, there was no reason why they should have to follow Jewish law.

Paul traveled from city to city preaching the Good News to anyone who would listen to him. He would first go to the synagogues in each city, but if they would not listen to him, he would turn to the pagans. Eventually Paul had built up an entire system of Christian communities. These communities had serious doubts concerning how they should follow Christ as there was no real hierarchy yet to guide them nor were the Gospels even written yet.

Since he couldn't be everywhere at once, Paul wrote the Churches to instruct them, exhort them, comfort them, and sometimes just to express his love and concern for them. Paul gave his all to those whom he served. He suffered much in his missionary journeys, for he was robbed, stoned, lashed, and shipwrecked. Eventually he even gave up his life in martyrdom in Rome for the sake of the God whom he knew and loved.

Andy Lipasti



Shout for joy to the **LORD**, all the **earth**.
Worship the **LORD** with gladness;
come before him with **joyful songs**.

Psalm 100:1-2, NIV

Special Music Service

Sunday June 20, 2021
10:00 A.M.

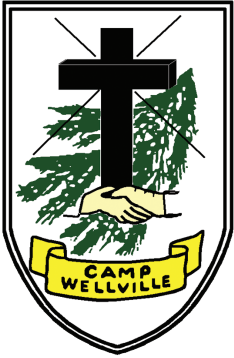
Rollstone
Congregational Church
Sanctuary

Join us as we gather together in worshiping God through music.
The service will be led by our Organist and Church Musician
Gavin Klein with our guest flutist Claire Rindenello.

Claire Rindenello studied at Crane School of Music in New York. She is an avid chamber musician and instructs students from beginners to advanced levels. She is a trained cardio-respiratory therapist where she coordinates the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program at Emerson Hospital in Concord, MA. She is an active board member of the Harvard Historical Society where she is involved with the planning of musical events incorporating many historic instruments including an 1870 George Stevens Organ.

Join us as we welcome Claire and Gavin as
we worship God through the gift of music.

Camp is opening again!!



We are so excited, especially after having been closed last year for the first time in 63 years. So many friends are returning this summer. Many people are putting in tremendous amounts of time to have everything ready.

We hope to see friends from Rollstone Church coming to visit! If you are visiting a friend, the friend will make sure you are registered. If you are visiting the beach or picnic area, we will ask you to sign in with either the camp director or lifeguard. We are doing this to have a contact list in case of any infections. (*We are hoping this will not be needed but want to make sure everyone is safe.*)

You are also invited to any programs that we have. **Welcome SUMMER!**

Kathy Rowe

Camp Wellville 2021

Bible Study, Book Studies, Vespers, Conferences and Special Programs

BIBLE STUDY:

July 5, 19 and August 2, 16 • "The Bible: Simpson's Version" • *Led by Pastor Debbie Moylan*

BOOK REVIEWS:

July 11 — **Ordinary Grace** by William Kent Krueger • *Led by Sue Harris*

August 9 — **This Tender Grace** by William Kent Krueger • *Led by Mary Ann Fournier*

August 20 — **The Book of Yesterdays** by Amy Meyerson • *Led by Joan Rivard*

VESPERS:

July 4th Rev. David Hanks

Aug. 1st Rev. Debbie Moyln

July 11th Rev. Elizabeth McGill

Aug. 8th Rev. Dagan Siepart

July 18th Rev. Ginger Asel

Aug. 15th Pastor Ken Whitsen

July 25th Rev. Wil Darcangelo

Aug. 22 Pastor Bob Hakala

CONFERENCES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

July 8 & 9 – 6:00-8:00 **Sign making** • *with Rayanne Neveu*

July 20 & 22 — **"Pilgrim's Progress"** • *Led by Rev. Ginger Asel*

July 29 – 7:00 **'Love Languages'** • *Led by Rayanne Neveu*

Aug. 3 & 5 — **"Iconography II"** • *Led by Amy Larsen*

Aug. 20 — **"Christmas Child"** • *Led by Rayanne Neveu*

Aug. 27 — **Closing Vespers** • *Led by Wil Darcangelo*

Programs are primarily held in Pow Wow at 7:00 pm. Call our friendly director, Maureen Stenuis to verify time and place 987-827-5756.

The Wayside Pulpit

Frames of Reference

Last month in this space, systems of coordinates were discussed by which we locate positions in space, and distances between them. Both physical and spiritual coordinate systems were mentioned, and it was posited that an appropriate shared system of coordinates is necessary for different individuals to understand one another when discussing physical or spiritual space.

But to share only a coordinate system is insufficient. Any two individuals organizing their perceptions of reality within the same coordinate system will be doing it from a slightly or greatly different position and direction. The position and direction of one's outlook on reality is called a frame of reference. When the coordinate system is shared, positions and directions expressed in one reference frame can readily be translated into the corresponding values of

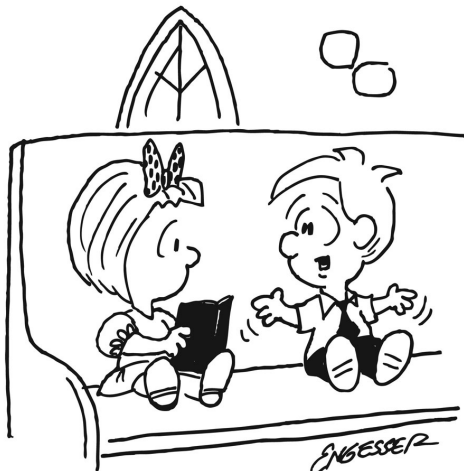
a different reference frame. (This is a little complicated by the relativity principle, because even the values in the time dimension must be translated, to account for the equivalence of the speed of light in moving reference frames.)

One requirement for the Kingdom of Heaven to become a reality, is for our universal communications to be based within a shared coordinate system with full understanding of one another's frames of reference. A parallel to the constancy of the speed of light in different physical reference frames is the constancy of the spirit of God in different spiritual reference frames.

Chuck Funk

LITURGIST and RECORDING SCHEDULE of WORSHIP SERVICES

LITURGICAL DATE	LITURGICAL DESIGNATION	LITURGIST	RECORDING DATE	TIME
Sun, June 6, 21	2nd Sunday After Pentecost	Lois Schrader	live during worship	10:00 AM
Sun, June 13, 21	3rd Sunday After Pentecost	Ruth Carpentier	live during worship	10:00 AM
Sun, June 20, 21	4th Sunday After Pentecost	Deacons	live during worship	10:00 AM
Sun, June 27, 21	5th Sunday After Pentecost	Donald Cloutier	live during worship	10:00 AM
Sun, July 4, 21	6th Sunday After Pentecost	Anne Westerman	live during worship	10:00 AM
Sun, July 11, 21	7th Sunday After Pentecost	Amy Larsen	live during worship	10:00 AM



"If we're all dust, why take a bath before the service?"



"I understand the new usher is in the restaurant business."



Church School News



**Day Camp is set for
June 29, 30 & July 1
(yup 3 sunny days)!**

After missing camp last summer we are truly looking forward to seeing old camp pals and meeting new friends as well.

Just perfect for our theme this year:

Kindness



Our Day Camp Director, Jane, is looking forward to a glorious sunny week!
We have already held a few planning meetings and our next is soon.

Applications have been slow to arrive - we are hoping to hear from many more campers SOON! We look forward to seeing our returning campers and hope to meet new friends again this year.

This season please pray for sunny days during Day Camp! We also would welcome "Camperships" (small \$ donations), that will be used to help families who wish to join us but need a bit of support.

See Beth Porell or Hal Smith at church in June if you wish to help out!

"Worry weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up" Proverbs



Beth, Hal, and our Day Camp Director Jane Powers





Start Your Engines



We have all heard that phrase of “Gentlemen, start your engines!” That phrase is typically shouted out at the start of a NASCAR race when they are preparing to signal the start of the race. We are ready ourselves to start a new race of life at church following the pandemic of 2020 called COVID-19.

We have done our work and we are on the tarmac awaiting the signal to start the race to bringing people back to in-person worship, fellowship, and business. There will still be some precautions and restrictions that we need to follow, but the good news is that we can do this face to face.

Our plans have not changed from what we announced last month, there are however a few things that have been loosened up to make it easier as we come back together. To make it easier to understand we are outlining the things we can do and not do. Looking forward to saying on our first several Sundays, “Welcome Back”.

Our target dates are unchanged and are as follows.

Summer Worship – Sunday June 6th

Full Worship – Sunday September 5th

Fellowship – Sunday September 12th

Business with meetings - Tuesday September 7th

Where we are receiving our guidance – Our guidance is received from the most recent advisories and protocols available from the CDC, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the local Board of Health, the United Church of Christ (Conference and National), and the input from our leadership team. We make every effort to have the most current and relevant information so that our decisions are up to date.

UPDATED REQUIREMENTS and EXPECTATIONS:

FACE MASKS – these will be required whenever in the church building for worship, fellowship, study, or business by those who are not vaccinated. Those vaccinated will be allowed to take off the masks but will still need to follow the social distancing protocols.

SOCIAL DISTANCING – we are following the recommendation that we maintain a safe distance of 6 feet from those whom are not a part of our recognized pod. A pod is the group of people with who you live or are in regular close contact while not wearing a mask. When entering and leaving the building we ask that you maintain the 6-foot distance from anyone with whom you do not cohabitate. If there are mobility issues, this would be an exception provided both parties continue to wear their mask.

DIFFERENCES TO EXPECT – worship will look and feel different in a few ways. You will see the following:

- Patterns on the floor set up for you to follow when entering and exiting the building.
- Seating will be designed to maintain the six-foot social distancing requirements. You may sit with your family or pod as a unit provided you have consistently been in close contact with each other. We will require that once you have selected a seat that you will continue to use that same seat every week until all the restrictions and cleaning requirements are lifted.
- Singing of hymns will be allowed by those who are vaccinated. Hymnals are only located at the approved seats, please do not move hymnals to seats not designated for active seating.
- Receiving of Tithes and Offerings will be done by having you drop your contributions into a large basket as you enter or leave the service.
- Serving Communion will be led in the service. You will receive a small package as you enter the sanctuary that will contain the juice and wafer/cracker. At the appropriate time during the service, we will share communion as instructed.
- Touching is frowned upon so there will be NO sharing of the peace.
- Sharing in fellowship, once started, will be limited and we ask that you sit in small groups of no more than six (6) at the tables we have spaced for you. Once sitting to eat or drink you are welcome to remove your mask, but please put it back on when you get up from the table. Sharing of food during fellowship will look different as you will be served to minimize touching of the snacks.

HOW LONG WILL THIS BE IN EFFECT? - We will continue to follow state guidelines and will review our practice of the protocols regularly. Things may become more lenient when allowed to do so. Everything we are doing is done with regard to protecting you first.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? - We do this out of LOVE for each of you and our desire to protect you.

**PLEASE HELP US TO DO THIS, WE MISS YOU, WE CANNOT WAIT
TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN AS WE WORSHIP AND
PRAISE GOD. AND NOW WE PROCLAIM!!!**

START YOUR ENGINES!



News from the By-Law Review Committee

Dear Church Family,

At the Annual Meeting in January 2020 a By-Law Review Committee was formed to begin the task of doing a full review and re-write of our existing by-laws. The committee is comprised of Eileen Berger, Ruth Carpentier, Janet Lane, Andy Lipasti, Lois Schrader, and Reverend Hanks. Emily Funk was serving on this committee until she transferred her membership to another church in November.

This group of dedicated individuals have spent countless hours pouring over the by-laws of 1980, the many revisions that were enacted, and have applied them to the many practices now being followed at the church today. The work that has been done cannot be enacted until the members have a chance to review, ask questions, make additional changes, and ultimately be voted upon at a meeting of the congregation. We will have copies of the proposed by-laws available beginning June 1st for your review and discussion. There will be discussion opportunities each month beginning on the second Sunday of each month following worship. You are invited and encouraged to engage this group as we prepare to present it for a full vote of the congregation on October 17th.

The copies will be available at the first service on June 6th when we return to in-person worship. We ask that there be a limit of one copy per member as the document is 21 pages in length. We hope to see you over the next few months as we attempt to answer your many questions and receive your feedback.

Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation as we prepare the church for the future.

47. A Father Gives

Luke 11:11-13

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (NIV)

"You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." (NLT)

What father among you, if his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone; or if he asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts [gifts that are to their advantage] to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him! (AMP)

If your little boy asks for a serving of fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? 12If your little girl asks for an egg, do you trick her with a spider? 13As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing--you're at least decent to your own children. And don't you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?" (MSG)



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47. A Father Gives

ADVANTAGE	GOOD	SCORPION
AMONG	HEAVENLY	SERPENT
ASKS	INSTEAD	SERVING
BREAD	LEAST	SNAKE
CONTINUE	LITTLE	SPIDER
COURSE	LOAF	STONE
DECENT	MORE	THEIR
EGG	MUCH	THOSE
FISH	PEOPLE	TRICK
GIFTS	SCARE	YOUR

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My church gave prepackaged communion...

Jesus Lunchables



So today, in church,
a guy in a dress tried to drown me

And, I kid you not,
my family just stood there
taking pictures!

liturgy.co.nz

Happy Birthday

**Best
Wishes To
You All!**

June Birthdays

12 Ruth Carpentier
15 Diane Cormier
Rick Lane
Kathy Rowe
16 Hal Smith
29 Mary Anne Smith

July Birthdays

11 Cathy Fontaine
Zach Sullivan
16 Shawn Bingham
20 Bob Lane
Bob Goguen
27 Betty Shepard
31 Sarah Kee

August Birthdays

8 Jack Brigham
11 Delores Sampson
12 Ron Smith
19 Amy Larsen
23 Jackie Reiss
27 Dianne Sammet
30 Kim Bingham

On The Lighter Side

MACANUDO



As seen in the Sentinel & Enterprise on Sunday, May 23, 2021

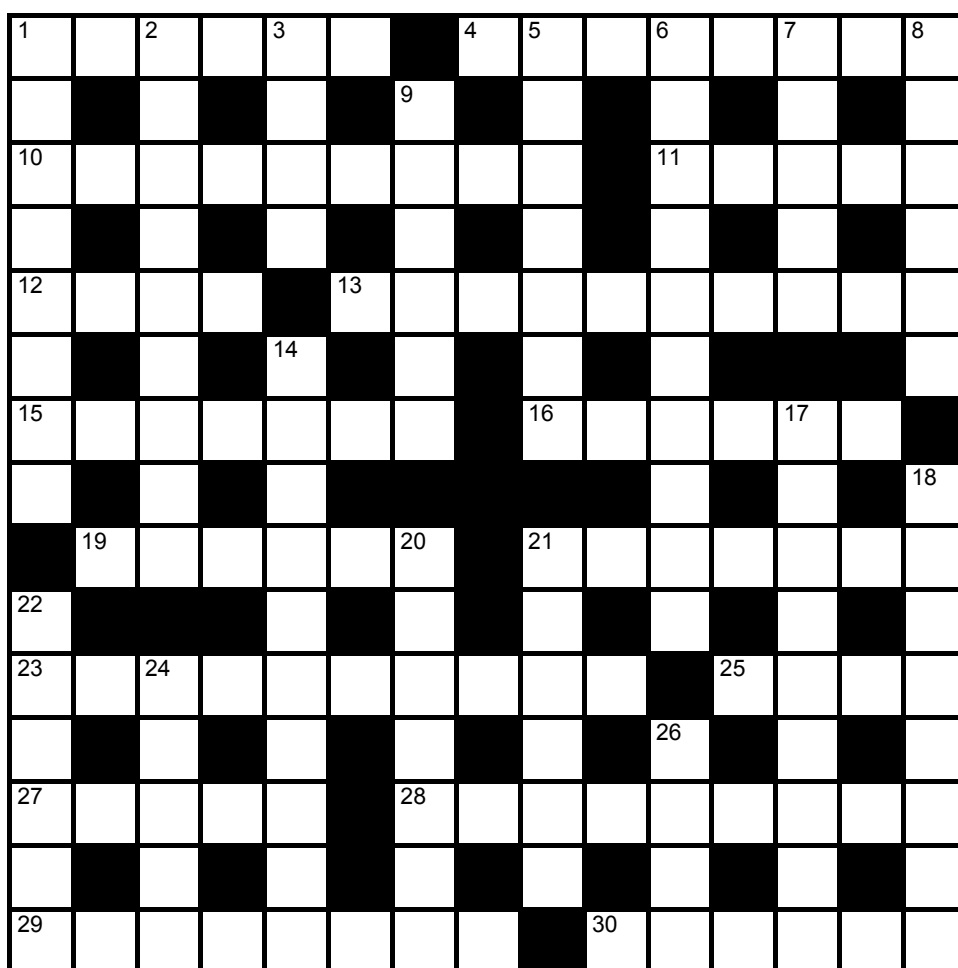
BIBLE CROSSWORD I

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
 4 Seemed (8)
 10 New Testament book (9)
 11 Unit of length (5)
 12 '...it is a ____ thing
 the king requireth'
 (Dan 2:11) (4)
 13 Contemplation (10)
 15 Abigail supplied David
 with one hundred
 clusters of these (7)
 16 A son of King David (6)
 19 Concurred (6)
 21 Light sources (7)
 23 Propitiations (10)
 25 A false god (4)
 27 Gather (5)
 28 Abimelech was hit by
 this (9)
 29 Instructors (8)
 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal
 workers (8)
 2 Inspiring (9)
 3 Compass point (4)
 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 6 The words of Jeremiah
 said not to listen to
 these (10)
 7 Jewish leader (5)
 8 'He is proud, knowing
 nothing, but _____
 about questions and
 strifes of words...'
 (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
 9 Bread makers (6)
 14 In this year of King
 Nebuchadrezzar's reign,
 Nebuzaradan arrived in
 Jerusalem (10)
 17 Ancient city of Og, King
 of Bashan (9)
 18 Stringed instrument (8)
 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
 21 Tiny amount (6)
 22 Jesus did this with
 authority (6)
 24 Last letter of the Greek
 alphabet (5)
 26 Province of the Roman
 Empire (4)

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