



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

Pastor's View

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Holy-day Reflections

The warmth of the summer afternoon air has turned to the chill of autumn evenings which will then become the frosty ice laden winter mornings. The hours and the days are slipping away so quickly that we neglect to take the time to step back and soak in the holy days that will soon be upon us. These are days that bring back memories of times gone by and when families gathered to celebrate being together. Can you remember those times that I am referring to? Let's just stop the clock for a moment while we remember the days and seasons of years gone by.

What does November remind us of? It was a time to prepare for the winter that was coming. It was a time to reflect upon Thanksgiving Day with all it had to offer. Thanksgiving was often a time to think about family gathering to offer thanks to God for all of the blessings that were bestowed upon us. We had a chance to spend time with family, over eating and sitting together remembering. The kids spent time putting together their Christmas wish list and they scrolled the Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward Christmas catalogs. The teenagers spent the morning at the high school football game as they celebrated school spirit rooting for their team. Then the teenagers went off to college or entered the world of working or the military. Things began to change, but we still never lost sight of God's blessings as we sat around the table feasting and laughing. Then almost overnight things changed and the good times seemed to slip away. Now when we say Thanksgiving is the official start of the Christmas madness. Now with everything that has happened in the past few years the business and retail community has declared that the Christmas buying season starts in the middle of October.

Somehow we have lost this period of time that was so joyous and memorable in our lives as it seems that we go straight from summer and move directly into the holiday shopping period. We need to stop this consumerism high-jacking of those holy days that are being lost in the shuffle and begin the process to take them back.

In November we have several important days to remember starting with All-Saints Day on November 1st. This day was significant as it was a time to remember all of the faithful followers of Christ who had been called home to be with the Lord. It is an important day as we remember all of the saints who have now entered into glory. On November 1st take a moment to remember a loved one or someone who has been instrumental in your faith journey. Spend a moment to thank God for having given them to you as a teacher, friend, mentor, beloved family member, or in whatever way they have helped you to grow into the Child of God that you have become.

On November 11th we recognize our national day to remember all Veterans who have served our country and who may have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we might have the freedoms we enjoy. In tribute to all veterans I would suggest that you either take a moment to offer a prayer on their behalf or to do something kind for a veteran.

On November 25th we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day with all the festivities. The first thanksgiving was about stopping to thank God for the protection that they had in a new world with new neighbors. They shared their bounty with all who would come to the table. So as you celebrate Thanksgiving Day this year I encourage you to think about someone who might be alone or who cannot afford to have a feast. Help them to see the goodness of neighbors, friends, and God by inviting them to share a meal with you. May your generosity be blessed though your sharing and giving to others.

May God's blessings be upon you and your families during this season and throughout the year.

Pastor Dave

A NOTE FROM THE MODERATOR

Leadership Evolution at Rollstone Church

Way back when the pandemic was just getting started it became apparent that to help the church get through the shutdown forced by the Covid Virus we would need a different approach to the church's leadership. That spring I started a "Leadership Team" consisting of the chairs of the Deacons, Trustees & Board of Ed as well as the Treasurer, Facilities Chair, Clerk, Asst Moderator & Pastor. This group met monthly on Zoom and coordinated all the activities of the church. Although it wasn't an "official" body for church leaders it allowed us to keep all the important activities of the church functioning and I believe it was instrumental in helping the church survive during the isolation caused by the pandemic.

With the acceptance of the new by-laws for Rollstone we will be continuing this organization, adding a representative

of the congregation and a representative from the Church and Pastoral Relations Committee, as the Church Council. This group allows all aspects of the church to be coordinated through a single group who will be responsible to bring information & ideas to and from their respective committees.

For the next several months we will be in a transition period as we learn how to optimize this leadership model. I expect that through the winter months we will continue to meet on ZOOM monthly. We look forward to your participation and feedback as we bring Rollstone back into the main steam of our community.

Paul Stansel

Moderator

A Final Report from the By-Law Review Committee

When the congregation voted to ratify the by-law proposal from the By-Law Review Committee, we all breathed a sigh of relief because our work was now done. At that point the committee was dissolved, and the outstanding tasks were turned over to the new Church Council for implementation. We want to thank each member of the congregation who offered us support and brought forth many thoughts for us to consider, which did cause us to rethink portions and amendments were then brought forth.

The newly revised by-laws are being sent to church council for a final review and a notary stamp to indicate that they have been scrutinized to verify that we have not done anything that violates any general law or statute of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Once the stamped copy is back in our possession, we will begin to distribute the latest By-Laws of Rollstone Congregational Church, Revision 2.0, dated October 17, 2021. We are asking that each member only take one copy of the by-laws, and if

a couple could limit themselves to one copy that would be great.

Expect the copies to be available at the start of December at fellowship hour, copies not picked up prior to Dec. 31st will be mailed.

Thank you and blessings as we enter a new era in the life of Rollstone Congregational.

Sincerely,

The By-Law Review Committee

Eileen Berger

Ruth Carpentier

Rev. David Hanks

Janet Lane

Andy Lipasti

Lois Schrader



Birthdays in November

- 3 Jared Loepere-Smith
- 8 Jean Suomala
- 9 David Hanks
- 16 Katharine Dodd
- 20 Judy Miller



Bible Study

Our Bible Study is held on Wednesday mornings starting at 10:30. It is open to everyone to join us in a contemporary reading of the scriptures. We will discuss the Word of God as it applies to our world and lives today. Our discussions are intended to help each of us to see God in the world now and to help us deal with issues that surround us.



Topics are as follows for these dates:

November 3 – “Listen to God” based on John 5:19-29

November 10 – “Being a Peacemaker” based on Matthew 5:17-48

November 17 – “Why Pray?” based on Matthew 6:1-21

November 24 – “Community Makes God Visible” based on Psalm 133 and Hebrews 13:1-6

December 1 – “Worth Waiting For” based on Ephesians 1:3-14



Relay for Life
ROLLSTONE ROLLERS



2022 Relay for Life
will be on June 10th and 11th

The theme will be
Tune Out Cancer...Tune In Hope

If you would like to sign up to be on the team Google Greater Gardner Relay for Life and find Rollstone Rollers and join the team or donate to the team or an individual person. If you have any questions, you can see either Kim Bourque or Mary Lyman.



WHAT'S NEW



We will be having our Vendors Fair on November 20th from 9 am to 2 pm.

Our aim is to have a full house this year.

I will be having posters at the church. Please feel free to take some and help us put them up around the area. The more we advertise the better the fair.

We will be having a bake table.

If you would like to help by making something for us to sell.

Please wrap them in sealed individual packages

Mary Lyman & Kim Bourque
Co-Captain Rollstone Rollers

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

Date	Time	Event	Location
November 1	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 1	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
November 1	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting	on ZOOM
November 2	all day	Municipal Elections – Office Closed	
November 3	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 3	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
November 3	11:45 AM	Crafting for Christmas Fair	Cookman Hall
November 4	5:30 -8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
November 7	10:00 AM	Worship with Communion	Sanctuary
November 8	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 9	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 9	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
November 9	7:00 PM	Camp Wellville BOD	on ZOOM
November 10	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 10	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
November 10	11:45 AM	Crafting for Christmas Fair	Cookman Hall
November 11	5:30 -8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
November 14	10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
November 15	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 16	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 16	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
November 16	7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting	on ZOOM
November 17	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 17	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
November 17	11:45 AM	Crafting for Christmas Fair	Cookman Hall
November 18	5:30 -8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
November 20	8:30AM – 2:00 PM	Relay for Life Fair	Cookman Hall
November 21	10:00 AM	Thanksgiving Worship	Sanctuary
November 22	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 23	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 23	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
November 24	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 24	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
November 25	all day	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed	
November 26	10:00AM – 1:00 PM	Set-up Sanctuary for Advent	Sanctuary
November 28	10:00 AM	First Week of Advent Worship	Sanctuary
November 29	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 30	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
November 30	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
December 5		CHRISTMAS CONCERT	Details in flyer

Greetings from the Church School

Fall is here and you can see beauty all around! We have room for many more friends in our church school – so spread the word... children are a blessing to the church and the future also.

Our lessons to start the new church school year are about prayer. Here is an idea we will be talking about next...



Commitment to Prayer

Scripture: Lamentations 3:22-23 "His love for us never fails. It is new every morning. Great is his faithfulness."

Good morning!

What a beautiful new day we have been given! Who gives us each new day?

God gives us 365 days a year. Every morning he gives us one. What a gift!

In Lamentations 3 the Bible says God gives us something else each morning, too. **It says: "His love for us never fails- it is new every morning. Great is his faithfulness."**

If God gives us something every morning- a new day and his love- let's make a **COMMITMENT**- a promise- to give him something each morning as well.

This is the challenge: Before you get out of bed, before your foot touches the carpet, have a conversation with God thanking him for the new day. It can be short. "Good morning God. Thank you for being with me!" Let your foot be your reminder. Get your day started off right. Start off on the right foot so to speak.

God is faithful to remember us. He doesn't even need sticky notes. Let's be faithful to our commitment to remember him.

Dear God: Thank you for each new day. Help us to start each day with you.

**Fall for Jesus - He never Leaves,
Beth & Hal**



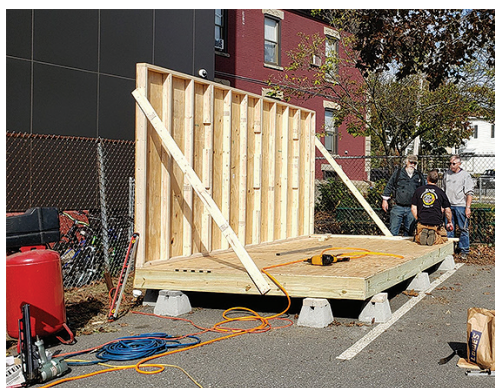
Building Report

by Andy Lipasti

The week of October 17-23 was a busy one for work being done in and around our Church Building. A new shed was being constructed, a new bulkhead installed, a new light installed in the parking lot light, and classrooms got cleaned.

The pictures below show a New Shed being constructed in the Church Parking Lot. This shed will provide us storage for our outdoor power equipment such as a lawn mower, snow blower, and other tools. The shed should be completed in the next few weeks.

Thanks to Rick Lane, Janet Lane, Paul Stansel, Ron Smith, and Andy Lipasti for their work on the shed.



A new Bulkhead Doorway to the Church Basement has been installed on the Snow St. side of the building. The old plywood bulkhead has been replaced with a new steel bulkhead. This will provide better security and better prevention against water leaks. Thanks to Contractor Mark Bigwood for his work on the new bulkhead.



There was a visit to the Church parking lot by a Unutil service truck. Per our service request to Unutil the workers in the truck installed a new light bulb in the parking lot light pictured below.



Thanks go out to Beth Porell and Lorna Chabot for doing some cleaning in the classrooms on the second floor. The cleaning included dusting, cleaning the floors, the windows, and organizing the room items.



Rooted in *Love*

The Stewardship theme for the United Church of Christ this year grew out of theme from General Synod this past July. This theme is inspired by Psalm 1:3 – “They are like a tree planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.” As stewards of God’s creation we are called to plant seeds which when nurtured will produce a bountiful harvest. In the autumn we are traditionally harvesting or reaping what we have already sown, but in the church as we prepare for another new year we have to plant seeds if we want to be able to harvest in the coming year.

Last month we talked about the restarting of many programs and plans for the church in the upcoming year. The plans of which we are in the process of reviewing is the preparation of the annual budget for the fiscal year 2022. Creating the budget is a long and arduous process that requires leadership to set priorities of programs, missions, and maintenance of the church properties. Historically we have reviewed the budgets from prior years and applied a cost of living to create a new budget, but when we do that we never reflect upon the question, “What do we need to do to create an opportunity to experience a bountiful harvest?” As we prepare for a new budget and a new year we want you to reflect upon yielding a bountiful harvest and how we can achieve that.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how you will be a part of Rollstone Congregational’s resurgence in the Fitchburg area. Will you be able to help with programs through the various avenues of contributing? Will you be able to offer assistance in any of the three T’s – Time – Treasure – Talents?

How can I support the church in its vision for the future? The support of many makes the load lighter for everyone, will you consider in helping however you are best able?

Our Stewardship Sunday will be on November 21st and we ask that you please fill out a pledge card to be received on that Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact the church office and we will make an effort to get the information you require.

May your response be a commitment of your love and support of this church and the mission we are all called to undertake.

Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Please contact Pastor Dave by Friday, November 5th if you are interested.

Murder Mystery Dinner

Great Wolf Lodge

150 Great Wolf Drive, Fitchburg

November 13, 2021 @ 6:00PM

Door
Prizes

\$55 per Person

(Includes served dinner and a show)

50/50
Raffle



For tickets or more information call

978-829-1797

Chance Auction



*All proceeds support our local veterans through the
Friends of Fitchburg Veterans and the Fitchburg*



CRIME SCENE CRIME SCENE CRIME SCENE CRIME SCENE

LITURGIST and RECORDING SCHEDULE of WORSHIP SERVICES

Liturgical Date	Liturgical Designation	Liturgist	Notes	Time
Sun, Nov 7, 21	24th Sunday After Pentecost	Linda Haas		10:00 AM
Sun, Nov 14, 21	25th Sunday After Pentecost	Andy Lipasti		10:00 AM
Sun, Nov 21, 21	Reign of Christ Sunday	Ron Smith	Thanksgiving Sunday	10:00 AM
Sun, Nov 28, 21	1st Sunday of Advent	Marie Stansel		10:00 AM
Sun, Dec 5, 21	2nd Sunday of Advent	Lois Schrader		10:00 AM
Sun, Dec 12, 21	3rd Sunday of Advent	Janet Lane		10:00 AM
Sun, Dec 19, 21	4th Sunday of Advent	Ruth Carpentier		10:00 AM
Fri, Dec 24, 21	Christmas Eve	Deacons		6:00 P.M.
Sun, Dec 26, 21	1st Sunday After Christmas	Andy Lipasti		10:00 AM
Sun, Jan 2, 22	2nd Sunday After Christmas	Kathy Rowe		10:00 AM
Sun, Jan 9, 22	1st Sunday After Epiphany	Jackie Reiss	Baptism of Christ	10:00 AM
Sun, Jan 16, 22	2nd Sunday After Epiphany	Jean Suomala	MLK Jr. Sunday	10:00 AM



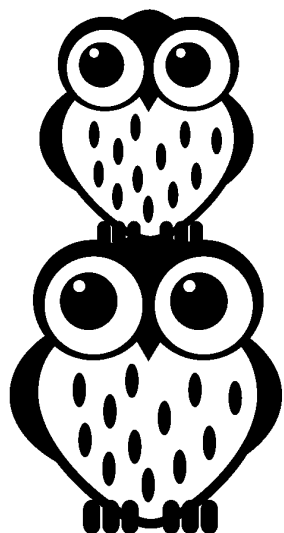
*Thank you for
your time and
service.*



WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.

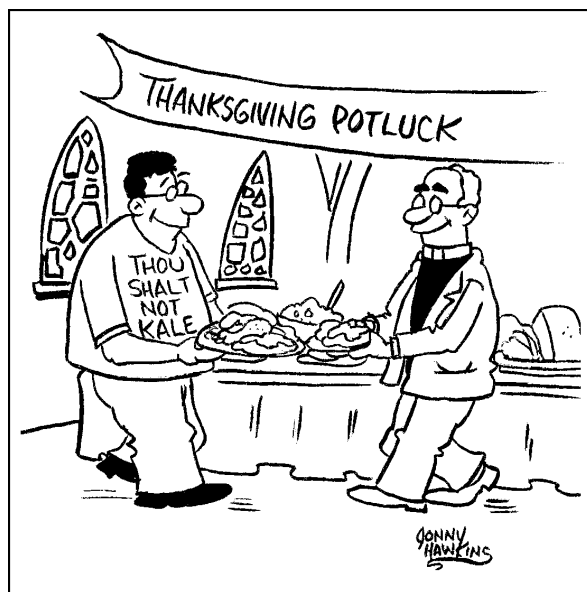


- | | |
|---------|-------------|
| school | — ○ — — — |
| paper | — ○ — |
| wisdom | — — ○ — |
| read | — — — ○ |
| play | — — — — — |
| learn | ○ — — — — |
| grow | — ○ — — — — |
| pencils | — — — — — |
| pray | — ○ — — |
| art | — — — — — |
| student | — — — ○ — — |
| kids | — — ○ — — — |
| apple | — — ○ — — — |

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous



Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

WORD LIST: covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth



M I C W L O O F Y C C M N C T
D S K A C X J X H M K I P P N
E N I L P I C S I D A Y R E A
E J H K T O T R N T W O Y K S
D E L I G H T E N O T U R A A
E U G N O T G U A E S T C S E
H T A P N Y O N C C D H O R L
A U J L X F Z T E C H Y V O P
E Q N E I G H B O R T I E F W
T H G I S N I F L R T L N J I
H O N E S T A O E I B S A G S
E V I L I T R V I M S R N T D
V M X U H D O A U M I T T A O
O E R E Y P Y H E K U B E R M
L F R K S L E E P H C N P N R

Beautify our Sanctuary for Christmas



We will be purchasing poinsettias, mums,
and other Christmas appropriate plants
to decorate the sanctuary this Christmas.

*If you would like to donate a plant,
the price is \$15 per plant.*

Christmas Plants - 2021



Given by _____

In Memory or Honor of _____

*Please make a separate slip for each plant and enclose payment to
Rollstone Congregational Church*

New this year – We will have a
variety, once the Christmas eve service
is concluded you may select from the
plants remaining in the sanctuary.

*All unclaimed plants following
the December 26th Service
will be donated to good homes.*



ROLLSTONE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
199 MAIN STREET
FITCHBURG, MA 01420