



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

MARCH 1, 2022

Greetings from the Pastor

Greetings as we begin our Lenten journey towards Easter. It is hard to believe that we are starting to focus upon Lent and Easter as the memories of the Christmas season begins to fade away into a distant memory.

In these days of preparation and meditation we are being called to focus on the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. This season can be enriching and life altering as we strive to envision how God plans to use us as instruments of His grace and peace. As I have delivered morning messages in worship there often appears a theme of how we can be used to bring hope, love, and peace to a world that appears to be in constant stress and disagreement. The gospels are clear that the primary goal in Jesus' mission was to teach us how to love and to be agents of transforming love. We as humans struggle to love primarily because our society has taught us to be overly critical of ourselves and those around us. So, we have replaced love with fear, distrust, and hatred towards anyone that is different than us.

During the Lenten season we will explore our attitudes and behaviors, those intangible things that cause us to feel unloved and unworthy of God's love and grace. This will be a busy season that can change your life. You are encouraged to participate in the many opportunities being offered to lead you on your Lenten Journey to the cross and ultimately to the empty tomb of Easter morning. We have devotionals for everyone to help you in the journey and a Lenten Daily Scripture calendar. We will make them available at church (as the mailing costs are astronomical) for distribution. On the printed edition of the Rolling Stone, we will include them for your use and enjoyment. We are still working with Gavin Klein to see what his availability will be to support us during the Lenten season and Holy Week. We invite you to join with us as we engage each other in this journey.

Pastor Dave

Congratulations and Thank You

As this newsletter was being produced, we were also planning for the Annual Meeting of the church. So, with that we can only congratulate all of those that have been elected to serve the church for the coming year in the various positions to which you have been elected. In next month's newsletter you will receive a copy of the leadership directory with the appropriate contact information.

The church has had an awkward tradition at the annual meeting to extending words of gratitude to all our vendors and suppliers. It came to my attention that we even sent letters or notes expressing these various entities. My observation was that we rarely expressed our gratitude to those individuals and committees that kept this church functioning through good and difficult times. The church is a group of volunteers who give of their gifts, talents, and time to the glory of God. Without these

volunteers we would not be able to function in fulfilling the mission and ministry for which this church was created. I thank each of you for your contributions in the past and for those which you have committed yourselves for at least another year. May God offer you protection and strength as you carry out your jobs.

I would be remiss to end this section without saying a special thank you to Paul Stansel who has served the past several years in a position that we sold him on as being a do-nothing job. Paul has served admirably as our Moderator through some difficult times and has continued to smile in spite being the recipient of anger and frustration at times because he was doing his leadership job. Paul, we want to thank you for everything that you have given to this church through your sacrifices made on our behalf.

Church School Message and News - March 2022



In this scripture, **MATTHEW 4:18-22**, Jesus calls his first disciples. He doesn't call them to be preachers or teachers. He calls them to do something they know about. Jesus tells Peter, Andrew, James, and John that he wants them

to be fishers of men. That sounds strange, but they were all actually fishermen, and Jesus was speaking their language.

Fishermen go out to sea to gather up fish. They use lures and bait to draw the fish in so that they can be caught. As Christians we don't try to catch people, but we do want to catch their attention and tell them about Jesus. We can't dangle worms in front of them like fishermen! We need bait that will help people see how much Jesus loves them.

The best way to draw people to Jesus is by loving others the way Jesus first loved us! We can love others by being a good friend, being helpful, and being a good listener. It also means reaching out to people who don't have many friends.

Loving others also means we resist the temptation to hurt others. When someone pushes us, we don't push back. When people gossip, we don't join in. When we are called names we can respond with love instead of cruel words. People may think we are strange for doing such things. Anyone else would fight back! But we are not "anyone else." We are fishers of men. Ask God to make you a fisher of men. Ask him to help you share His love with others.

Dear God, Thank you for the people who taught us about Jesus. Use us to share His love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen

Youth News:

Let's be Fishers of Campers!

Day Camp Set for June 27-July 1

Day Camp is around the corner! As I write this it feels like Spring!

Our Day Camp Director, Jane Powers, and I have begun brainstorming plans for the week. Our first challenge is to seek help in finding YOUNGER campers. As the kids move up we strive to find kiddos to join the youngest group(s). If anyone knows of youth ages 5-10 who might benefit from a week of friendship, fresh air, and lots of fun please let us know. We should have applications ready by the end of March. (Campers are ages 5-13 but younger groups have spots available).



See Beth or Hal if you have questions or know of kids you might refer to us.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CEIRI



RMAAO



THNISC



CUDITN



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



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. Please be advised if there is a question about travel during the winter months or situations relating to COVID, please check with Pastor Dave (978-821-9571) before heading out to Bible Study. Please note that the Wednesday Bible Study for March 2nd has been cancelled as we prepare for the Lenten Pancake

Dinner and the Ash Wednesday Service.

Our readings are taken from the Lenten Devotions “Drawn to the Cross” that were purchased for the church membership. If you have not received one either at church or in the mail, please notify the Church Office and we will send it out to you.

These lessons are inspired by Fr. Henri J.M. Nouwen, a Dutch priest and prolific writer that served in Canada, The United States, and parts of South America. His writings are provocative, inspirational, and timeless.

Topics are as follows for these dates:

March 9 – Wednesday, 1st Week of Lent - “A Colorful Mosaic” based Romans 12:1-8

March 16 – Wednesday, 2nd Week of Lent - “Eyes of Faith” based 1 John 1:1-10

March 23 – Wednesday, 3rd Week of Lent - “New Eyes” based John 13:18-38

March 30 – Wednesday, 4th Week of Lent - “Why Some and Not Others” based John 1: 1-5

April 6 – Wednesday, 5th Week of Lent - “I’ll See You Again” based John 16:16-33

April 13 – Wednesday, 6th Week of Lent - “Life’s Greatest Moment” based Luke 23:44-49

EVENTS IN MARCH

Date	Time	Event	Location
March 1	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 1	6:00 PM	Deacon's Meeting	Cookman Hall
March 2	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 2	6:00 PM	Pancake Dinner	Cookman Hall
March 2	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
March 3	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 3	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
March 6	10:00 AM	Worship with Communion	Sanctuary
March 7	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 7	5:30-8:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Cookman Hall
March 8	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 8	7:00 PM	Camp Wellville BOD	on ZOOM
March 9	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 9	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
March 10	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 10	5:30 -8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
March 13	10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
March 14	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 15	11:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 15	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting	TBD
March 16	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 16	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
March 17	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 17	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
March 19	4:30 – 6:30 PM	Church Dinner	Cookman Hall
March 20	10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
March 21	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 21	Noon	Deadline for Rolling Stone	Office
March 22	11:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 23	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 23	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
March 24	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 24	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
March 27	10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
March 27	Noon	Deadline for Easter Plants	Office
March 28	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 28	5:30-8:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Cookman Hall
March 29	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 29	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting	TBD
March 30	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
March 30	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
March 31	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office

We are currently in the process of updating the church directory for your contact information and the review of membership. The information that we may have on file may possibly be inaccurate. We are asking everyone (one for each person that is to be listed) to please return the form with your information for inclusion in the new directory that will be published this spring. Thank you for your help and cooperation. Please note that this information is for church purposes only and will not be distributed unless authorized.



Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____
Email address: _____
Other contact info: _____

Do we have permission to share this information within the church?

Yes (please initial) _____ No (please initial) _____

PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

Rollstone Congregational Church
199 Main Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Or email to:

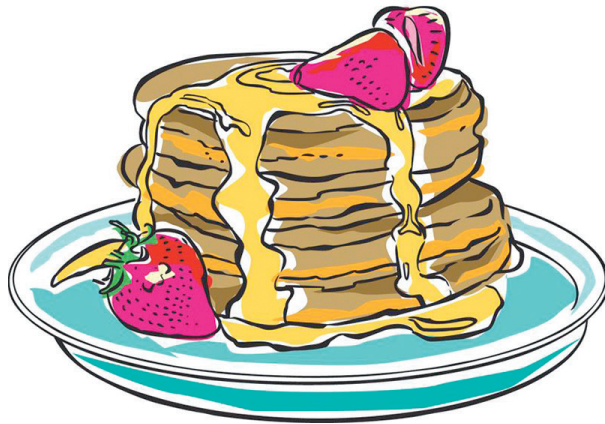
Rollstonepastor2012@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner

Join us for a free (*donations accepted*) pancake dinner prior to our

Ash Wednesday Service (7:00 P.M.)



Wednesday March 2nd

6:00 to 6:45 PM

Cookman Hall

No Cost (donations accepted)

Shepherd's Pie Church Dinner

Join us as we begin to introduce church fundraising dinners on the 3rd Saturday of most months.

This first dinner is for church members and their guests only, this is not open to the public until we have full use of the church kitchen.

See the details listed below, if you have questions please reach out to the pastor.

Saturday March 19th

4:45 to 6:30 PM

Cookman Hall



Adults	Seniors	Students (11 and up)	Juniors (Ages 5 - 10)	Age 4 and Under
\$14.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$8.00	Free

Reservations to the Church Office are required by March 17.

Hymn Story

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”

Andy Lipasti

Sarah Flower Adams (1805-1848) was a British actress who received praise for her performances on the stage. After health problems disrupted her plans to continue with theater, she found comfort in writing poems and hymns.

Her most notable hymn, “Nearer, My God, to Thee,” was written in 1841. Adams based the hymn on the story of “Jacob’s Ladder” as told in Genesis 28:11-17. In Jacob’s dream he saw angels ascending a ladder into heaven and he named the place of his vision, “Bethel, the House of God.” The hymn was originally set to music written by Adam’s sister, Eliza Flower, but another hymn tune called “Bethany,”

written by Lowell Mason in 1856, has become the tune we now most associate with this hymn. Lowell Mason was a leading composer of American sacred music, and was awarded the first degree of Doctor of Music ever given in America.

Few hymns have such a number of associations surrounding its use. It was the favorite hymn of President William McKinley, and brought him peace and comfort in his last hours. The hymn has been featured in many shows and movies. Perhaps the most famous is the 1997 movie “Titanic,” in a scene that is said to mirror the actual event of the ship’s band playing “Nearer, My God, to Thee,” while the Titanic was sinking. As we sing the hymn we find the message that even in darkness and trouble may we be lifted nearer to God.

Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee,
Even though it be a cross that raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

Then with my waking thoughts bright with Thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I’ll raise;
So by my woes to be Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.

Or if on joyful wing, cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.



Nearer, my God to Thee

Sarah Flower Adams

Violin

Piano

Sheet Music from 8notes.com © Copyright 2014 Red Balloon Technology Ltd

Sarah Flower Adams
Image from Hymntime.com



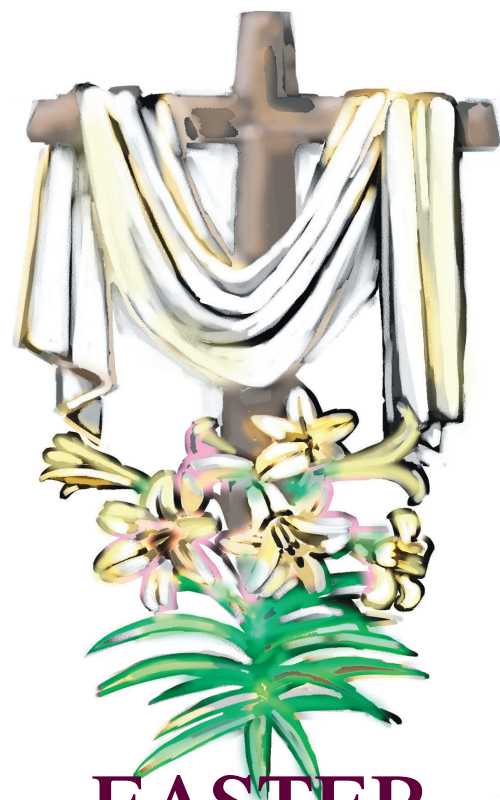
In a recent announcement from Rollstone Congregational Church, the church dinners will be returning in March of 2022.

According to our reliable resources they will attempt to kick-off dinners for their membership and invited guests starting on March 19th with a traditional Shepherd's Pie with all the fixings. Dinner will be served beginning at 4:30 until 6:30 PM. The cost announced is \$14.00 for adults, \$12.00 for students (ages 11 and up) and seniors, \$8 for juniors between the ages 5 to 10, and free to age 4 and under.

While these prices may be higher, they are still reasonable with the cost of food today.

Reservations can be made until March 17th through the church office to get your tickets. The line-up of dinners is in the process of being finalized and will be reported as the final information becomes available to us. They are hoping to have a good participation as they restart this once important staple in the life of their church fellowship.

Plants to beautify our sanctuary this
easter will need to be ordered by
March 27. Please attach an order form
with the correct payment. We cannot
guarantee any specific plant or color as
the supply issues continue.



EASTER MEMORIAL PLANTS

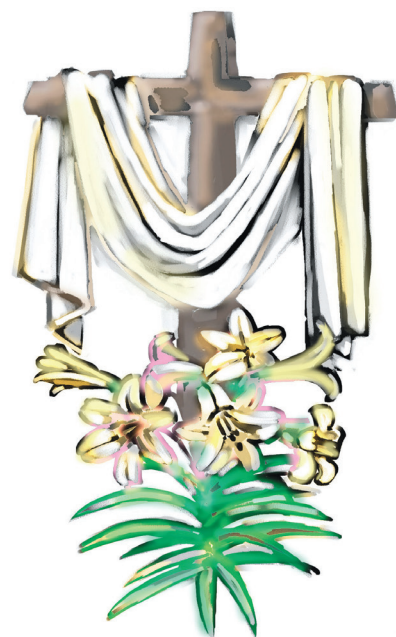
EASTER MEMORIAL PLANTS

Cost is \$15 per plant

Given by _____

In Memory or Honor of _____

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





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

Here is the link to the team's page if you would like to sign up to be on the team. https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR/RelayForLife/RFLCY22VirtualEvents?team_id=2596132&pg=team&fr_id=101764

If you would like to donate to the team or an individual person.

Please go to Greater Gardner Relay for Life and find Rollstone Rollers.

We are currently accepting coins for the coin drive. If you have change you would like to donate, we will have the bucket on the table each Sunday between now and June 10th, 2022. I have counted what we have collected so far, and we have raised \$161.68. Thank you to all that have donated this far.



WHAT'S NEW



Do you like to play BINGO?

On May 15, 2022, The Rollstone Rollers
will be hosting a Vendors BINGO at the Gardner Elks
31 Park Street Gardner, MA 01440.

We did this back in 2016 and we made about
\$300.00 for the Relay for Life.

More information to follow.

We will have flyers closer to the actual event.

Mary Lyman & Kim Bourque
Co-Captain Rollstone Rollers



Birthdays in March

16	Don Cloutier
17	Roland Larsen
20	Tari Piazza
22	Kim Bourque
25	Linda Haas

LITURGIST SCHEDULE of WORSHIP SERVICES

Liturgical Date	Liturgical Designation	Liturgist	Notes	Time
Sun, Mar 6, 2022	1st Sunday in Lent	Andy Lipasti		10:00 AM
Sun, Mar 13, 2022	2nd Sunday in Lent	Jean Suomala		10:00 AM
Sun, Mar 20, 2022	3rd Sunday in Lent	Lois Schrader		10:00 AM
Sun, Mar 27, 2022	4th Sunday in Lent	Kathy Rowe		10:00 AM
Sun, Apr 3, 2022	5th Sunday in Lent	Janet Lane		10:00 AM
Sun, Apr 10, 2022	6th Sunday in Lent	Marie Stansel	Palm Sunday	10:00 AM
Thu, Apr 14, 2022	Maundy Thursday	Deacons		6:00 P.M.
Sun, Apr 17, 2022	Easter Sunday	Andy Lipasti		10:00 AM

The pastor had prepared a sermon for the church service and was ready to — ADMINISTER IT

Jumble Answers
ICIER AROMA SNITCH INDUCT

ROLLSTONE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
199 MAIN STREET
FITCHBURG, MA 01420