



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

APRIL 1, 2022

Pastor's View

The Pastor's Reflection

It seems as if only yesterday we were celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. The mood was joyful and festive with presents, food, and family gatherings. The mood has continued to be festive as we will witness the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday with the children singing Hosanna! Blessed is He who is the King of Israel! The experience of that day was filled not only with the palms and the shouts from the crowds, but also a cheerfulness that you might see at the homecoming football game or parade. The crowd was whipped up in a frenzy to a point that they were dancing in the streets. On this day Jesus was praised, admired, and greeted with welcoming arms. And then, as quickly as the crowd was praising him, they suddenly turned on him and started to mock and ridicule him, much like the mood when the home team is losing badly and the crowd turns and yells at the players, coaches, and even the referees.

Jesus then endured a week of being mocked, scorned, ridiculed, and betrayed. Jesus remained the course even during a difficult time knowing that he was fulfilling God's plan. Frequently when we run into difficult times and situations our initial response is to run and hide and pray that this situation will pass from us. It is during these situations that we should be running towards God rather than for away from him. When a bad trial is happening to us or around us how do we respond? Do we speak up or out from the injustice that is being done? Do we find forgiveness in our

hearts to offer a second chance? Do we put it on the line and risk it all? Our human nature causes us to become defensive and we run, we run as fast as our legs will carry us. When we run away, we forsake all that we have been faithful and loyal to throughout our lives.

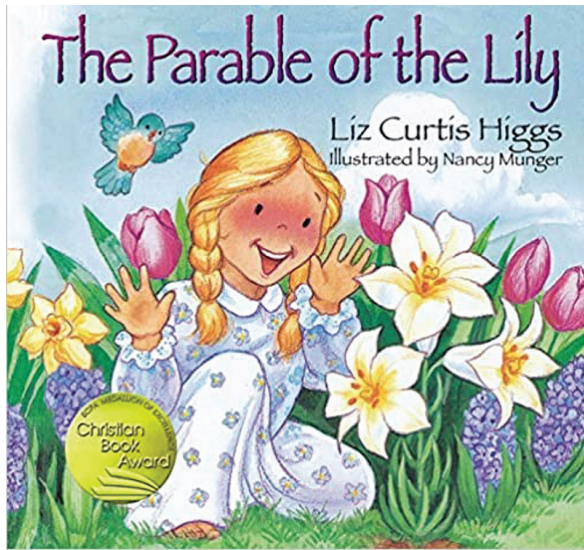
Our running is a defensive mechanism we utilize if we believe that we can either shield or protect ourselves from whatever we are facing. Unfortunately, when we run, we create pain and abandonment for those closest to ourselves and even ourselves. The week that leads us from Palm Sunday to the cross of Good Friday should continue to be a source of encouragement since we know that God's plan was being carried forth for our salvation and redemption. Even in Jesus' darkest moments when it appeared that everyone including God had abandoned and deserted him, we all are called to stand by him as he has stood by us. To stand by him is an act of trust and faith that God will make all things right. God is calling each of us now to be engaged in the journey that must go through the cross of calvary.

I invite each of you to gather with us as a family to hold each other close as we approach the cross of Jesus Christ in the knowledge that when we come out on the other side, we will experience the joyful Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ has risen! I hope to see all of you this coming Holy Week as we walk with Christ so that we may share in his glorious resurrection.

Pastor Dave

Church School Message and News

April 2022



Theme: Easter — Very early in the morning, the women prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away,, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord... *Luke 24:1-3*

This year our focus during Lent is a sweet story
“The Parable of the Lily”. Even though it begins with some angry feelings! Hmmm
...But there is an element of surprise after a time of sadness and finally
FORGIVENESS!

Here is a “short bit” about Maggie’s story:

Maggie, the farmer’s youngest daughter, loves getting gifts, especially mysterious ones. One wintry day, she receives a package in the mail. She excitedly opens the package to find a crate of dirt. This was not what Maggie expected. She had hoped for a doll or a game, not a crate of dirt and felt angry. When spring comes, she finds a bulb in the crate and tosses the lifeless thing into the garden, never to think of it again. . . . Until she walks outside on Easter morning and finds the most beautiful lily she has

ever seen. Through the unique gift of a bulb, Maggie discovers the power of grace and forgiveness (for being so ungrateful) and the true meaning of Easter.

The Bible tells us that Easter brings a very special “surprise” - Jesus is found alive. Some surprises, like the gift of the lily, make us happy, but the best reason to be happy for Easter Day is that Jesus is alive, and he loves us very much! That is what we celebrate at Easter!

Dear Father, we praise you! Jesus has risen!, Amen.

Youth News:

Day Camp Set for June 27-July 1

Day Camp is around the corner! Jane Powers (Day Camp Director), Kathy Rowe, and I are busy making 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. Applications are ready and due back soon -before mid May.

The careful planning of camp relies on prompt replies. By next month we will be asking for help with specific food & drink items, or “\$” campership donations.



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

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 this time or situations relating to COVID, please check with Pastor Dave (978-821-9571) before heading out to Bible Study.

Topics are as follows for these dates:

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

April 20 — Wednesday, 1st Week of Eastertide -

“The 10 Commandments” based Exodus 20: 1-21

April 27 — Wednesday, 2nd Week of Eastertide -

“Jesus’ Lessons – part 1” based Matthew 5:13-48

May 18 — Wednesday, 5th Week of Eastertide –

“Jesus’ Lessons – part 2” based on Matthew 6

May 25 — Wednesday, 6th Week of Eastertide –

“Jesus’ Lessons – part 3” based on Matthew 7

EVENTS IN APRIL

Date	Time	Event	Location
April 3	10:00 AM	Worship with Communion	Sanctuary
April 4	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 5	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 5	6:00 PM	Board of Christian Education	Cookman Hall
April 6	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 7	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 7	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
April 9	9:00 – Noon	All Church Clean-up	All main floor areas
April 10	10:00 AM	Worship – Procession of the Palms	Sanctuary
April 11	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 11	5:30-7:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Cookman Hall
April 11	6:00 PM	Deacon's Meeting	Sanctuary
April 12	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 12	7:00 PM	Camp Wellville BOD	Cookman Hall
April 13	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 13	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
April 14	Noon	Office Hours begin	Office
April 14	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary
April 15	10:00 AM	Set-up of Sanctuary for Easter	Sanctuary
April 17	10:00 AM	Easter Worship	Sanctuary
April 18	Office closed		
April 19	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 19	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting	Cookman Hall
April 20	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 20	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
April 21	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 21	Noon	Church dinner reservation deadline	
April 21	Noon	Deadline for Rolling Stone	Office
April 21	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
April 23	5:00 and 5:45 PM	Church Dinner	Cookman Hall
April 24	10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
April 25	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 25	5:30-7:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Cookman Hall
April 26	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 26	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting	Cookman Hall
April 27	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 27	10:30 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
April 28	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
April 28	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall

Hymn Story

“The Old Rugged Cross”

Andy Lipasti

George Bennard (1873 – 1958) was an American hymn composer and preacher. He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1873 and spent his childhood in Iowa. After his conversion in a Salvation Army meeting, he and his wife became brigade leaders before leaving the organization for the Methodist Church.

In 1910, Bennard began his own ministry and he traveled throughout the Midwest holding revivals. In the year 1912 Bennard was ridiculed at a revival meeting in Michigan. Troubled by the disregard for the gospel, Bennard turned to Scripture to reflect on the work of Christ on the cross. He

later recalled, “I seemed to have a vision, I saw the Christ and the cross inseparable.” The melody to his hymn “The Old Rugged Cross” came easily, and the first verse was completed during a series of meetings in Albion, Michigan. Several months later, the remaining three verses were completed as he was leading meetings at a local church.

Loved for its rhythmical melody and words of personal trust in Christ, “The Old Rugged Cross” remains one of the most cherished hymns of the Christian faith. It has since been included in numerous hymnals and has been recorded by many contemporary artists, and performed as a favorite country gospel hymn.

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame,
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged Cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.



George Bennard

Image from: <http://www.hymntime.com/>



Leadership Directory for 2022

Officers – and Church Council (Church officers are indicated with a +)

Position	Name	Telephone	email
+ Moderator	Amy Larsen		
+ Assistant Moderator	Paul Stansel		
+ Treasurer	Janet Lane		
+ Clerk	Kathleen Ann Rowe		
+ Pastor	Rev. David Hanks		
Member At-Large	Mary Lyman		
Christian Education	Kim Bourque		
Church/Pastoral Relations	Eileen Berger		
Deacons	Linda Haas		
Trustees	Andy Lipasti		
Assistant Treasurer	Mary Anne Smith		
Auditor	Ellen Porell		
Collector Committee			
	Linda Gallant		
	Mary Lyman		
	George Sammet		
Delegates (2)			
	Donald Cloutier		
	Amy Larsen		
Board of Christian Education			
	Pam Beaulac		
	Kim Bourque - Chairperson		
	Victoria Bourque – Scribe		
	Beth Porell – Vice-Chair		
	Hal Smith		
	Marie Stansel		
	Kathleen Ann Rowe		
Board of Deacon's			
	Donald Cloutier		
	Becky Capone-Colwell		
	Linda Haas - Chairperson		
	Mary Lyman		
	Jackie Reiss		
	Dianne Sammet		
	Lois Schrader – Vice Chair		
	Mary Anne Smith		
	Ron Smith		
	Marie Stansel – Scribe		
	Jean Suomala		
	Delores Sampson (Honorary)*		

Contact church office for contact tele-
phones & emails.

Leadership Directory for 2022

Position	Name	Telephone	email
Board of Trustees		<div>Contact church office for contact tele- phones & emails.</div>	
	Lorna Chabot		
	Cathy Fontaine		
	Andy Lipasti - Chairperson		
	Hal Smith		
	Ron Smith – Vice Chair		
	Mary Anne Smith - Scribe		
	Amy Larsen		
Nominating Committee			
	Amy Larsen		
	Jean Suomala		
	Kim Bourque		
Church and Pastoral Relations Committee			
	Eileen Berger - Chairperson		
	Mary Anne Smith		
	Marie Stansel		
	Linda Gallant		
	George Sammet		

Church Membership Review

The Deacon's in conjunction with the Pastor and the Church Council are required to review the church membership yearly to ensure that our membership roster is current and accurate. That process is almost completed, and individuals will be notified by mail inquiring of their intent and desires regarding their membership in Rollstone Congregational Church. There is the potential for some persons to be offended by our sending of a letter essentially asking if they still want to be a member of this church.

While we were in the review process, we discovered that the records had fallen into long periods of time when the

required actions were not completed, this is resulting in letters being sent to some who may have already requested their names be moved from active to inactive. We apologize for any errors and discomfort this may cause people, but should you become aware of problems we would welcome feedback from those affected by addressing it directly with the pastor and the deacons. Once this task is completed, please be assured that we will not let the membership list become as problematic as it has been for the past few years.





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

We currently have 5 members and have raised \$250.00 so far online.

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

Or 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 \$222.30. 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.

Please see flyer.

If you have any questions, please see Mary Lyman.

Mary Lyman & Kim Bourque
Co-Captain Rollstone Rollers



May 15, 2022

Vendors Bingo

Bingo is 10 vendors who do a short speech and then call their bingo. If you win, you get their product. Only one winner on each bingo.

**All you have to do for this fund raiser is
show up and Play BINGO**

**Proceeds go to the
Rollstone Rollers Relay for Life Team**

**Join us for an afternoon of fun at the
Gardner Elks**

**31 Park Street
Gardner, MA 01440**

10 games for \$5.00

Doors will open at 1:00 pm for shopping
Bingo starts about 2:00 pm

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

You are invited to join with us on Saturday evening, April 23rd for a full dinner in Cookman Hall. Once again until we have every permit and license on hand we can only serve to our members and their guests (this dinner is not open to the public nor can it be advertised.) We know that those who attended the dinner in March had a wonderful time for fellowship and breaking bread together and we hope to continue building upon that enthusiasm that we experienced that evening. Dinner will be served with two seatings at 5:00 PM and 5:45 PM. The requested donation 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.

What will you be served at that price?

You will be treated to salad, Homemade lasagna, a meatball, garlic bread, and an Italian themed dessert.

The meal will be served from a buffet line and is unlimited.



Reservations are highly recommended and can be made until April 20th through the church office to get your tickets.

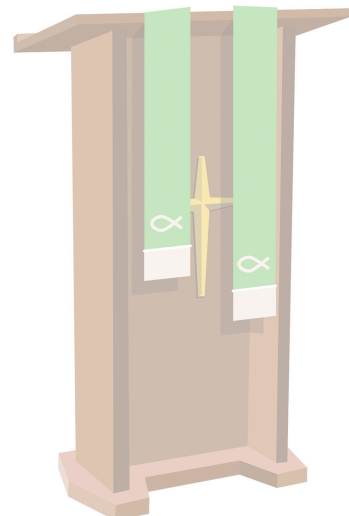


Birthdays in April

7	Kris Bingham
9	Kayla Rameau
10	Carolyn Barney
10	Zeke Finch
11	Paul Cormier
12	Adeline Sicard
24	Janet Aveyard
27	Sami Piazza

LITURGIST SCHEDULE of WORSHIP SERVICES

Liturgical Date	Liturgical Designation	Liturgist	Notes	Time
Sun, Apr 3, 22	5th Sunday in Lent	Janet Lane		10:00 AM
Sun, Apr 10, 22	6th Sunday in Lent	Marie Stansel	Palm Sunday	10:00 AM
Thu, Apr 14, 22	Maundy Thursday	Deacons		6:00 P.M.
Sun, Apr 17, 22	Easter Sunday	Andy Lipasti		10:00 AM
Sun, Apr 24, 22	1st Sunday in Eastertide	Kathy Rowe		10:00 AM
Sun, May 1, 22	2nd Sunday in Eastertide	Linda Haas		10:00 AM
Sun, May 8, 22	3rd Sunday in Eastertide	Jean Suomala		10:00 AM
Sun, May 15, 22	4th Sunday in Eastertide	Ron Smith		10:00 AM
Sun, May 22, 22	5th Sunday in Eastertide	Lois Schrader		10:00 AM
Sun, May 29, 22	6th Sunday in Eastertide	Don Cloutier		10:00 AM
Sun, June 5, 22	7th Sunday in Eastertide	Kathy Rowe		10:00 AM
Sun, June 12, 22	Pentecost Sunday	Janet Lane		10:00 AM
Sun, June 19, 22	Trinity Sunday	Marie Stansel		10:00 AM
Sun, June 26, 22	2nd Sunday after Pentecost	Linda Haas		10:00 AM





**Camp Wellville
is looking for a
Camp Director for the
summer as well as a
Lifeguard and
Swimming Instructor
from July 2 though
August 27.**

**Please contact Kathy
Rowe for details.**

A little humor

