



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

JULY / AUGUST, 2022

Pastor's **REFLECTION** “The Church in Crisis”

Brothers and sisters of faith we should attempt to reflect upon the condition of everything we are engaged with from time to time. We should look at the condition of our houses, our automobiles, our friendships and relationships, and our lives. When we stop for a moment to reflect or examine, we are essentially doing some preventative maintenance that can potentially save us lots of money and heartache latter on.

When you own an automobile, you are required to take the vehicle to an inspection station each year to have a trained professional check certain aspects of the vehicle to make sure it is operating safely. If we didn't have such requirements, we would potentially see vehicles being driven down the road without headlights or brake lights operating properly. There would be the potential that someone driving along would be burning oil, maybe polluting the air, or their suspension could be messed up to the point where a tire might detach from the vehicle as they drove along. We grumble at the thought that we must have the vehicle looked at, but in the end, it protects us and those around us.

With a home we routinely do maintenance to prevent catastrophic costs because we are wasting energy from poor insulation or from water that leaks because the roof and gutters need repair. With complex structures there will always be needs to look and examine to prevent unnecessary and unexpected costs because we did not attend to

the routines that are intended to help us.

There are families that run into problems because relationships and communications within them are not attended to in a timely manner. I see marriages breakdown because the couple doesn't take time for each other or are not aware of each other's needs. When a marriage breaks down it impacts so many other relationships and lives. The problem we see today is that relationships today are falling apart because we focus upon our own individual needs and have forgotten the needs of everyone else. We are living in a self-centered world that is creating havoc, chaos, and crisis.

The church is no different than a family structure. The church as we know it is in crisis because of many actions and the lack of other critical actions. What happens in your own life when those closest to you stop communicating? What happens when people stop working together? What happens when we pout because a vote may not have gone the way we had hoped? What happens when we seek to hurt others because they may not be all that you had hoped or expected them to be? We create crisis out of selfish reasons which has a greater impact than we can ever begin to realize or see. Sometimes the results of our actions are not immediately visible, but over time they do have a major impact on us, the church, and those to whom the church

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Camp Wellville 2022

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

BIBLE STUDY:

July 18 **Hebrews 9 & 10** Led by Rev. Ginger Asel
August 1 & 15 Led by Pastor Debbie Moylan

BOOK REVIEWS:

July 11- **Getting off the Radiator** by *Dorothy Preston (author visit)*
Led by Shari Hewson
July 25- **Stranger in the Lifeboat** by *Mitch Albom*
Led by Sue Harris
August 8 – **The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell** by *Robert Dugoni*
Led by Mary Ann Fournier
August 22- **A Tale of Two Biddies** by *Vicki Kuyper*
Led by Marie Stansel

VESPERS:

July 10th	Pastor Ken Whitson	Aug. 7th	Rev. Elizabeth McGill
July 17th	Rev. Ginger Asel	Aug. 14th	Pastor Debbie Moylan
July 24th	Pastor Dagan Siepart	Aug. 21st	Rev. Wil Darcangelo
July 31st	Rev. David Hanks		

CONFERENCES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

July 4 – Special Flag Raising
Led by Pastor Debbie Moylan
July 20 – The Tabernacle
Led by Rev. Ginger Asel
July 27 – What is a Lutheran?
Led by Pastor Dagan Siepart
August 10 – Saints and Sinners: Lessons from Celtic Spirituality
Led by Pastor Debbie Moylan
Aug. 19 – Christmas Child
Led by Rayanne Neveu
Aug. 26 – Closing Vespers

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Continued from page 1

is called to serve.

Jesus never was happy with those that bickered and did not work together, in essence he worked with them to correct the situation and avoid the potential of crisis. The global church has become unglued and divided because of many differences in ideology, interpretation, understanding, and practice. We have Christian brothers and sisters fighting each other over these differences causing those of the faith to look on and eventually say that if that is they way they are taught then I don't want anything to do with them or their religion. Jesus taught us to turn the cheek when someone wrongs us, but instead our reaction to

weaponize ourselves so that we can fight.

As you take time during this summer respite period, take a moment to reflect upon how you will make a difference in mending fences that are broken with the church universal and even in our own congregation. The church has survived for over 2000 years through turmoil, chaos, and crisis, but it only has done so by people working together for the greater and common good of all rather than that of their benefit. May this reflection offer you some time to think as we begin to vision and plan for our church and its mission for the future.

Pastor Dave



Dear Friends,

I hope you all are enjoying the beginning of a great summer, as am I! Now, I can join you all (most of you that is....) in saying I am officially a high school alumni! It is a bit bittersweet to say goodbye to the past four years of my life, but I am super excited for college in the fall!

I want to first thank everyone who came to the organ concert last month! Many braved the excessive heat of the afternoon (causing the organ to go extremely out of tune...) but I would say it was a success. For those who were not able to come, the concert was recorded and put on the church's YouTube page. Pastor Dave and I will be working together to do a few more services and concerts in the future, so please stay tuned! I am also still searching for a

suitable applicant for an organist for the church, and will still be around on occasion to check on the organ.

I also wanted to thank you all personally, and the church for the extremely generous present you all gave me. As most of you know, it was an extremely hard decision for me to leave at the end of last year, but due to an ever growing school schedule, and a concert schedule growing, it would have been very hard to be available on weekends. Every Sunday that came, I found myself often thinking of many of the faces I would see, and rolling up to Rollstone early to ring the bell before our services started. It was definitely not easy to say goodbye! But I think it just emphasizes how special Rollstone is to me. I got to know so many of you on a personal level, and many of you were extremely generous and supportive of me. For that, I am forever grateful! Now that college is fast approaching, it is hard to know what the future holds, but I am confident it is going to be awesome! I ask that you pray for me along my journey, and I will continue to pray for all of you! Remember to stay happy, stay holy, stay welcoming, and to make sure to grow in faithfulness each and every day!

With that, have a great summer- and I will be seeing you all soon! Please stay in touch.

And till we meet again, may God be with you!

Gavin

Summer Schedule of Events

Worship Services will be held on the following dates:

July 3rd	10:00 A.M.	in the Sanctuary
July 10th	10:00 A.M.	in the Sanctuary
July 17th	10:00 A.M.	in the Sanctuary
July 24th	10:00 A.M.	in the Sanctuary
July 31st	10:00 A.M.	in the Sanctuary

During the months of July and August there will be no childcare available during the worship service. Please plan accordingly.

During the month of August there will be no live services held at the church. Worship opportunities are available through the church's web site for virtual worship. Other opportunities are available at the 7:00 P.M. camp vesper services held at Camp Wellville.

Have a happy, restful, relaxing, and safe summer! See you in September!



Birthdays in July

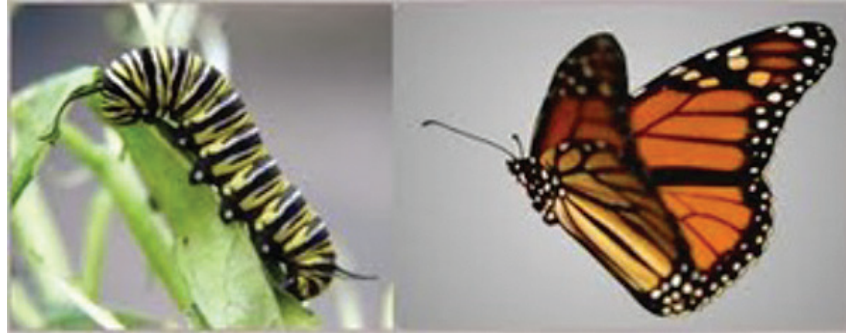
11	Cathy Fontaine
11	Zach Sullivan
16	Shawn Bingham
20	Bob Lane
20	Bob Goguen
27	Betty Shepard
31	Sarah Kee

Birthdays in August

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

Church School Message and News

July 2022



“The Monarch Butterfly”

Theme: Growing into what God wants you to be.

Scripture: “*Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*” Luke 2:52

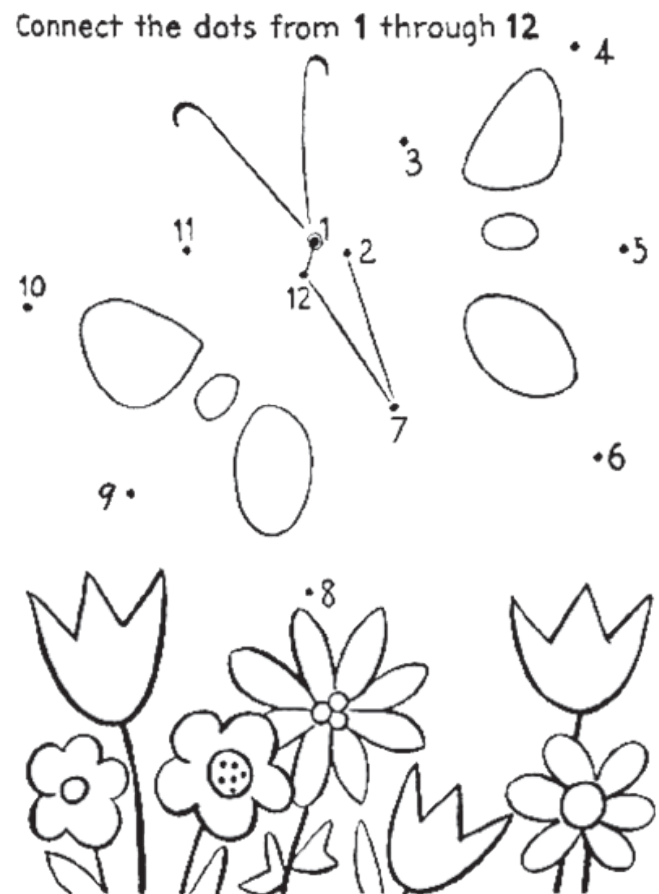
Beautiful! A butterfly. But this isn’t just any butterfly or just any worm. It is called a Monarch butterfly. One of God’s most beautiful creations. The worm is actually a caterpillar. It is a monarch butterfly in its first stage, before it grows up, and is not very handsome. In time it will change into a butterfly, but how?

First it spins a cocoon around itself. Then it rests inside the cocoon while its body changes from caterpillar to a butterfly. God knows that the caterpillar becomes a butterfly. God knows its potential for beauty.

The same is true of us as people. Other people may look at you and simply see a boy or girl. But God sees what else you can become. The Bible tells us that Jesus pleased God as He grew up to be a man. Luke 2:52 tells us that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature (or size) and in favor with God and man. God expects you to grow up and change just like Jesus did. He expects you to increase in wisdom by learning a lot at school and at church. God expects you to be healthy in the way you eat and exercise so your body will grow. And He expects you to try to please your heavenly father as well as people here on earth.

Someday you will change from a child into an adult just as the caterpillar changes into a butterfly. Let’s ask God to help you make that change in a way that will be pleasing to him.

Prayer: As we grow up, help us to become boys and girls that would please our heavenly father. Amen.



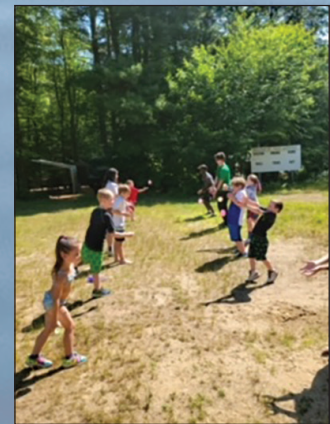
As in the past we will not hold Church School classes in Summer .

Kids are welcome for service!

We will resume classes the Sunday after Labor Day - Sept. 11th.



Day Camp 2022



SHARK Week



A special thank you to Linda Gallant for her amazing snacks and desserts!

