



THE ROLLING STONE

Rollstone Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
199 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA

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OCTOBER, 2022

Pastor's **REFLECTION** Death! What is death?

Death! What is death? Death is the topic that most people do not want to talk about or discuss. In turning to Wikipedia, we find the definition of death to be the irreversible cessation of all biological functions that sustain an organism. With that definition, we understand that death is not just reserved to individuals, but can also allude to relationships, dreams, hopes, and so forth.

This topic has coming bubbling to the surface of topics which we need to debate amongst ourselves, our families, and even our church. When Queen Elizabeth II passed away last month the topic turned not only to her physical death, but also discussions inquiring “is the monarchy dead?” Regardless of opinions and desires we can honestly state that the monarchy is about as dead as we are. That is not our conversation as we only serve one monarch, who is God Almighty.

When a person or something dies, we need to understand that death is the end of a stage in existence. We know that when death occurs something else new begins. When a marriage is declared dead, the declaration is that the marriage relationship has ended, freeing the individuals to establish new relationships, if that is their fate. When a friendship dies typically the different parties go their separate ways. When a person dies their earthly life ceases as we know it. As people of faith and of the resurrection, we believe that the

deceased has risen with Christ in glory. The fact is that as one ends this life or chapter, a new life eternal begins. One of God’s promises was that we would share eternal life with Christ because he died the ultimate death so that we could live.

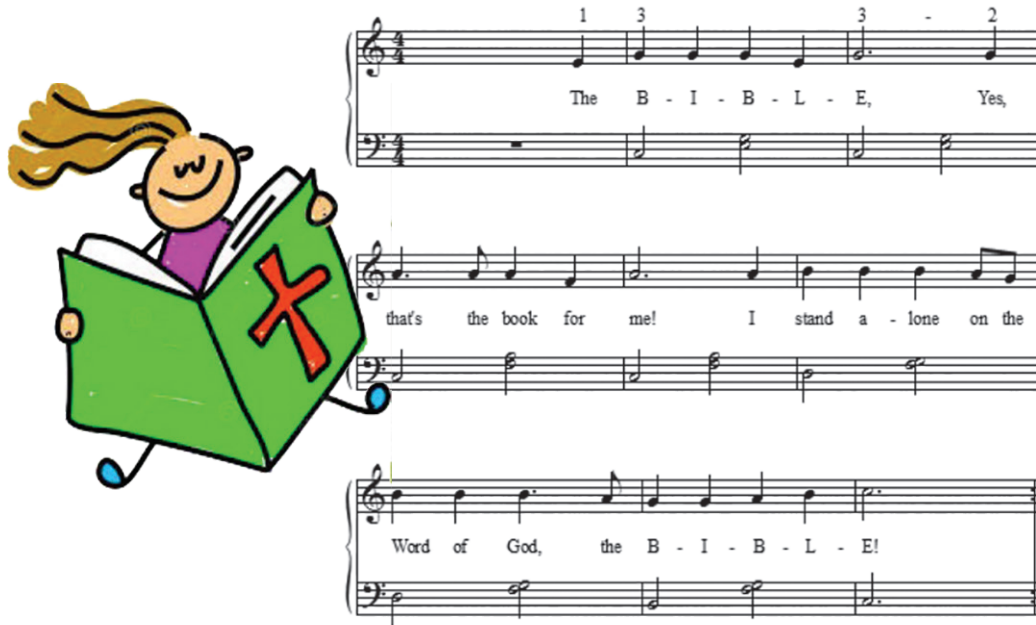
The deacons of the church have on multiple occasions expressed a belief that Death is a valuable topic that should be engaged with the entire congregation. As a young seminarian we were required to take a couple classes focusing upon death and dying. As a pastor we are expected to learn how to guide parishioners through the dying and grieving process. The process of grieving for our dead is a lifelong process and one from which we should grow. I remember some seminarians struggling with the topic because they had not really experienced the loss of someone or something that they loved. We grieve when death happens not for the deceased but for our loss. When we love, grieving is so much more difficult because of the changes that impact our lives. I remember the grieving that I experienced when those I loved were no longer with me, because it was my journey was now forever changed.

When Queen Elizabeth II passed away, I remember listening to the media interviewing people who were absolutely sobbing with grief because their sovereign was now no longer their

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Church School News

The B-I-B-L-E



Many of us remember this simple song that we often use to introduce our youngest church schoolers to the Bible.

After some years of lessons in church school it is a tradition that we honor our dedicated youth with a Bible.



On September 11th we were pleased to present a Bible to Bontu Piazza and shared the following thoughts with her...

Our church family is honored to have youth in our church like Bontu. She has been in church nearly every

week since she was a very young girl. I remember the day she came, one Easter Morning, with her Mom and 2 brothers. Bontu, I know you have read and learned much from the Bible with your family at home but your Rollstone Church family would like you to have a gift Bible with our blessing that you continue to follow the lessons it holds.

A reading from 2 Timothy says:

16 Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live. 17 The Scriptures train God's servants to do all kinds of good deeds.

Receive the Word of God.
Learn its stories and study its words.
Its stories belong to us all,
and these words speak to us all.
They tell us who we are.
They tell us that we belong to one another,
for we are the people of God.

It is our joy and privilege to present you with this Bible. When you read it, remember how deeply you are loved by God and all of us.

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

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sovereign. This people had never actually met the queen, but they were devoted to her because of her station in life. We mourn or grieve over people because of their position in our lives. We mourn over the death of our parents, a child, a friend, a sibling because they meant something to our lives. Death is not the end, but signals that something is changing. The changes mean that we need to adapt or change ourselves so that we can cope to the new future.

This discussion of death, dying, grief, and grieving are one that we would like to establish as a dialogue to primarily teach that death is not the end, but rather a new beginning that has a promise. I would encourage each of you to join in the conversation once we can make the appropriate accommodations for this discussion to take place.

Pastor Dave

Communications . . .



To help us develop a healthy, growing congregation, it is important that we improve our means of getting information to members, potential new members and friends of Rollstone Congregational.

The Rolling Stone you are reading is one of the best means we have currently, but to grow the church we need to expand our reach out into the community. Another way of doing this is to make a better use of "Social Media". This includes our website, the church's Facebook page, the YouTube channel and a variety of other means we need to explore.

To accomplish this I would like to put together an informal group of members and friends that can provide material and ideas to make better use of social media a reality.

If you are interested in helping, whether you know anything about the internet or not, please talk with me.

Thank you,

Paul Stansel

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Date	Time	Event	Location
October 2	10:00 AM	Worship with Communion	Sanctuary
October 3	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 3	6:30 PM	Christian Education Meeting	Parlor
October 4	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 5	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 5	10:00 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
October 6	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 6	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
October 9	10:00 AM	Worship with Baptism	Sanctuary
October 11	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 11	7:00 PM	Camp Wellville BOD	TBD
October 12	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 12	10:00 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
October 13	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 13	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
October 16	10:00 AM	Worship with Baptism	Sanctuary
October 17	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 18	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 18	6:00 PM	Deacon's Meeting	Cookman Hall
October 19	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 19	10:00 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
October 20	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 20	4:00 PM	Pastor Parish Meeting	Berger residence
October 20	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
October 21	Noon	Deadline for Rolling Stone	send to Kathy Rowe
October 23	10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
October 24	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 25	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 25	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting	Cookman Hall
October 26	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 26	10:00 AM	Bible Study	Cookman Hall
October 27	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office
October 27	5:30-8:30 PM	Fitchburg Scouting	Cookman Hall
October 30	10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
October 30	11:10 AM	Round Table Discussion	Cookman Hall
October 31	9:00 AM	Office Hours begin	Office



My Church

by Sarah Kee

Rollstone is a wondrous church,
I'm glad some families go.
Our congregation is so great,
They're good to get to know.

I've been coming here for years.
I have enjoyed them all!
If in need, they pray for me.
It seems I now don't fall.

I hope some other people come.
We sure could have some here.
But I am sure our church can last.
With that, I have no fear.

Thank
you

It is hard to believe that I have been serving this congregation for 10 years already. We have had many wonderful times and memories that we have experienced together for which I am grateful. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. I want to thank you for your support through these 10 years. I want to also express my deepest gratitude for your continually surprising me with the type of recognition you offered me on September 11th with a time of fellowship and celebration of our 10 years together. The stole that you presented me is absolutely gorgeous and will be a cherished reminder of your constant love and support each time that I wear it.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Dave

LITURGIST SCHEDULE of WORSHIP SERVICES

Liturgical Date	Liturgical Designation	Liturgist
October 2nd	17th Week After Pentecost	Jean Suomala
October 9th	18th Week After Pentecost	Marie Stansel
October 16th	19th Week after Pentecost	Ron Smith
October 23rd	20th Week After Pentecost	Jackie Reiss
October 30th	21st Week After Pentecost	Dianne Sammet
November 6th	22nd Week After Pentecost	Lois Schrader
November 13th	23rd Week After Pentecost	Kathy Rowe
November 20th	Reign of Christ/Thanksgiving	Beth Porell
November 27th	1st Sunday of Advent	Jean Suomala

Bible Study is held every Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM. All are invited to join as you are available. Currently we are studying the Pauline Epistles (those books and letters of the Apostle Paul). These letters were written by Paul to the various churches to provide guidance, encouragement, and were pastoral in nature.

Our readings will follow this sequence in chronological order of when they were written:

1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians
Galatians	1 Corinthians
Philippians	Philemon
2 Corinthians	Romans
1 Timothy	Titus
2 Timothy	

