



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

REFLECTION With No Regrets

SEPTEMBER, 2022

Life has many interesting twists and turns which often leave us questioning many decisions that we have made during our lifetimes. Given all that we know now often we comment that if we had the chance to do things over again there would be lots that we would change or alter slightly in our decision making. I have noticed that I continue to grow older a particular question pops up and it makes me ponder, "Do you have any regrets with the decisions and choices you have made in life?" I am sure that there are a few things that I would do differently, but overall, things would be pretty much the same.

I had many options for colleges to attend but decided with some parental insistence that staying close to home would be the best option, so I did that and really did not spread my wings and learn to fly and discover as I might have if I moved away from home. I could have challenged myself more while in the work force to diversify myself by moving from one job to another, but I prospered with the stability. I may have decided to focus on full time ministry rather than part-time ministry, but in doing so I could not bring the

perspective into the pulpit of the average working joe and the experiences that they have. In serving part-time churches I was able to fulfill my belief that every church is worthy of having a trained pastor willing to serve it even if it meant sacrifice on my behalf. The bigger churches would have provided greater financial security and provided greater opportunities. In looking back, I do not regret any of my decisions, except that with limitations I was not as available to those in certain times of need or want.

If I want to make any changes, there are some that I can easily do here and now in my life. I would begin to use the good dishes and glassware more often by inviting others to share a dinner with us. I would strive to stay closer in contact with the family and work to breakdown the things that divide us. I would stop thinking that it can wait another day, we don't have any guarantees of tomorrow. I will take the vacations and excursions that I have always thought might be fun, even if they are going to cost me more than I want. I will take time to stop and smell the roses and flowers and will say hello to long lost friends. As long as I have breath and can put my feet on the floor

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Rollstone Again Hosts Artists For Citywide Cultural Event

Following up on the popularity of last year's participation, Rollstone Congregational Church will once again open Cookman Hall to the public to host three local artists as part of Fitchburg Open Studios celebration, Saturday and Sunday, September 24 – 25, from 11 am to 5 pm.

As part of the celebration, the Thurston Consort will perform a concert of early New England Composers in Rollstone's sacristy from 1-2 pm on Sunday September 25. All are invited and there is no charge for the concert.

Fitchburg Open Studios is one of the most interesting, entertaining, and instructive events on the city's annual calendar and it is entirely free. For two days local artists will either open their home studios to the public or create "pop-up" displays in buildings throughout the city. More than 30 artists will host exhibits as part of the festival.

The event, which is sponsored by the Fitchburg Cultural Council, is regional and the art displays run

the gamut from oils, watercolors, and illustrations, to sculpture, pottery, weavings and more. While about half of the artists will display in Fitchburg, others will make their home studios available throughout the area. Brochures and maps will be available at City Hall, the Fitchburg Art Museum, the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance headquarters, and other places in the city.

The three artists, who will be displaying at Rollstone Church on both days, are connected with the Massachusetts Women's Caucus for the Arts. These include Susan Wadsworth, who works in pastels, and other media, [https:// centralmawca.org](https://centralmawca.org); Joann Stowell, who works in oils and ceramics; [https:// joanneStowellArt.com](https://joanneStowellArt.com) and Iphigenia Gossios Burg, who works in a range of media <https://GallerySitka.com/Iphigenia-gossios-burg.com>.

Eileen Berger

Thurston Consort In Concert

Music of the First New England School

New England composers of the 18th and 19th Centuries

Sunday, September 25th • 1:00 PM

Rollstone Congregational Church

Admission is free, Donations are always Welcome

Performance is funded in part through a grant from the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Continued from page 1

in the morning, I will live life to it's fullest and will enjoy God's great creation. I know that I do not want to breathe my last breath and regret that I have not done everything that I have ever thought of or dreamed of doing because I have unfortunately witnessed too many people that put off simple pleasures now because they thought they would live forever.

As we go about the business of being the church remember that God wants all of us to find happiness and meaning in life. Go out and enjoy life and sing God's praises as you are doing so.

In closing I want to share a story of an elderly couple. The old man could smell coming the kitchen a heavenly scent and he mustered with all his might to go into the kitchen. There he found a plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. As he attempted to take a cookie his wife swatted his hand and told him to leave them alone as they were for the guests. He asked which guests? She replied they are for the guests after the funeral.

Enjoy life now, and the guests can have the cookies that you didn't eat.

Pastor Dave



Relay for Life ROLLSTONE ROLLERS



**2022 Relay for Life was held on June 10th and 11th
The theme was Tune Out Cancer...Tune in Hope**

The Relay for Life 2022 is over. We raised \$4,226.96 this year.

Team members included Mary-Lou Barney, Kim Bourque, Michael Bourque, Victoria Bourque, Matt Jee, Janet Lane, Ron Lewis, Mary Lyman, Sam Permenter, and Marie Stansel.

This year's Relay had 65 Teams and 553 Participants and raised \$144,632.04. They had a bank night, but all amounts have not been entered when I wrote this.

Relay for Life 2023 web site will be up and running sometime in September. I will let you know when you can sign up for the team.

We Would like to thank everyone for all the coins for the coin drive. We turned in a total of \$258.46, Unfortunately we came in second and did not win the Gift certificate for Priscilla's. Maybe next year.

T-Shirts

We would like to thank all that bought T-Shirts.



On May 15, 2022, The Rollstone Roller had a Vendors BINGO at the Gardner Elks 31 Park Street Gardner, MA 01440. We raised \$535.00. We had a lot of fun and are planning on doing another BINGO for next year.



Fitchburg Civic Days



On Sunday July 3rd the Rollstone Rollers sold Hand Stretched Fried Dough, Gatorade, and Water on Main Street. We ran out of Fried Dough about 8:30pm and made a profit of \$1074.15

Mary Lyman & Kim Bourque Co-Captain Rollstone Rollers

LITURGIST SCHEDULE of WORSHIP SERVICES

Liturgical Date	Liturgical Designation	Liturgist
September 11th	14th Week After Pentecost	Kathy Rowe
September 18th	15th Week After Pentecost	Lois Schrader
September 25th	16th Week After Pentecost	Beth Porell
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

Bible Study

Beginning on September 21st and every Wednesday after, we will be studying the various letters written by the Apostle Paul. A full list of readings will be available at our first meeting. We will meet in the church parlor at 10:00 AM, subject to meeting in Cookman Hall for mobility issues.



Birthdays in September

- 4 Paul Stansel
- 16 Linda Wolfram
- 23 Krista Piazza
- 24 Amanda Sicard
- 27 Lorraine Michaud

A Little Humor

