



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

NOVEMBER, 2022



Pastor's REFLECTION

Let Your Voice Be Heard

In just a few days we will be called to gather to let our voices be heard. Our voice is heard by our getting out to vote and cast ballots for national, state, and regional offices. By voting we are exercising our civic duty and responsibility, thus we extend our voice to those whom we elect to act on our behalf. Are you planning to go to the polls this November 8th?

I know that many citizens do not exercise their right to vote and offer so many excuses as to why they do not cast their ballots. Among the excuses are that they do not know enough about who the candidates that are on the ballot. If you want to know about the candidates there are resources to read about the candidates, there are candidate forums, and while more difficult there exist the voting records of each elected candidate available. The one source of information that exists and I would strongly recommend that you ignore are the television and radio advertisements taken out on the candidates' behalf. Beware of advertisements because they are often purchased

by lobbying groups who have NO local ties, plus the information is often misleading or skewed towards the negative.

In a recent conversation I heard a comment that the CHURCH is using their money to influence the elections. If the Church is using their money, they are using your money that has been given in gifts and time that allow the church to survive. While the CHURCH may state their opinion, they should never be giving the money given for the work of Christ to influence the outcome of an election. When we speak of "the CHURCH", we are indicating an organization that promotes religiously held ideals and opinions. While some churches do attempt to influence the outcome of elections through their money, I am happy to state that Rollstone Congregational or any of the affiliations withing the United Church of Christ are doing this. We encourage you to vote your beliefs.

If the CHURCH is influencing an election, it should be through the Word preached and the examples of living done by the church people. I remember seminary days where we were taught

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CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2022

Jesus Feeds the Multitude



Theme - When we give Jesus all that we have, it will be enough.

Scripture: Jesus took five loaves and two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He

gave all he had to the crowds, and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left, over twelve full baskets. (Matthew 14:19-21).

Do you like to go out to eat? If I were to ask you to name your favorite place to go out to eat, my guess would be that the most popular restaurant for kids would be McDonald's.



Most kids like to eat at McDonalds! Did you know that McDonald's serves over 45 million people each day! I think that much of McDonald's popularity can be summed up in these two little words -- **"supersize it."**

Now, you might think that McDonald's was the first to supersize a meal, but not so! Let me tell you about a time when Jesus "supersized" a meal.

One day Jesus was teaching over five thousand people. When it came time to eat, Jesus' disciples wanted him to send the people away, because there was not enough food for them. Jesus asked them how much food there was, and they told him there were only five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus took the bread and fish, blessed it, and gave it to the disciples to pass out to the people. The Bible says that all the people ate and were satisfied. When they were through, they gathered up twelve baskets full of "leftovers." ***Now, that's what I call supersizing it!***

We have been taught that "bigger is better," but that isn't always true. In fact, **"little is much when God is in it."**

Dear Jesus, help us to remember that when we give you all that we have, it will be enough. Amen.

Also: We can help people to feed their families now, with some smart ideas!

**The Board of Ed
is hosting a workshop
Wednesday Nov 9th (6:30 - 8:00).**

Kim Bourque will be presenting ideas on "Getting the most out of your food budget each week and easy weeknight dinner ideas".

All are welcome so spread the word!

And perhaps you can "help us to feed the many" who may be finding it difficult during these times of high costs at the grocery store.



PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Continued from page 1

that the pulpit is the place to preach the Word and that politics should never enter it. I know that in my preaching and teaching I will take stances on justice and peace and Christian living. When the CHURCH encourages their pastoral leadership to preach politics it is wrong. In Jesus' teaching and preaching he taught love, compassion, respect, peace, and faith. He condemned actions that sought to destroy people at the cost of others. As a church I hope that we practice what we preach in all our living as we honor Christ.

In conclusion I urge each of you to cast your ballots for those who most closely align with your thoughts and beliefs as a person and Christian. While our beliefs may not always align with each other or that our candidates which we support will win, may we be gracious and humble in the outcome of the election. May the tide of compromise rise to bring our country back to a time where we can all envision and experience the American dream!

Pastor Dave



Fall is upon us and it seems winter is quickly approaching.

With this, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone we have a very busy few months ahead. **Our Round Table Discussion** will take place October 30th after service. Kim Bourque will be hosting a **Discussion on Food Budgeting** on November 9th. We will have a very important **Budget Meeting** scheduled for November 13th, please make every effort to be there. **The Relay for Life Fair** is being held on Nov 19th. On November 20th we will be having a **Pie Auction** after church. On November 26th we will be the **Decorating of the Church for the Christmas Season**.

Also, please keep in mind that the **Annual Stewardship Drive** is quickly approaching. As you can see, there are many things going on in the Church, and we would like to encourage you all to participate and support these endeavors.

We could also use help recruiting more lay liturgists, as well as people to sign up to help with fellowship.

Many hands make light work and Rollstone Church always appreciates the help.

Thank you and God Bless

Amy Larsen

Moderator



Relay for Life

ROLLSTONE ROLLERS



2023 Relay for Life will be held on June 9th and 10th

2023 Relay for life has started. You can sign up at the following link:

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR/RelayForLife/RFLCY23NER?team_id=2647066&pg=team&fr_id=104259



Vendors' Fair



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2022
ROLLSTONE CHURCH • 9:00am to 2:00pm



SPONSORED BY THE ROLLSTONE ROLLERS



Choose From Many Handcrafted Items



Come Buy Your Thanksgiving Goodies



Proceeds To Benefit The American Cancer Society Relay For Life

\$2.00 Donation at the Door

Feel free to pass this information to your friends



On May 21, 2023, The Rollstone Rollers will once again be hosting a Vendors' BINGO at the Gardner Elks, 31 Park Street Gardner, MA

Mary Lyman & Kim Bourque — Co-Captain Rollstone Rollers

ROLLSTONE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Warrant for the Budget Meeting – 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Worcester County

To: The active members and all other persons having an interest in Rollstone Congregational Church.

Greetings:

You are hereby notified of, and encouraged to attend, the budget meeting of Rollstone Congregational Church in Fitchburg to meet in the Sanctuary, Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 11:00 am to act on the following article:

Article I: To see what amount of money the church will vote to raise and appropriate for salaries of the staff, for music, for other expenses, for benevolences for the ensuing year and to act on anything thereon.

Article II: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Kathleen Ann Rowe, Clerk

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

November 2022

Rollstone Congregational Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00am Worship Services 11:10am All Church Roundtable Discussions	31 9:00am Office Hours	1 All Saints Day 9:00am Office Hours	2 9:00am Church Office Hours 10:00am Bible Study	3 5:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting	4	5
6 Daylight-Saving Time Ends 10:00am Worship Services	7 9:00am Office Hours	8 7:00am Election Day - polls open 9:00am Office Hours	9 9:00am Church Office Hours 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Community Program on Food	10 5:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00pm Camp Wellville BOD Meeting	11 Veterans Day	12
13 10:00am Worship Services 11:00am All Church Budget Meeting	14 9:00am Office Hours 4:00pm Church School Meeting	15 9:00am Office Hours 6:00pm Deacon's Meeting	16 9:00am Church Office Hours 10:00am Bible Study	17 4:00pm Pastor-Church Relations Committee Meeting 5:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting	18 5:00pm Relay for Life Fair set-up	19 9:00am Relay for Life Fair
20 10:00am Worship Services 11:15am Annual Pie Auction	21 12:00am Deadline for Rolling Stone submissions 9:00am Office Hours	22 9:00am Office Hours 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	23 9:00am Church Office Hours 10:00am Bible Study	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26 9:00am Church Christmas decorating party
27 Advent 10:00am Worship Services	28 9:00am Office Hours	29 9:00am Office Hours 2:00pm FHD Vaccination Clinic	30 9:00am Church Office Hours 10:00am Bible Study	1 5:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting	2	3

Annual Pie Auction

Do you love pie? Please join with us as we prep you for the Thanksgiving holiday by the serving of pie at Sunday morning Fellowship on November 20th. For this fellowship event to be successful, we are looking for donations of pies that will be used at fellowship. Any uncut pies will be auctioned off at the Pie Auction. As we did last year, you were encouraged to donate two (2) identical pies in which one was used as a sampler and the second was then auctioned. If at all possible, the pies should be homemade or at least home baked. This will be a delicious and fun time, plus the opportunity to purchase pies that you can use at your Thanksgiving Dinner gatherings. The event will take place in Cookman Hall immediately following worship on Thanksgiving Sunday. If you have any questions about this event please see Pastor Dave or MaryAnne Smith for details.

Fellowship and Coffee Hour

Calling all people! We need your help with providing the refreshments for coffee hour/fellowship following worship each Sunday. The expense of the coffee hour has grown with the inflation we are experiencing; thus, we need to share that expense by your contributions of food and treats that will be served. Whenever we do not have someone sign-up for donations, we purchase the treats out of the church's budget. Please help the church and at the same time put a smile on someone's face by signing up on the fellowship sheet in Cookman Hall large bulletin board.

Family Fun Event

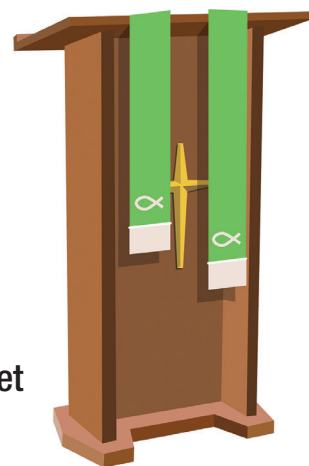
Mark your calendars, Advent and Christmas are coming!!! On December 4th the Board of Christian Education and the Board of Deacon's are co-sponsoring a family fun event. This event will be the decorating of miniature Gingerbread Houses and Gingerbread Cookies. We will supply everything you will need but will happily accept donations to help defray the costs of creating these holiday masterpieces. This would be the opportune time to invite or bring your grandchildren as we celebrate an olde Christmas activity celebrated by multiple generations coming together. This will happen immediately following worship.

Vaccination Clinic

The Fitchburg Board of Health and Rollstone Congregational Church are once again teaming up to provide a "FREE" Vaccination Clinic. The event will happen on Tuesday, November 29th, from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM in Cookman Hall. For further details please see the posters that have been provided by the Health Department.

Liturgists Schedule

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
December 4th	2nd Sunday of Advent	Marie Stansel
December 11th	3rd Sunday of Advent	Dianne Sammet
December 18th	4th Sunday of Advent	Kathy Rowe
December 24th	Christmas Eve	Lois Schrader
January 1st	1st Sunday of Christmas	Dianne Sammet



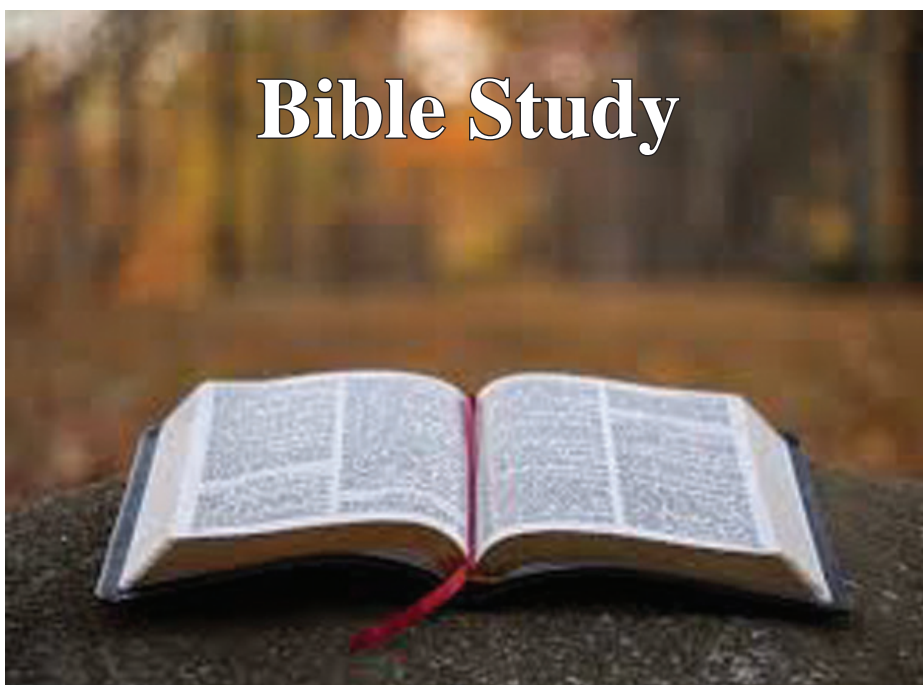
Advent Wreath Readers

November 27th	1st Sunday of Advent	Lois Schrader & Linda Haas
December 4th	2nd Sunday of Advent	Ron Smith and Family
December 11th	3rd Sunday of Advent	Marie Stansel & Amy Larsen
December 18th	4th Sunday of Advent	Dianne Sammet & 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). We have been studying the history, the purpose, and the theology of Paul's letters. The basis of Paul writing these letters was to provide guidance, encouragement, and pastoral care to the young Christian church. The readings are following the chronological order in which they were written. We hope to complete the following before the end of the year as we study: 1st Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon, and 2nd Corinthians.

If you want any details just ask Pastor Dave. Reading from other versions/ translations of the bible is encouraged as we learn from the Word of God.



Bible Study

— COMMUNITY WORKSHOP —

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR FOOD BUDGET AND QUICK EASY WEEKNIGHT DINNER IDEAS

Are you looking for ways to make your food budget go further? The growing cost of food has made us all frazzled. Come learn a few money saving tips. Plus, get some quick and easy budget friendly ideas for weeknight dinners.



Wednesday, November 9, 2022 • 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Rollstone Congregational Church

199 Main St., Fitchburg (park and enter through the back entrance)

PAPER AND PEN MAY BE HELPFUL — ALL ARE WELCOME!



Birthdays in November

- 4 Jared Loepere-Smith
- 8 Jean Suomala
- 9 David Hanks
- 11 Marilyn Wales
- 16 Katharine Dodd
- 20 Judy Miller
- 21 Pam Beaulac
- 21 Hannah Pandiscio
- 26 Jack Aveyard
- 28 Eileen Berger

My Church Family

by Sarah Kee

October is a colder month
But we sure have heat here.
So, let's come to our service now
Since all from our church care.

I'd like to talk about church some more.
I'm glad that we all come!
That's helped us be a family here
No matter where we're from.

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.

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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

