

News & Views From Rollo Pews

MARCH/APRIL 2025

The season of Epiphany is coming to an end, and Lent will soon be upon us. I hope that you have had some epiphanies of your own this winter. As we've discussed over the past several Sundays, Epiphany is meant to be a time when we experience growth spurts in our faith. In that spirit, I introduced a few tips this season to better understand the big, complex, and beautiful book that contains the story of our faith - the Bible.

Tip 1: Understanding the context of the Bible (who wrote it, when and where they wrote it, what the original language and culture of the time was) is key to unlocking some of the truest meaning of the stories and lessons within the Bible.

Tip 2: Not everything in the Bible was meant to be taken literally, but the lessons behind the stories are all meant to be taken very seriously, to heart.

Tip 3: We must use both our hearts and minds to determine what in the Bible was inspired mostly by the culture of the time, and what in the Bible is truly inspired by God for all time.

Tip 4: Seek to understand the transformative truth of the Bible on its own terms (which should change the way we think and live in the world) instead of just interpreting the Bible in a way that benefits our worldview, the way we think and want things to be.

As these tips help deepen our understanding of scripture, questions will naturally arise, and when they do it is crucial to have a compass for what to believe. As we shared at the very start of the Epiphany season - if you want to know the truth of the Bible, of how God wants us to think and live in the world, look again and again to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as our light in the darkness.

As we seek to understand what the lessons of the Bible mean for our lives today, especially as challenging circumstances arise, a great question to ask ourselves, to make sure we are traveling in the right direction is - what would Jesus think, what would Jesus do? This Lent, may we take this urgent question to heart, and let the answer bend our hearts, minds, and lives in the direction of love.

Peace be with you.

Pastor David Fraccaro





Treasurers Report by Wayne Davey

From the Money Counter

BUDGET \$98,089.00		Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget
REVENUE	January 31, 2025	\$8,174.08	\$4,176.47	(\$3,997.61)
EXPENDITURES	January 31, 2025	\$8,174.08	\$5,758.72	(\$1,582.25)

Current Balance in Checking Account: \$31,000.36
 Current Balance in Savings Account: \$34,583.99

150 Anniversary Fund: \$ 1,215.73
 Bathroom Fund: \$ 1,000.21
 Building Fund: \$ 0.00
 Family Relief Fund: \$ 2,064.00
 Diaconate Fund: \$ 1,439.72
 Memorial Account: \$ 3,566.54
 Insurance Claim \$ 15,349.75
 Lighting Fund \$ 6,375.00
 Undesignated: \$ 3,573.04



Current CD Balance as of 1/31/2025: 3.5% \$ 4,732.68-First State
 Current CD Balance as of 1/31/2025: 5% \$ 25,420.43-Resource
 Balance in Savings Account: .15% \$ 9,163.56-Resource
 Total Savings: \$ 34,583.99

Memorial Fund: \$ 8,299.22

* Memorial Funds are currently located within the First State CD
 Investment and savings account

Trustees Report by Bryan Wald

- Talks remain ongoing with Habitat for Humanity regarding the future disposition of the parsonage.
- Decision was made to start scheduled Trustees meetings at 9:45 AM.
- It has been proposed to replace the two front entrance doors to the church with one big door this Spring.
- New lighting in Sanctuary is being discussed for 2025.
- Communication continues with Josh Olson on how to best proceed with wire/microphone in choir loft for online services.



Moderator Report by Beth Prestegaard

2025 Committees are in place and off to a good start. Again, thank you for volunteering and accommodating our new meeting times, before Church service.

We have an ambitious year ahead of us and many things to celebrate, work towards and accomplish. At the core of these things is our desire and motivation to work together – to listen to all congregants as we do Gods work with our building and various callings.

We may need to reach out to folks when we need help with Hospitality responsibilities. Let us know if you want to join officially.

I look forward to our celebration of our 160th Anniversary – at this point, we will honor it next Month but if there are volunteers that want to do more to celebrate it throughout the year, please let Diaconate or one of us know. I am happy to volunteer!

We continue our exploration for the future of the Parsonage. I feel confident that we will look back in a year and be proud of the decisions and impact we will have made. I look forward to more conversations in the near future. Trustees are working vigilantly on this information gathering phase.

The quality of the internet and the livestream stays front and center. We are going to explore another route for internet to see if there is improvement. Unfortunately, KWISP doesn't have a clear enough shot but they were very helpful with another idea. We use the wifi for Zoom, our thermostats as well as the Roomba vacuums. I wanna give a shout out to Keith and Laura Fassig for their vigilance in making sure those things are working and troubleshooting when they are not. Bear with us as we know how reliant some are on Church via Zoom – we won't stop til' we get it and the sound system right. We also are working on improving that as well – these things take time and as volunteers, sometimes these things take longer than we might hope. Thank you for your patience.

Diaconate Report by Tami Johnson

The Diaconate Committee welcomes Ron Wald as 1st year member. We are grateful that he joined our team. We'd like to thank Stacy Richardson for providing great leadership during her 3 years on the committee! Thank you Stacy!

We are entering into a busy faith-filled season in the church. The Diaconate hopes that you join us for Lenten services, Bible study, and 160th Anniversary celebration.

Lenten season begins on March 5th with Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 PM. Please note that this is a time change from other years. The 7:30 start allows travel time between churches for Rev David. The service will last 30-40 minutes. (Maundy Thursday Service will also start at 7:30 pm). Lenten Bible Study will begin on March 12 with a light meal at 5:30 and study at 5:45. The Diaconate members will provide the meal on March 12, and we ask that members sign up to bring food on the remaining 4 weeks. In the past, the group has enjoyed, soup, sandwiches, pizza, etc. A sign up sheet will be placed on the back table in the sanctuary. Again this year, we will offer both in-person and zoom options.

March 2025 is the 160th anniversary of our church! We will acknowledge this milestone on March 30 during church and afterwards at cookie fellowship. Please join us!

New usher and lay reader lists will go into effect at the end of May and will be listed in the April/May newsletter. Ron Wald is working on the new lists. If you desire a change to what you have previously done, please communicate that to Ron, Lisa Johnson, or myself.

Cookie Fellowship sign up will be placed on the back table in the sanctuary in the near future. We are making a couple changes to cookie fellowship frequency. After much thought and discussion, the Diaconate Committee has decided to eliminate Cookie Fellowship during the months of Jan, June, and Nov as these are months that dinners are held (Annual meeting, Cross-Town Cook-out, and Thankful Harvest). Another change is that we will transition the December "Christmas Tea" into Cookie Fellowship. Our church members have always been very generous with their time serving at fellowship events, and we want to be mindful of how much we are asking.



Christian Ed Report by Gloria Foster

Christian Ed will host a light Easter breakfast on April 20 at 10:15. There will be a sign up sheet on the back table for bringing rolls and fruit. We appreciate all our Sunday School teachers, helpers, and children! They contribute much joy to our church, and we look forward to seeing them participate on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Those wishing to send a contribution to the Rollo United Church of Christ through their Bank can simply go to their Bank's bill pay page and designate Rollo UCC as a payee.

Our address is 2471 Weddell Street, Earlville, IL 60581, phone number 815-501-8293 and our routing number is 071914358 and our account number is 9028501.

Please put your name on the memo of the check so proper credit can be made to your giving statement. If you prefer to mail a check instead simply mail it to the above address.

Thank you for supporting our ministries.

Lay Readers

Mar. 2 - Gloria Foster
Mar. 9 - Doris Rex
Mar. 16 - Tami Johnson
Mar. 23 - Susan Foster
Mar. 30 - Ron Wald
Apr. 6 - Ann Gilmore
Apr. 13 - Maegan Gletty
Apr. 20 - Barb Bend
Apr. 27 - Bob Gilmore
May 4 - Curt Foster
May 11 - Katie Koks
May 18 - Jeff Svendsen
May 25 - Laura Fassig



Usher

March - Bob Gilmore & Mike Johnson
April - Wayne Davey & Keith Fassig
May - Zach Kasper & Jon Ritter

Cookie Fellowship

March 30 - Carol Bend, Inga Peterson & Doris Rex
April 27 - Stacy Richardson, Carol Svendsen & Jessica Olson
May 25 - Deb Davey, Sherry McInerney & Doris Rex

Announcements

Mar. 2 - Diaconate Mtg at 10:15 am

Mar. 5 - Ash Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Mar. 9 - Trustees Mtg at 9:45 am

Mar. 12 - 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich Bible Study

Mar. 19 - 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich Bible Study

Mar. 26 - 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich Bible Study

Mar. 30 - 160th Anniversary recognition service

Cookie Fellowship: Carol Bend,

Inga Peterson & Doris Rex

Apr. 2 - 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich Bible Study

Apr. 6 - Diaconate Mtg at 10:15 am

Apr. 9 - 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich Bible Study

Apr. 13 - Trustees Mtg at 9:45 am

Council Mtg at 10:20am

Newsletter Due!!

Apr. 17 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 pm

Apr. 20 - Easter Breakfast at 10:15 am

Apr. 27 - *Cookie Fellowship:*

Stacy Richardson, Carol Svendsen & Jessica Olson

Please Remember In Your Prayers & Thoughts

*Prayers for all those affected by war,
poverty, forced migration, violence,
and natural disasters.....that peace,
dignity, and love may prevail.*

All our Service men & women

Wayne Martin

Bryan Wald

Jane Buland

Kristen Thomas (Richardson)

Zach Kasper

Jacob Brewer

June Stephens (*Becky Stephens*)

Philip Peterson

Toni Moniz

Lane Parrott

Jodi Freider

Chelsea Krammer

Stan Kasper

Linda Stanberg

Rafferty Family (*Jessica Olson*)

Family of John Herrmann

Family of Judy Svendsen



April 04 - Kristen Thomas & Tami Wooden

April 05 - Carol Bateman

April 06 - Ava Lake

April 10 - Madison Bradley

April 11 - Larry Svendsen & Chris Martin

April 12 - Mara Fraccaro

April 14 - Wyatt Gletty

April 19 - Cole Walters

April 20 - Wayne Martin

April 27 - Reagan Gibson

April 30 - Landon Benson

Mar 02 - Hunter Walters

Mar 03 - Jeffrey Adam Svendsen

Mar 08 - Benjamin Maple

Mar 13 - Jeff Svendsen

Mar 17 - Joshua Marquardt

Mar 18 - Debbie Peters

Mar 19 - Dave Benson

Mar 20 - Jason Jordal

Mar 21 - Christine Schilling

& David Gibson

Mar 23 - Cierra Bend

Mar 24 - Audrey Kuring

Mar 25 - Wayne Davey

Mar 26 - Olivia & Madelynn Lyons

Mar 29 - Katie Koks

Mar 30 - Maegan Gletty

Mar 31 - Bryan Wald



Rollo Congregational Church
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