

M A Y - J U N E 2 0 2 0

ROLLO UCC CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEWS & VIEWS FROM ROLLO PEWS

From the Pastors Pen - David Marquardt

Well here we are, the end of April. It's the time when we had planned to say our goodbyes and move on so that the church could seek God's leading and call their next minister. Instead, we all find ourselves 'sheltering in place' and as of today, that order has been extended in Illinois until the end of May. At present, and as most now know, I have agreed to stay through the end of May, in the hope that we could gather, confirm our confirmation students, and say our goodbyes. However, with today's announcement that 'sheltering in place' has been extended until the end of May, it's hard telling when these young people will be confirmed and we can all say our goodbyes.

What I am pleased about, is that no one I know, or no one from our church, has been affected by this awful disease. I hope that we're all heeding the warnings and staying in from crowds and taking care of ourselves. Life is far too precious not to, and we all have our loved ones to think about.

I have also found it interesting to continue 'doing church' in an empty sanctuary. We often talk about recording from home, and while I might at some point as some colleagues are doing, there's something about being in the pulpit and looking out and seeing your faces in my mind's eye, that pleases me and makes me feel like we're still together. What makes me sad, is knowing that there are some who don't use the internet and can't worship with those of us who do. We are trying to make calls and stay in touch with folks but even that seems hard to do.

Many who we have talked to, or have watched us on Facebook, understand that our new home is now underway in Hudson. Today as a matter of fact, they are pouring the concrete footings, and will proceed with the basement walls next week. I have been on the road through the central part of the state working on golf courses, which has given me several opportunities to run by and watch the progress. It's both exciting and nerve racking as you might imagine.

On the home-front, we are going through this house and trying to sort through 22 years of accumulation, so that we can be ready to sell. Its humorous to watch as Gail goes through boxes that contain old pictures and memorabilia, and Joshua drags them all down to the family room to look at them. Then of course, these memories become the topic of conversation at the dinner table, as Joshua relives our 28 years in Hinckley, and the 13 we have shared with you.

There's not much else to report in our lives. Joshua of course is off of work, since we don't want him at Target right now. I am back on the road most of the time and keeping my distance in the middle of golf courses with no golfers, while Gail is busy sorting out our past lives. Like everyone else, we're missing you, family and friends, and can't wait for this to pass. Wisdom tells all of us that even when restrictions are lifted, it will be a very slow transition back to some sense of normalcy.

Please let us know how you are doing! Email or call us and let's be sure we're all staying in touch. I think that reaching out and touching one another is so very important during this difficult time. Please also let us know of any special prayer requests or joys you might have and I'll share them in our weekly message. This too is a way for us to stay in touch, and support and celebrate with one another.

Please stay strong and in your faith. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend more time in our Bibles and perhaps start some new devotional habits. I am here if there's anything you need and we hope to see you all again soon.

Love and blessings,
PD, Gail and Joshua

Trustees Report - Tami Johnson

John Ritter informed the Trustees that the Shabbona Fire Department has donated an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to the church. Tami, Jeff, and John decided on the location, and John will install the machine. Because John is a Certified CPR instructor, he has offered to teach church members CPR and instructions on using the machine. We thank John and the Shabbona Fire Department for the gift!

Thank you to everyone that have sent checks to Wayne and the church! As we all know, the church still has bills to pay in this difficult time, if you would like to send your giving check to our Treasurer to either address it is greatly appreciated.

The church address is 2471 Weddell Road, Earlville, 60518
Wayne Davey is at 5919 Suydam Road, Leland, 60531

Diaconate Report - Carol Bend

Since our last newsletter, confirmands Reagan Gibson, Jack Gletty and Wyatt Gletty along with their parents met with the Diaconate on March 1st. What an exceptional group! They were scheduled to be accepted as members on Palm Sunday, April 5th. Lenten soup supper and Bible study began Wednesday, March 4th with the Diaconate providing the soup the first week. On Easter Sunday, April 12th, the Christian Education committee made plans for the annual Easter breakfast which was to begin at 7:00 a.m. to be followed by our Easter worship service. All activities were being finalized until March 16th when, due to the Coronavirus, the decision was made to suspend church services and all activities.

As you can see, there is a lot of preparation that goes into Lent. The Wednesday night soup supper/ bible study met 2 out of the 5 weeks, but had to cancel. Maundy Thursday, April 9th, service would have been followed by the all night prayer vigil. Palms were ordered for the Palm Sunday service, which, during the service, our confirmation class would become our newest members. Easter lilies were ordered, then cancelled. No Easter breakfast. While we missed the chance to attend all of the activities and beautiful services, Pastor Dave, along with his helpers, did his best to bring the Holy Week into our homes. We really appreciate the effort.

Treasurers Report - Wayne Davey

BUDGET		Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget
\$74,910.18				
REVENUE	March 31, 2020	\$18,727.56	\$15,999.00	(\$2,728.56)
EXPENDITURES	March 31, 2020	\$18,727.56	\$15,139.87	(\$3,587.69)

Current Balance in Checking Account:	\$ 35,824.59
Current Balance in Savings Account:	\$ 26,701.09
150 Anniversary Fund:	\$ 1,215.73
Bathroom Fund:	\$ 700.21
Building Fund:	\$ 1,072.75
Diaconate Fund:	\$ 1,636.72
Memorial Account:	\$15,481.23
Undesignated:	\$ 6,594.45

From the Money Counter

Current CD Balance as of 3/28/2020:	\$ 4,454.43
Memorial Fund:	\$ 18,882.81



* Memorial Funds are currently located within the CD Investment

The Story of Swede Svendsen

The Church Council would like to continue to recognize our Church's Anniversary every five years. For this our 155th year in 2020, the Council honored those present on the active membership rolls for 40 years and over during our worship services on March 1st.

5 years ago, the Anniversary Committee interviewed several of the church members to get a closer look into their past within the church and the community (watch for more in the future). 155th Anniversary Sunday, March 1st, 2020, we created a live interview with 70 year member, Harold Svendsen, during the morning worship service (thanks Pastor Dave for allowing us your sermon time). In the printed version we bring you **"Swede's Story"**

Harold Mervyn "Swede" Svendsen was born May 29, 1936 in the Sandwich Hospital to Lois & Mervyn. Lois was a school teacher in the 425 district and Merv was a farmer and local politician, his siblings were Charles & Patricia (Schou), growing up on the Svendsen Rd farm just 5 miles south of Rollo. He recalls a family tradition was chicken every Sunday as they raised 200 chickens, roosters to eat & hens to lay eggs.

Somewhere around 10 years old his parents decided since they were attending Rollo School they should all belong to the Rollo Church. His mother was involved as a Sunday school superintendent and his father was a Sunday school teacher, Harold went through confirmation class and joined the Church April 3, 1950. Harold was in the last Rollo High School graduating class of 1954, as Rollo was a high school before it became a K-8th grade until finally closing in 1977.

In 1955, he and two other Rollo School alumnus, George Durbin & Chuck Foster, along with Phil Nelson of Waterman volunteered for the draft joining the Navy. After Great Lakes basic training he was flown to Japan to join the LSD Ship USS Point Defiance #31. He had various duties including helmsmen, gunners mate, & messenger for the Captain. As gunners mate, they had to cover the guns with tarps to protect them from the salt water and then were expected to clean the gunpowder off in their white duds. As helmsmen, they were responsible for steering the ship in and out of ports during their 4 hour shift, Swede's shift sometimes involved a bucket nearby!!! Being the "youngster" on the ship, his mates gave him the nickname "Chick". His service ended in 1957 and he returned home to resume farming with his dad. He likes to tell the kids how he started milking cows at the age of 5 when his dad was hospitalized with a detached retina and his mother enlisted his help when she couldn't handle the job. He raised pigs, cattle & chickens on the grain farm where he, Judy and their family have lived since 1965, just 1 mile west of the church on Whitman Road.

Married Aug. 24, 1958, to Judith Rider by Rev John Alden Wild (was the Rollo Church's pastor at the time) at the Methodist Church in Mendota. His friend Chuck Foster was his best man in the wedding. Their children include Jeffrey, Charlene Hawbaker (lives in Florida), Larry, & Stacy Richardson, blessed with 7 grandchildren & 4 great-grandkids. All 4 children were baptized and confirmed, 3 grandchildren baptized & confirmed & 3 greats baptized in this church.

Outside the church, involvements include being a lifetime member of the Elks & lifetime Meridian Mason #183. In the early 70's was officer in the DeKalb County Corn Growers Association attending several National conventions, met speakers NFL Steeler Terry Bradshaw, Astros Nolan Ryan, Chicago Bulls Coach Phil Jackson & the President of the United States Ronald Reagan. He was a seed dealer for Asgrow Seed, a Paw Paw Township Precinct Committeeman & Cemetery Board member, and recently retired after 33 years as Trustee for the Paw Paw Fire Dept.

When asked what kind of church events or church groups did you enjoy? He told that with Judy they were the leaders of the Pilgrim Fellowship youth group for 14 years, enjoying the annual Chicken Bar-B-Que fundraiser, bowling, hayrides, concerts, Easter sunrise service served with a full breakfast by the group. There was a Young Adults group belonged to and had many good social event gatherings at member's homes, outings or at church. In the early 1960's, Harold was the one that started Sunday pm Young Adults Church fast pitch softball league played in Rollo. If the players didn't attend church twice a month they were ineligible until next game! He played until age of 59. For many years was in charge of getting the sweet corn and providing the outdoor cooker to freeze and serve at the annual Turkey Supper. Besides President of Young Adults & Men's Club, also served on the Board of Trustees & Board of Diaconate.

Given the opportunity to answer if any recollection of raising kids in the church or church projects? Harold grinningly remembers that Rev Dupree's kids were very unruly and the preacher's wife could not control them, and that he was in charge of the project turning the only bathroom at the time into the current two bathrooms we have.

When informed he has seen 16 pastors serve since 1950, and asked to share some of the favorites, he recalled among them was Pastor Dave Bateman for his singing and common farming & livestock interests which made it easy to visit, Rev Loyal Wilkinson who did a good job for this church, & Rev Weldon Chambers who played on the 1955 Town Team Basketball Team standing 6 ft. 5 in. And fondly recalls his favorite hymn was when Pastor David Houseal sang "How Great Thou Art".

What would you like to see happen or improve in the church today? He wished there was an organization or something to keep drawing the old and young to church. And much to this interviewers surprise, dad would like to keep singing the familiar hymnal songs so everyone sings along loudly and wishes Christmas Carols would be sung all thru out December Sundays. Just a side note that as a youngster, Church member Leota Benson tried to give him singing lessons (within a week he refused to continue) and piano lessons.

In looking back what was your favorite time of your life overall? Swede's most memorable was probably high school senior year due to playing sports, had his own automobile to drive and had a girlfriend.

What other memorable items or events would you like to share? came these several tidbits: Our farm was involved in the 2018 DeKalb County Barn Tour. Cubs winning World Series. Before the Rollo gym was torn down I cut out the Rollo Eagle jump center out of the floor, mounted it and eventually donated it where today it is displayed in the Paw Paw Township office building. Last year was presenter along with Ken Sanderson to the Conf. Champs representing the oldest Little Ten basketball members attending the 100th Anniversary of the Little Ten Boys Basketball Conference, (in which he proudly wore his Rollo High School sweater). In my senior year I was the 16th leading scorer in the boys basketball Little Ten Conference, (remember those were the days when free throws had to be underhand and there was no 3-point shots)!!

He wished to add that he raised a great family that he is very proud of, and with this Church, the School and Rollo community this has been a special place to raise his family.

**Swede's 'live' interview is now available
using the following link:
<https://vimeo.com/411835298>
the password is: Swede**

Please Remember In Your

Prayers & Thoughts

All our Service men & women

The Lost

'Shut-Ins'

Coronavirus Victims

Carol & Larry Svendsen

Duane Fassig

Helen Algieri

Chuck & Gloria Foster

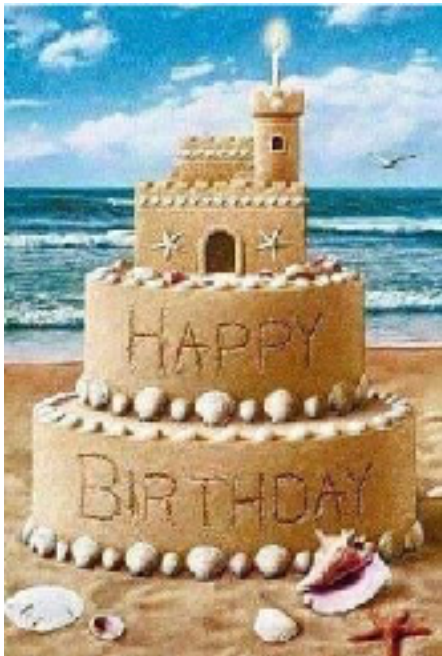
Fred Weiss (*Carol Svendsen*)

Ruth & Ray McInerney

Ashley & Whitley Clayton

Kira & Sebastian (*Laura F. students*)

Colton Larson



Announcements

Church is cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19 restrictions

June 7 - Diaconate Mtg after worship

June 14 - Trustees Mtg after worship

Council to follow

June 28 - Cookie Fellowship:

Gloria Foster, Tami Johnson, Laura Walters

Cookie Fellowship List

June 28 - Gloria Foster, Tami Johnson, Laura Walters

July 26 - Audrey Kuring, Lisa Johnson, Barb Bend

Usher List

June - Bob Gilmore & Keith Fassig

July - Ron Wald & Curt Foster

The Pastoral Search Committee is working with the Association for potential candidates, reviewing one bio so far with the hopes of more interest soon.

Lay Reader List

June 7 - Maegan Gletty

June 14 - Barb Bend

June 21 - Bob Stevens

June 28 - Jeff Svendsen

July 5 - Carol Bend

July 12 - Ron Wald

July 19 - Becky Oest

July 26 - Susan Foster

May 09 – Rachel Foster

Judy Martin

May 11 – Helen Nisbet-Roberts

May 18 – Jessica Olson

May 21 – Leota Benson

Paxton Maple

May 23 - Jamie Gibson

May 25 – Jack Gletty

Sara Schilling

May 29 – Harold Svendsen

May 31 - Ellen Sue Kupecz

Kelsie Jordal

June 02 – Jane Buland

June 04 – Stacy Richardson

June 09 – Emily Schilling

June 13 – Laura Fassig

Junia Epperson

Happy Birthday!

ROLLO UCC

Pastor David Marquardt
2471Weddell Road
Earlville, IL 60518