

News & Views from Rollo Pews



March/April 2022

from the Reverends Pen

Dear Rollo UCC Congregants and Friends,

It's been a cold, isolating winter since Christmas. Signs of spring are just around the corner however - new bird songs, tiny buds on tree limbs, longer and later sunsets - the earth reminds us that life always has seasons. There is change and hope embedded in God's creation. As we enter into this season of Lent, let's take time to consider what is truly meaningful and important in life....what is worth working towards and what is better to leave behind. Change and hope is embedded in each of us too. Try a little each day of Lent to let go of life's heavy baggage - anger, fear, despair, and resentment. It will be tempting to return to old habits, but try, just a little each day, to embrace instead the newness of life in Christ - gratitude, forgiveness, kindness, and love. Slowly, you will begin to transform your fear and anger into empathy and love....for yourself and others, even your enemies.

When you are on that journey, you will not only feel lighter on the inside, but you will begin to shine on the outside. Try looking in the mirror - see the image of God reflected in you. Let the tears flow if they need to....and smile, knowing you are loved exactly the way you are. When you see the light of God in yourself, you may also begin to see the light of God in others, knowing that deep down there are no strangers or enemies, just neighbors and friends - family.

from the Reverends Pen cont.

This journey is a big part of what we strive for at church. I've seen that light shine in each of you...in your sincere prayers to God for guidance and healing, in your kind gifts to those in need of food and clothing in our community and beyond, in your letters and visits to congregants who are in nursing facilities and in your tears for family and friends who've passed on, in your passion for teaching our children through fun and creative storytelling, in your light-hearted practicing of choir hymns before the service starts, in your persistence to get our services online for those who can't join us in person, in your thoughtful decisions around how to keep our congregation safe during a pandemic, in your courage, faith, and wisdom through cancer and other health issues, in your personal struggle around job loss, addiction, and family conflict and your resolve to come out the other side a kinder, better person...I see the light of God in you.

Lent is about the 40 days of temptation Jesus endured in the wilderness just prior to beginning his ministry that transformed the world. We all have our seasons of being in the wilderness, uncertain of what we may face and what the future will bring. Remember that it won't last forever....the cross reminds us that on the other side of temptation, fear, and despair is love, peace, and joy. Until Easter Day comes, know that you have a church family right by your side to help see you through.

Shared with the love of Christ.
David



Diaconate Report by Laura Fassig

- January - NICE center was our church's month to work. It was open during the month even though COVID numbers were high.
- Planning to try to have David's installation service in middle of March or middle of April.
- Beth Prestagaard and David are working on the Live Streaming for the church service. There have been a couple of weeks that it was tried but there have been glitches to work out yet.
- We lost the Lord's faithful servant, Ruth McInerney, this month. We will miss her sorely!
- Set up plans for Lenten season -
 1. Bible Study tentatively set up for In-person on March 16th; Zoom on March 30th; In-person on April 13th - these are subject to change
 2. Maundy Thursday with communion - April 14th - 7 pm
 3. All Night Prayer vigil to follow Maundy Thursday service - sign-up sheet will be at the back of the church- tentatively set for 8PM-5AM
 4. Good Friday Ecumenical Service with Earlville churches - April 15 -TBA

Treasurers Report by Wayne Davey

BUDGET \$82,995.00		Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget
REVENUE	January 31, 2022	\$6,916.25	\$3,300.00	(\$3,616.25)
EXPENDITURES	January 31, 2022	\$6,916.25	\$3,656.82	(\$ 356.82)

Current Balance in Checking Account: \$49,775.58

Current Balance in Savings Account: \$29,999.43

150 Anniversary Fund: \$ 1,215.73

Bathroom Fund: \$ 700.21

Building Fund: \$ 1,180.25

Diaconate Fund: \$ 2,339.72

Memorial Account: \$ 1,965.97

Undesignated: \$22,597.55

Current CD Balance as of 1/27/2022: \$ 4,473.30

Memorial Fund: \$ 5,072.81



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

Moderator Report by Beth Prestegaard

The Council has stayed quite busy. We were happy to be able to conduct the Annual Meeting in person (finally). Welcome to all new Committee members and thank you to those going off. Service on these committees is critical to our Church and we are blessed to have such committed volunteers.

We are excited that our livestream of church is up and going using the Zoom platform! While we are still learning, we have had 2 successful Sundays of service and have 5 – 7 people join in locally and from different parts of the country! We will be establishing a permanent spot and storage for the equipment. We are most excited to be able to offer this to folks that can't join us in person. Please don't hesitate to share feedback – positive or areas we can improve!

We are also pleased that the Covid numbers have dropped down so significantly in our County that we have now made masks optional. We will continue to monitor. We are evaluating ways to continue to return back to normal. At this time, we are not going to proceed with an Easter Breakfast but are looking closely at beginning Cookie Fellowship again in the next coming months.

We are asking for volunteers to join a subcommittee to evaluate our options for the parsonage. If you have an interest, please let me know. We hope to meet sometime very soon!

Happy Birthday!



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 14 – Wyatt Gletty

April 18 – Richard Bend

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 28 – Judy Svendsen

Mar 29 – Katie Koks

Mar 30 – Maegan Gletty

Mar 31 – Bryan Wald

Please Remember In Your Prayers & Thoughts

All our Service men & women
'Shut-Ins'

Those dealing with COVID
Families in our community dealing
with homelessness

Steve Headon (*Wayne & Stacy*)

Judy Martin

Helen Algieri

Chuck Foster

Sarah Luce (*Betty Goble*)

Bryan Wald

Jane Buland

Noelle Sauter

Kathy Sands

Sandra Bullis

Paul Richardson (*Stacy & Jessica*)

Annie Cies

Brian Eide

Phil Chavez

Ray McInerney

JoAnn Snyder

Ron Sandlef

Jason Bonnell & Family

The Reynolds Family

Sherif Sharoufie & Family (*Brad Wald*)

JP Lane (*Deb & Wayne*)

Family & Friends of Charles McRoberts

Family of John Herrick

Froehlich Family (*Zach Kasper*)

Family of Ruth McInerney



Announcements

Mar. 13 - Trustees Mtg after worship
Sunday School

Mar. 16 - Bible Study at 7 p.m. at Rollo

Mar. 27 - Sunday School

Mar. 30 - Bible Study at 7 p.m. by Zoom

Apr. 3 - Diaconate Mtg after worship

Apr. 10 - Trustees Mtg after worship

Council to follow

Newsletter Due!

Sunday School

Apr. 13 - Bible Study at 7 p.m. at Rollo

Apr. 14 - Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m.

Apr. 15 - Good Friday Ecumenical
Service with Earlville churches at 7 p.m.

Apr. 17 - Easter Service at 8:30am

Apr. 24 - Sunday School

Rollo Congregational Church
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