



News & Views from Rollo Pews

Jan. - Feb. 2023

From the Reverends Pen

Dear Rollo UCC Congregants and Friends,

Winter is here. The harvest is over, the nights are longer, and it's cold outside. Personal hardships can feel especially hard during this long season, while stories of violence and division dominate the news. We need hope and light to see us through. Advent is the season that breaks through the harsh darkness of the world, and helps us rediscover all the hope, peace, joy, and love of life represented in the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

Two thousand years ago our religious ancestors were also living through some harsh and difficult times. Jesus was born in the midst of the struggle, in a lowly stable to poor parents from a small, obscure village ruled by a brutal Roman empire. The God of hope and light chose to be born in the midst of despair. He understands the challenges of life and is not afraid of whatever we are struggling with now.

If you feel down or lonely from time to time this winter, please know you aren't alone. You have a place to come on Sunday mornings (whether in person or virtually) to feel God's warmth and light. You have a church family that is here for you, that believes in you, and that loves you.

In his final days, Jesus assured his followers that his spirit would always be with them. We are often accustomed to looking elsewhere for comfort during difficult seasons of life, yet the hope, peace, joy, and love of God can be found most powerfully within ourselves - sometimes we just need help finding it.

It is my hope that the worship and friendships at Rollo UCC have been a helpful guide to rediscovering hope and peace within you. It's been a joy being together this season: from thankful harvest donations/dinners and advent decoration parties to special offerings for our neighbors in need - you've certainly helped make the season bright.

May the love of Christ continue to bind us together, and may we share that love with others in our community and world.

Merry Christmas friends!

Diaconate Report by Laura Fassig

- Thankful Harvest Dinner – Nov 13th – dedicated food drive and dinner afterwards
- Mitten Tree put out – Nov 20th – started collecting and taken to NICE center weekly
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service- Nov 23rd - was held at Presbyterian Church in Earlville at 7PM
- 1st Advent Sunday – Nov 27th – Christmas decorating party with Rev David performing Elvis Christmas Hymns and Tunes along with Cookie Fellowship held in the West Room
- Advent Wreath was lit throughout the next 4 weeks by volunteer congregants
- Poinsettias were delivered on Dec 10th to decorate the church. If you want a poinsettia (one or more), please sign up at the back of the church which color you want and pay \$12 for each to Rollo Church and put in offering plate (poinsettia in memo if a check or on an envelope if cash)
- Christmas Tea – Dec 11th – Sunday School sang “Jingle Bells to Jesus” and Sherry McInerney sang two songs and Rev David sang a solo also. Everyone did a wonderful job!
- Decision was made to have NO Christmas Eve service since Christmas Day landed on Sunday this year. Christmas Day service will be held at 10 AM as usual
- 3 Roombas were purchased to help with vacuuming the church main floors. One is for the basement and two for upstairs in the sanctuary. They were purchased with Memorial money.
- Christmas gifts were purchased for Jane Buland, Sandra Bullis, and Junia Epperson. Christmas cards were sent to Denny Sands and Wayne and Judy Martin.
- We are reviewing the membership roll. Please let us know of any address or phone number changes.
- It was decided to go back to singing “The Lord’s Prayer” after communion.

Hospitality Report by Tami Johnson

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the recent Thankful Harvest Dinner and Christmas Tea! Many hands make light work and the teamwork was awesome! Our next event will be the Annual Meeting Dinner. Members have already signed up to bring food, serve, and clean. Thank you!



Christian Ed Report by Beth Kasper

Sunday School has been learning about, and celebrating, the Christmas season! The kids have learned about the birth of Jesus, and the reason for the season. They performed a “Jesus Jingle” at the Christmas Tea during the church service. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Moderator Report by Beth Prestegaard

All church committees continue their great work as we head into the end of 2022 – thank you all committee members! We continue our efforts on updating the references that support each committee and to assist in bringing on new committee members. We continue to find things that folks just automatically do to help out (greatly appreciated) – we hope to get as much on paper and to committees as we can so things aren't missed in the future. We will stay mindful of the health and safety of our congregants and are working on some options for funds/grants to help in some of the things that need to be addressed in the Church building and how we could better utilize the parsonage. Diaconate seems to stay the busiest this time of year with communion, paramount changes, advent and other holiday needs. Appreciate our new self running vacuums!

The proposed budget is available and thanks to the Trustees for their ongoing thoughtful discernment over how we use our funds. We are hoping to hold our Annual Meeting mid January – date to be determined. I ask anyone that hasn't served in a while or anyone that feels moved to please volunteer to get on a committee. I am always open to a phone call or discuss.

Treasurers Report by Wayne Davey

FROM THE MONEY COUNTER

BUDGET		Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget
\$83,595.00				
REVENUE	November 30, 2022	\$76,628.75	\$65,600.02	-\$ (11,028.73)
EXPENDITURES	November 30, 2022	\$76,628.75	\$90,756.04	\$14,127.29

Current Balance in Checking Account: \$19,950.07

Current Balance in Savings Account: \$54,069.62

150 Anniversary Fund: \$ 1,215.73

Bathroom Fund: \$ 700.21

Building Fund: \$ 1,180.25

Diaconate Fund: \$ 2,339.72

Memorial Account: \$ 9,202.74

Insurance Claim \$ 15,349.75

Undesignated: \$ 24,081.22

Current CD Balance as of 11/27/2022: \$ 4,480.07

Memorial Fund: \$ 13,682.81



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

Please Remember In Your Prayers & Thoughts

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

All our Service men & women
Steve Headon (*Wayne & Stacy*)

Wayne & Judy Martin

Helen Algiere

Bryan Wald

Jane Buland

Noelle Sauter

Josh Wooden

JoAnn Snyder

Mark Cox

Ella Woodyard

Deb Davey

Letta Fraccaro (*Pastors Mom*)

Susan Woodyard (*Audrey*)

The Family of Janis Sawyer

The Family of John Hopwood

The Family of Jeff Davies



Announcements

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Service

Jan. 1 - Diaconate Mtg after worship

Annual Mtg reports due

Jan. 8 - Trustees Mtg after worship

Jan. 15 - Annual Mtg after worship

Jan. 29 - *Cookie Fellowship:*

Maegan G. & Jeff S.

Feb. 5 - Diaconate Mtg after worship

Feb. 12 - Trustees Mtg after worship

Council Mtg to follow

Feb. 26 - *Cookie Fellowship:*

Ann G. & Susan F.

**Members will soon be approaching folks about 2023 committees
so please be thinking about where you might want to serve.**

**January is Rollo's
month to assist at the
NICE Center!**

**Annual Meeting Reports are due no later than
January 2nd.
Please email them to me or leave on church desk.
j-rr-2@hotmail.com**

Lay Readers

Dec. 25 - Ellen Kupecz

Jan. 1 - Stacy Richardson

Jan. 8 - Zach Kasper

Jan. 15 - Beth Presegaard

Jan. 22 - Gloria Foster

Jan. 29 - Jon Ritter

Feb. 5 - Tami Johnson

Feb. 12 - Susan Foster

Feb. 19 - Ron Wald

Feb. 26 - Ann Gilmore

Mar. 5 - Maegan Gletty

Mar. 12 - Barb Bend

Mar. 19 - Curt Foster

Mar. 26 - Bob Gilmore

Cookie Fellowship

January 29 - Maegan Gletty & Jeff Svendsen

February 26 - Ann Gilmore, Susan Foster

March 26 - Sam Ritter, Laura Fassig & Beth Kasper



Ushers

January - Jeff & Larry Svendsen

February - Dave Gibson & Zach Kasper

March - Bob Gilmore & Mike Johnson





Robert Gilmore & Steve Lake
among the Veterans sharing
while lighting Veteran's candles



Sunday School performing for
Christmas program



Thank you to Junia Epperson &
Friends for filling our NICE
hat/mitten tree with their
beautiful handmade sets.



Advent
decorating with
Rev David
"Elvis"
providing
entertainment



Kids decorated grocery
bags to help deliver can
drive food items to NICE,
Thank You All!!

Happy Birthday!!!

January 07 – Leah Richardson
January 12 – Gloria Foster
January 18 – Devon White
January 20 – Brad Martin
January 23 – Heidi Johnson
January 25 – Camilla Boston
January 30 – Bill Fassig



Feb 04 – Dave Bend
Feb 05 – Joel Svendsen
Feb 08 – Donald Oest
Feb 15 – Alexis Olson
Feb 21 – Isabella Kasper
& Carol Bend
Feb 27 – Keith Fassig
& Jordan Johnson
Feb 28 – James Baird
& Katie Goble

Rollo UCC

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