

ROCKVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (RPC)

RPC Newsletter

WEBSITE: WWW.ROCKVILLEPRES.ORG

The Reverend Michael McNamara

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!



I don't think it's a coincidence that so many different faith traditions have either holidays or seasons of light this time of year (Advent, Hanukkah, Diwali to name a few). As the days

get shorter, and night comes sooner, there is a new rhythm to get used to, it can be tough and that little bit of light has a way of shining some hope into the midst of it all. This year, with the reality of continued social distancing and quarantines, that little bit of hope, those candles in the darkness, can be extra important.

Advent does center around the advent candles, but ultimately it is about preparing, preparing for the coming of God's Love into the world (manifest as Christ) which can often seem a long way off. Not being able to come together

and celebrate as a community offers its own challenges, but as we enter the Advent season we can prepare for the wait ahead, the wait for the vaccine, the wait to be with friends again, the wait to be social, to just be in community without the worry and anxiety. Advent helps us rest in that wait, to use the wait as an opportunity for spiritual development, to use it even as prayer.

So as we embark on this particularly meaningful advent season, allow it to be an intentional time of preparing amidst the waiting. I'll be discussing some practical ways to do this during my sermons during this season, but if you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out and we can discuss some specific spiritual practices that can help one get through the next few months, and to deepen one's relationship with God in the process. We can think of Advent as an opportunity, a continuation of the Good News readily offered in God's boundless love.

In Peace, Mike



RPC has suspended the outdoor Sunday morning service until Spring. The regular Sunday live stream service continues every Sunday at 10:30 am, followed by ZOOM Coffee Hour.

Those serving as Lay Leader this month:

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6th - Amine Ranaivoarijaona
Third Sunday of Advent, December 13th - Amy Macomber
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20th - Anne Baur
Christmas Eve, December 24th - Pat Wolff
First Sunday of Christmas, December 27th - Phil Ruxton



Greetings from the RPC Session members: Anne Baur, Sue McGee Anderson, Bernice Brown, Mark Chittum, Marty Heilman, Elke Herzfeld, Mary Williams, Jerry Macomber and Aimee Ranaivoarijaona

Greetings to one and all from your Session. As we come to the close of the year, the Session continues to take on their responsibilities to keep RPC moving forward: The Faith Formation Committee continues to have Sunday School lessons every Sunday with a special Zoom Session on the first Sunday of the Month. Many thanks to Bernice Brown and Pat Wolff for getting the information to our children and their families every week. A revamping of the Tuesday Morning small group is underway. A December 9 Zoom meeting at 11 am is planned. Be sure to contact Bernice Brown if you would like to participate. There will be a call-in phone number if you would like to participate by phone.

The Worship Committee continues to do a wonderful job with streaming of the Sunday service. We have had up to 17 attendees join our service. Pattie Sorini, Pastor Mike and Howie Jung have their heads together working very hard to improve our transmission of the service every week. If you haven't watched the service, please do. It's not the same as being in the sanctuary, but it's a wonderful way to worship until the pandemic slows down. All the past services have been recorded and can be accessed on RPC website; www.rockvillepres.org and or the Christian World Media website at <https://www.christianworldmedia.com/livesite/RPCPraise> This coming Sunday will have a prerecorded service on Thanksgiving. Be sure to tune in! Let the committee know what you think. Consider joining in a prerecording session when the next occasion arises.

The Stewardship Committee has done a super job with their Stewardship Campaign. The post cards sent to members were an important reminder that time, talent, and treasure are aspects of Christian stewardship not to be forgotten. Be sure to think about how you can use your time, talent and treasure to become the hands and feet of Christ. Everyone has something special to offer to the work of the church. Let us hear from you!

The Mission Committee continues to remind us of Mission opportunities in our church with the Cents-Ability program and contributions to the Community Reach Thanksgiving Baskets. Community Reach is the new name for Community Ministries of Rockville. They will be collecting money for Christmas baskets during December, a wonderful way to support our local community.

Of course, the Committees on Personnel, Buildings & Grounds, and Financial Oversight work continually to keep a firm foundation in place for the work of the church. And we are grateful!!

Have a blessed holiday season, rejoicing in the every opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Sincerely,
Anne Baur, Clerk of Session.



Thank You from Your Stewardship Team

RPC's stewardship team thanks everyone who made a commitment to the future of our church by returning their pledge card. Your gifts were both celebrated and dedicated during worship on November 22. The next step is for Session to project programming and prepare our budget for next year. Our hope is that we will be able to reconvene in-person soon and use our combined resources to create more meaningful worship, enhance ways for spiritual growth, expand mission and increase our community outreach.

For anyone who may have forgotten, it is not too late. Please print the pledge card below and mail it to Rockville Presbyterian Church at 215 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockville MD 20850.

Pat Wolff, Stewardship Chair

Mary Williams, Session Liaison

Brian Macomber, Team Member



Rockville Presbyterian Church
2021 Estimate of Giving Card

My/our commitment is \$_____ Circle One: per week - per month - per year
_____ I/we are unable to pledge at this time but will give as I/we are able.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ home _____ mobile _____

Email _____ Preferred Contact: _____ mail _____ email _____

My hope for RPC in 2021 is _____

Schedule for Sunday Mornings

9:00 am suspended until Spring.

10:30 am – Live Stream Sunday Service, followed by ZOOM Coffee Hour, Instructions are provided in weekly emails. Contact the office at 301-762-3363 or by email at Rockvillepres1@verizon.net to be added to the mail blast.

Live stream is accessible through the link below.

<https://www.christianworldmedia.com/livesite/RPCPraise> OR

The church website RockvillePres.org

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Zoom Sunday school for children will be held on **Dec. 6th at 9:30 am**. Zoom information will be provided to parents of children. The title of the Dec. 6th lesson: TBA ,announced before Dec. 6th. Parent-led lessons will be provided to families with children.

The congregation is encouraged to invite other kids to participate - your grandchildren, children of neighbors, children of friends. Our program is designed for young people ages 5 to 10, but younger siblings can participate with their sister or brother. Names, email and postal addresses are all we need to get new students started.



12 Katharine Dawson

11 Maya Sorini

18 William Dawson

20 Bill Morgan

22 Prent Baker

24 Ann Kelly

25 Bill Landfair



Have you been missing Fellowship? There's an opportunity for Fellowship every Sunday following our regular Live Stream service. Join us at our new Coffee Hour on ZOOM. Check the weekly emails for the ZOOM invitation.



Directory Updates

Ian & Ashley Hutchins

Wayne, Kai, Frances Kathryn
1255 Fitness Run
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

New updates to the directory will be published once a month. If you have an update or know of an update, please call the office 301-762-3363 or email to Rockvillepres1@verizon.net



The **Buildings and Grounds Committee** is planning RPC's next Fall Fun Day, for raking leaves and removing branches, as well as some other projects that we hope to complete. The date that the Committee came up with, taking into consideration the schedule for leaf pick-up by the City of Rockville and where we are in the



Season, scheduled for **Saturday Dec. 5th, 9:00A.M.** to approx. **11:00A.M.** Please bring a leaf blower (or 2) if you have a leaf blower it will assist in the raking process.



Each December, RPC contributes to the Christmas Joy Gift, a PCUSA collection that provides support for past, present, and future church leaders. Half of the offering allows students to grow in faith at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color and half of the offering provides assistance to current

and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas Joy Gift, please mail a check to RPC or make a donation online and indicate that the contribution is for the Christmas Joy Gift.



Community Reach Holiday Meal Basket

Last call to donate! Every year, RPC collects holiday meal basket items for Community Reach. This year Community Reach will provide food and gifts to families in need during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Community Reach has specifically reached out to RPC to ask for our support this year. In lieu of collecting items, please help us support Community Reach by writing a check or using the website to donate money to RPC designated for use for the Community Reach holiday meal baskets. All donations will be donated directly to Community Reach so that they can purchase needed items and

Drive and Volunteer Distribution

gifts. **Please send all donations to RPC by Sunday, December 6th.**

Holiday Drive Distribution – Volunteer on Thursday, December 17 from 2-5 pm or 5-8 pm at Community Reach at 1010 Grandin Ave Rockville, MD or Saturday December 19 from 12:30 pm -2:30 pm or 2:30 pm to

4:30 pm at St. Francis Episcopal Church to distribute Christmas meals and presents. Work will be indoors and outdoors. All volunteers must be 16 or older.

Community Reach Volunteer Opportunities

The following are opportunities to volunteer with Community Reach

Client Intake Coordinator – work with the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program to answer calls from Rockville clients facing eviction and in need of medical care.

Yard Clean Up – work with Senior Reach to provide lawn care for seniors.

Translators – translate for patients at the Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic.

Donations Needed at the Mansfield Kaseman Clinic – paper towels (c-fold and rolls), hand sanitizer, antibacterial hand soap, trash bags, disinfecting wipes, scoring powder, window cleaner, facial tissue, bleach, toilet bowl cleaner, dishwashing liquid. For more information, go to <https://www.cmrocks.org/volunteer> or contact Andrea Kempner-Wink at 301-637-0172.

Community Reach COVID-19 free testing and Volunteers needed

Community Reach Free COVID-19 Testing

Community Reach's Mansfield Kaseman Clinic is offering free COVID-19 Testing **every Friday from 12 pm to 4 pm and Saturday from 11am to 3pm** starting October 30 **through December 19**. Call (301) 917-6800 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are also accepted. All appointments will be at Rockville United Methodist Church at 112 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Community Reach needs Volunteers COVID-19 Testing for Community Reach

Community Reach is in need of volunteers to staff their COVID testing on Friday and Saturday afternoons through December 19th. Volunteers must be over 18 and available to work a few days or more. For more information about volunteering, contact Ms. Carmen Lezama at CLEzema@CMRocks.org



Rainbow Place opened Monday, November 9th
Rainbow Extends Hours

It wasn't easy, but we did it! This week, for the first time, we opened our doors to provide shelter for our guests throughout the night and day. This not only required a herculean effort from our Executive Director, board, and staff, but it also required the support of our community, support that poured over us in ways we never expected.

Virtual Tour: Want to see what Rainbow Place looks like today? Go on a virtual tour at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RrNi94901U&feature=youtu.be>

Volunteer: Volunteers are needed to deliver meals (but not serve them).

Sign up to volunteer at <http://www.rainbowplace.org/volunteerAtRainbow>.



Sponsor a Bed: Rainbow Place has launched a Sponsor-a-Bed Program. If you are interested, or know a group or company that may be interested, more information can be found at:

<http://www.rainbowplace.org/eventAtRainbow?id=7011P000001JqZ1QAK>

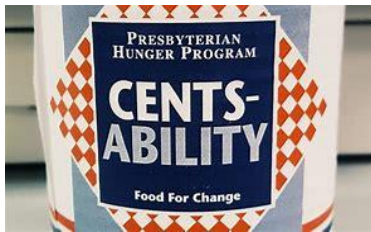
Rockville Rewards Cards: Rockville Rewards Cards gets you discounts at over 150 Rockville restaurants and businesses. Profits from the cards go to non-profits in the Rockville area. When you buy a card online, it costs

\$25 and you can select Rainbow Place as the recipient of your purchase. Buy a card at <https://rockvillerewards.com/>

Buy a Face Mask: For every facemask purchased, \$5 will be donated to Rainbow Place. Get your mask at <https://rainbowplaceshelter.square.site/>.

Thank you for supporting the raffle: The Rainbow Place raffle raised over \$16,500. Thanks to everyone who participated!

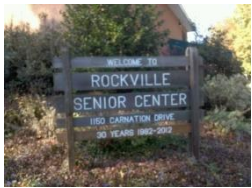
Cents-Ability: Remember to Collect your Coins!



Don't forget about Cents-Ability! Cents-Ability is part of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, where congregations collect coins at mealtimes to fight against hunger. Half of our collection will go to the Presbyterian Hunger

Program and half of our collection will go to Manna Food Center. We will collect our coins when we are able to worship together again.

Donate Food at the Rockville Senior Center



The Rockville Senior Center is currently serving about 200 seniors per week frozen lunches, shelf staple food, and fresh fruits and vegetables. The Senior Center is in need of shelf staple food donations to continue food distribution. Suggestions for food donations include:



canned chicken or tuna, pasta, spaghetti sauce, oatmeal and cereal, rice (small bags or boxes), canned fruit, individual applesauce or fruit, soups, beans, all vegetables (small sizes). Donations may be dropped off under the side awning of the Senior Center at any time of the day.

The deadline for the *January* Newsletter is **Sunday, December 13th**.