

ROCKVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (RPC)

# RPC Newsletter

WEBSITE: [WWW.ROCKVILLEPRES.ORG](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEPRES.ORG)

The Reverend Michael McNamara



## Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

Fall is upon us, a season of transitions.

Transitions bring with them their own kind of stress, often centering on the unknowns of what will eventually come. This year, the transitions this nation and really this world face are myriad. If you ask me, some of the transitions 2020 will bring are generational and not just the standard annual variety as the pandemic will eventually guide us toward a transformed reality, for which we can currently only guess.

The pandemic and the political polarization that exist bring with them their own stress, and as

Fall marks the first indications and pointers toward Spring, the anxiety of an unknown Winter are real. In other words, there is already a great deal of underlying and “free-floating” stress as we look toward the transitions (which bring their own stress).

It is important to pay attention to and acknowledge these heightened stress levels and to be kind to ourselves and others in the midst of all of it. I think the beauty of a fall day manifests itself as a reminder to be kind to oneself during the standard annual transitions, often subconsciously.

I think this year it will be important to intentionally soak in the beauty of fall, and recognize the signals it gives, paradoxically, of the annual cycle of new life.

Rockville Presbyterian Church is in its own phase of transition as I settle into being your pastor. Like every transition, it brings its own kind of stress and challenges, much of that attached to the unknowable nature of the future. But just as during Fall one can trust in the coming Spring, if, as a congregation, we keep ourselves attuned to God's love through prayer and worship and study and fellowship, we can trust in that coming Spring, and that God will bring this congregation to the places it needs to be. All the extra stress in the air risks

making this particular transition for Rockville more difficult than ones in the past, but it means, I think that we just need to be more intentional about prayer and our relationship with God, much like we may need to be more intentional about soaking in the vibrant colors of fall this year.

No matter what happens, we are in the hands of God, and if we create the space for God to work, and allow God into our lives through building trust in God, we and the congregation will go where it needs to go, Spring is inevitable.

In Peace,      Mike

The first outdoor and in-person Sunday morning service was held on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 am on the front steps of the church. No singing took place, participants brought their own chairs, masks and social distancing was required. It was a lovely way to spend a Sunday morning!! The service lasted approximately 30 minutes. The usual live stream service at 10:30 am will continue every Sunday as well.





The logo features four colored squares (orange, yellow, orange, red) arranged horizontally above a black rectangular box containing the word "SESSION" in white capital letters. Below this box, the word "HIGHLIGHTS" is written in large, bold, red capital letters.

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

**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

During our September Meeting, the RPC Session approved the following motions:

- To allow Rainbow Place to open 24/7 during the months of November, December and January **providing the children in A+ and the Coop Nursery School have not returned to the building.**
  - This change in the Rainbow lease depends on the City of Rockville agreeing to the change. A Zoom community meeting will be held **on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** If you are interested in attending, contact Anne Baur @ [amanda615@verizon.net](mailto:amanda615@verizon.net)
  - If Rockville approves this change in the lease to Rainbow opening 24/7, Rainbow's rent will increase from \$100 to \$200 for each of the three months and their utilities will increase from 26% to 60%
- To adjust payments of rent and utilities by the RPCNS in view of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - to defer 50% of RPCNS rent (deferment: \$892 per month) and
  - to reduce RPCNS utilities payment from 33% to 22% from September 2020 through February 2021. A repayment plan has been organized for the Spring.
- To allow the EPIC congregation to hold a confirmation ceremony on Sunday, Sept 27, 2020 at 2 pm.

The Session and Rev. Mike discussed ways for our RPC members to get to meet and know him. Some of the ideas suggested were Zoom coffee hours after our Sunday service; having Rev. Mike attend the Tuesday/Friday small group meetings; have the Deacons suggest members who need an individual meeting opportunity; start a book club reading some of Pastor Mike's favorite authors; etc.

The Session members would welcome any suggestions made by RPC members. Our new pastor is anxious to meet everyone. Please contact Anne Baur, Clerk of Session with your ideas!  
([amanda615@verizon.net](mailto:amanda615@verizon.net))

Peace and good health to everyone.

Anne Baur, Clerk of Session

## Schedule for Sunday Mornings

**9:00 am** outdoor service weather permitting. (excluding October 11<sup>th</sup>)

**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](mailto: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](http://RockvillePres.org)



- 2 Mark Chittum
- 2 Beth Redd
- 4 Rev. Mike McNamara
- 6 Colin Ruxton
- 11 Jeff Taylor
- 16 Peg Taboada
- 17 Judy Taylor
- 21 Wayne Hutchins
- 22 Donnie McNamara
- 25 Anthony Chu
- 29 Vina Ranaivoarijaona

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Zoom Sunday school for children will be held on **Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am**. Materials for parent-led lessons have been provided to families with children. Zoom information will be provided closer to Oct. 4th.

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.



## Directory Updates

**Please note these directory updates:** New updates to the directory will be published once a month.

**Heilman, Martin**

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Email: [Martin32Ada@gmail.com](mailto:Martin32Ada@gmail.com)



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.



## Rainbow Place

From: Barbara Goodwin

Dear Rainbow Place Volunteers,

I hope this message finds you all well, during this unprecedented time.

We are currently looking for a *volunteer food shopper* for the shelter from October, 2020 through March 2021. The food shopper will be responsible for purchasing groceries once a week (preferably on the same day) from a provided list. We don't know exactly when we will be starting to register volunteers for the shelter season but it will be soon. I will keep you posted on this going forward.

Please see the following request from Louise Long, our food coordinator. If this is something that you would be interested in, please let Louise or me know.

**Requirements for this opportunity is as followed:**

- \* Be available to shop once a week.
- \* Must have a Costco or Sam's Club card. On occasions, shopping at a local grocery store maybe needed for smaller items.
- \* Have a credit card that can be used for purchases. Reimbursements will be processed within the same week.
- \* Be able to walk up three flights of stairs and store groceries in the appropriate place.

If this sounds like an opportunity for you, we would love to talk with you. Please contact, Louise Long at [longrosamont@verizon.net](mailto:longrosamont@verizon.net) or 301-814-8437 or Barbara Goodwin at [rainbow@rainbowplace.org](mailto:rainbow@rainbowplace.org) if you are interested with questions. Looking forward to hearing from you.

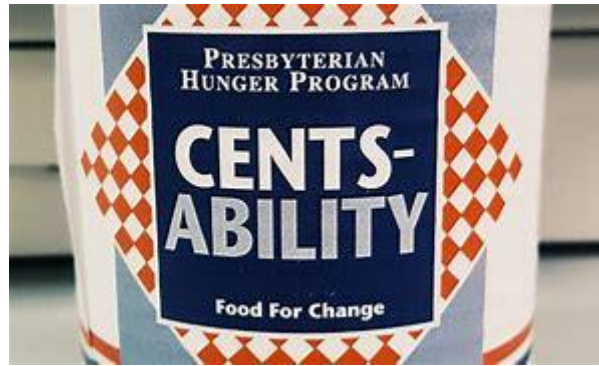


### **Buy a Mask to Support Rainbow Place**

Mask buying? Doin' Good T-shirts and More has already sold over 400 face masks for Rainbow Place Shelter, bringing the shelter thousands of dollars we can put to good use. This also means there are a lot of beautifully colorful faces out there! If you would like to buy a face mask, [click here](#).

Raffle? It's certainly not too late to [buy some tickets for great prizes](#). Our raffle is going great and continues through 2 pm on October 23rd. Will you be a winner? We hope so! It's s NOT too late to be a [sponsor](#).

AmazonSmile? If you find yourself shopping on Amazon, shop through AmazonSmile instead and designate your charity of choice as [Rainbow Place Shelter](#). That way, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the shelter. While you're there, check out our [charity wish list](#) on Amazon Smile to easily order items Rainbow Place needs. As always, thank you for your support!

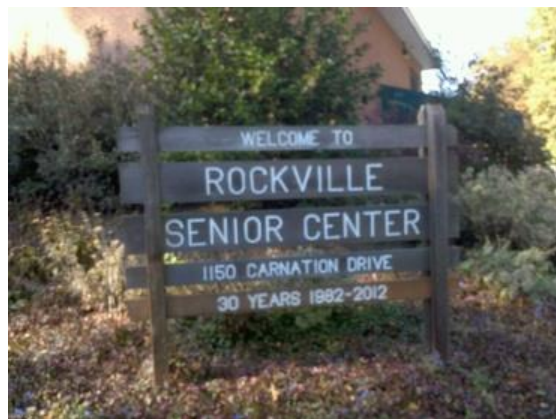


### **Cents-Ability: Remember to Collect your Coins!**

Did you know that in 2018, 63,000 Montgomery County residents did not know where their next meal would come from? This number may be even higher today.

RPC is participating in 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 will go to Manna Food Center.

If you have not started to collect coins, it's not too late!



### **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.





***Save the Date*** - Virtual Fundraiser for Community Reach's Mansfield Kaseman Clinic

On **Saturday, November 14 at 6:30 pm**, Community Reach will be holding a virtual fundraiser for the Mansfield Kaseman Clinic. The clinic is located just down the street from RPC (West Middle Lane) and provides affordable health care to Montgomery County

residents without health insurance. The event is looking for sponsors and has a suggested donation of \$50 to attend. More information can be found at **<https://www.cmrocks.org/events>**

The deadline for the *November* Newsletter is **Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**.

