

RPC Newsletter

WEBSITE: WWW.ROCKVILLEPRES.ORG

The Reverend Michael McNamara



The monk at prayer, [Edouard Manet](#)

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

Often when someone thinks of Christian spiritual practice, they might think of monks, sequestering themselves within a monastery, silently doing menial work and limiting interactions to the daily Hours (various worship services during the day), but Christian Spiritual Practice is so much more than just monastics in monasteries.

Just about anything, with the right intent, can be Christian Spiritual Practice. If the intent is to deepen one's relationship with God or to better understand God's Love, then it can be spiritual practice. Engaging in intentional Spiritual Practice is such an important part of my life and something I get really excited about.

Although we still have a lot to learn about one another, I am hoping we can all practice one important Spiritual Practice in particular together, and be intentional about it for a few months. I already suggested this in a recent sermon, but I want to expand on it a tiny bit here. The Spiritual Practice is Listening, we could even call it Holy Listening.

Holy Listening is recognizing that any time one listens to the story of another, it is possible to encounter the divine. What this means is that if we truly believe that God works in all people through the Holy Spirit, then as we hear the story of another, we can pay attention for the ways God might be moving in their life, and maybe even within the larger community. If one listens to enough people, they can start to

identify the way God is either working in the world, or a space where God might be calling the person to serve and give.

I am not being as specific as I would like, so what I mean specifically in the context of Rockville PC is that being engaged in the community is important to knowing where the congregation needs to focus its energies, so it can most effectively be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, to embody God's love. So intentionally listening, and pay attention to patterns, whether common joys, common hurts, common injustices, common sorrows, common wants, just listening, and asking people to explain themselves as much as possible, as a church, we strengthen ourselves

to be able to not only hear God's call for Rockville PC, but to be ready to respond.

My hope is that you all do this already, whether it's your neighbor someone at the grocery store, a co-worker. All I am doing is framing a practice you already do as an intentional Spiritual Practice. This is church work, and we should see it as such, just like listening to all of you is a central part of my job right now.

I look forward to working with all of you, and getting to know you, and learn about what you are hearing around you in Rockville and beyond!

In Peace, Mike

Session Highlights

The Session and Pastor Mike meet face to face!

After preaching for the first time via Zoom, on Sunday, August 16, 2020, Pastor Mike met the RPC Session on Monday night for a face to face conversation in the John Calvin Room. All the members of the Session were able to attend, including Bernice Brown, Aimee Ranaivoarijaona, Jerry Macomber, Mark Chittum, Mary Williams, Elke Herzfeld, and Sue McKee Anderson and Marty Heilman.

It was a wonderful time to get to know each other and understand why the DPNC was so enthusiastic for having Pastor Mike called to RPC. Each Session member spoke about the work they do for the church and had the opportunity to speak directly with Pastor Mike. He in turn asked each member what they had learned about RPC during the past months working with Pastor Karen. The conversations were very interesting and the beginning of friendship and understanding between Pastor Mike and the Session. Everyone left the meeting looking forward to coming year and working together to the benefit of our church and our church family.

Sincerely,
Anne Baur,
Clerk of Session.

Schedule for Sunday Mornings

10:30 am – Live Stream Sunday Service

Live stream is accessible through the link below.

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

OR

The church website

RockvillePres.org

Instructions are provided weekly in emails to the congregation.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Kick -Off for Children via Zoom

Date: Sunday Morning, September 13

Time: To Be Determined

The Faith Formation Committee has been working hard to plan a Sunday School program for children that is fun and informative. We are planning a mix of interactive Sunday morning Zoom sessions and at-home, parent-led sessions using RPC names, email names and provided activity kits.

RPC families will automatically receive information about our **Kick-Off on Sunday, September 13**. Church members are asked to send names and email contact information for other children who want to participate - your grandchildren, neighbors' children or friends' children. Programs are designed for grades K through five; however, younger siblings can participate with their big brother or sister.



- 4 Elizabeth Boyer
- 9 Jessica Taylor
- 10 Martin Heilman
- 15 Nancy McIntyre
- 17 Paul Boyer
- 18 Bernice Brown
- 24 Keith Cornelius, Jr.
- 27 Phil Ruxton
- 29 Bert Wirth



Directory Updates

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

Sharon Blackwell's address is now:
11600 Academy Rd., NE, #3113,
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Nancy McIntyre is a member and has been moved to the proper place in the directory.

Kelly Tucker's cell number has been corrected, (732) 245-9907.



Buy a Mask to Support Rainbow Place

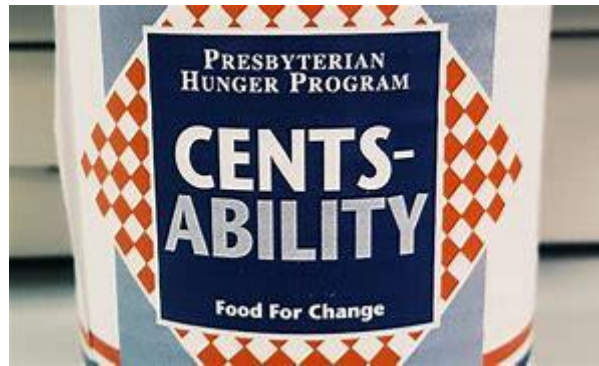
Doin' Good T-Shirts and More are selling face masks to Benefit Rainbow Place. For every mask purchased, **\$5** will go to Rainbow Place. In addition to buying a mask for yourself or family, you can also purchase masks to be donated. To buy a mask, go to to <https://squareup.com/store/RainbowPlace/>

Raffle

Help support Rainbow Place by participating in the Rainbow Place Raffle! Buy tickets online and select which prize you would like to enter them for. The raffle will be open until **October 23rd at 2 pm**. To participate, go to <https://rainbowplaceshelter.ourraffle.org/>. The Raffle is looking for sponsorship, please email Nina at development@rainbowplace.org

Shopping on Amazon?

Want to support Rainbow Place and already ordering items on Amazon? Remember to use AmazonSmile and designate Rainbow Place Shelter on Amazon Smile and login to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) whenever you shop on Amazon as the recipient, and shop on Amazon as normal.



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.

This summer, 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!

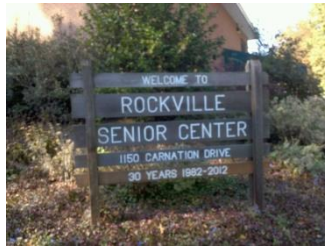
If you have not already made a collection container, feel free to use the images attached to this newsletter to decorate your container!



Interfaith School Supply Drive

Interfaith Works is hosting their annual school supply drive. For the past few years, RPC has collected school supplies at church to donate. Since this is not possible this year, please consider donating to the school supply drive individually. You can donate money that will be used to purchase supplies or you can drop off supplies at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center (751 Twinbrook Parkway Rockville, MD 20851) on Tuesday-Saturday 9 am – 4 pm or Saturday 9 am – 2pm. Needed items are Binders (2 inch, 3 ring), dividers, filler lined paper, 2 pocket folders, blue and black pens, rulers, notebooks, glue bottles/sticks, whiteboards (lap sized), sheet protectors, cardstock, packages of paper, colored pencils, pencil pouches, scissors, markers, whiteboard markers, erasers, and children's underwear. All supplies should be new. To donate or learn more, go to Interfaith Works' website at

<https://www.iworksmc.org/>



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.



Volunteer Opportunities at Community Reach

Community Reach has continued to serve those in need during COVID. The Rockville Emergency Assistance Program is in need of volunteers who are available 4 hours each week starting in September to answer routine client questions. The Senior Reach Program is in need of volunteers to mow lawns once or every other week. The Mansfield Kaseman Clinic is in need of translators who are fluent in Spanish and English to translate at the clinic and volunteers to help serve on the Mansfield Kaseman Clinic Celebration Committee for an event scheduled this November.

The following donations are also requested by the Kaseman Clinic: C-Fold Paper Towels, Paper Towels, Hand Sanitizer, Antibacterial Hand Soap, Trash Bags, Disinfecting Wipes, Scouring Powder, Window Cleaner, Facial Tissues, Bleach, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Dishwashing Liquid.

For more information or to volunteer, go to <https://www.cmrocks.org/volunteer> or contact Andrea Kempner-Wink at 301-637-0172.

Rock Painting



The Friday small group painted rocks and we delivered or mailed them to many RPC members. Depending on how long shelter-in-place is in effect, we may be able to paint and deliver more. Pat Wolff

The Kindness Rock Project is a [viral trend](#) where people, commonly children, paint [pebbles](#) or [cobble](#)s and leave them for others to find and collect. Photos of the painted rocks and hints of where to find them are commonly shared on [Facebook groups](#).

Saying Good Bye to the Hutchins Family

Friends gathered in the parking area of RPC at a social distance wearing their masks on Sunday, July 12th.



We will miss you!

