



Rockfish Presbyterian Church
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 Interim Pastor: Jewell-Ann Parton
 Cell: 434 987-1255; Interim Pastor E:mail: jewellannp@aol.com
 www.rockfishpresbyterian.org
 Office Hours 9-1 Tuesday through Thursday
 Worship Service on Sunday Mornings in the Sanctuary at 10:00

Volume 22 Issue 9

Spreading the Word

September 2021

Effectively immediately, RPC will continue worship in the Sanctuary each Sunday at 10:00 AM with masks and/or face shields required, social distancing marked by alternate pews, no congregational or choir singing, only instrumental or recorded music, and no fellowship hour.

Any indoor memorial services will follow the same stipulations.

Special Guidance to the current Facilities Use Policy: COVID-19 Special Guidance Pertaining to the use of RPC Facilities (as of August 2021)

In consideration of the impact of the Delta variant, guidelines and special orders from all levels of government, as well as recommendations from The Presbytery of the James make it prudent for us to change some aspects of how we handle the use of our facilities to ensure safety for our staff, congregants, and visitors.

Even though in June 2021 RPC reopened the Sanctuary for worship services, we will continue to turn away requests for any outside group to use the facility. The kitchen facilities should not be used for any food preparation and all meetings/gatherings should use the Fellowship Hall to encourage social distancing. **Mask or face shield usage is required while inside** as it has been shown to decrease the volume of transmissible virus particles.

This is an exceptional time and we appreciate your cooperation with these changes to keep us all as safe as possible. (This situation will be closely monitored and changes to this policy will be made accordingly.)

What's New at Rockfish Since COVID-19 Started?

Rockfish Presbyterian Church has a new website. www.rockfishpresbyterian.org is easy to navigate with many new features. The website offers information on the Pastor Search, monthly Spreading the Word newsletters, calendar of events, a link to YouTube to view weekly Worship Services and much more.

Rockfish has a new email address. It is rockfishpcus@gmail.com
 Be sure to update your contacts email address book.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jane Andrews	1
David Cameron	1
Linda Williams	1
Keith Smith	10
Sally Bryant	12
Sue Fulton	13
Kyle Patterson	13
Pat Humphrey	14
Toni Roby	16
Gloria Beddow	17
Patricia Zirkle	17
Judy Deavers	18
Jim Wright	18
Nancy McIntyre	20
Connie Underwood	20
Nellie Koon	23
George Bonheyo	25
Louie Andrews	26
Lee Goodrich	30

Dear Friends in Christ:

Beginning in September, we will have a series of five classes that will examine what it means to be Presbyterian. On September 14, Jamie will send out *Being Presbyterian #1*, to the congregation. The next Monday September 20th we will meet via Zoom at 7:00 pm to discuss the first lesson. On Tuesday, September 21, you will receive *Being Presbyterian #2*, and we will meet via Zoom Sept. 27 to discuss it. This process will continue for a total of five weeks.

Although this is not your typical Sunday School class, we are sure to have some lively discussions about what Presbyterians believe about reading Scripture, governance in the church, the spiritual disciplines, and the sacraments. Even if you are a life-long Presbyterian, I hope you will be encouraged to attend and share your vision and your experience in the church.

Please let Jamie know if you plan to attend, as she will be setting up our Zoom meetings.

Jewell-Ann



STW NEWSLETTER :

JAMIE HEARD

The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **October** newsletter is **Wednesday, September 22.**

Email: rockfishpcus@gmail.com **Phone:** (434) 361-1221

Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

On August 17th, Session approved the Ministry Information Form (MIF), prepared by the PNC over the last several weeks. This document, based upon the Mission Study Team Report, provides potential pastoral candidates a portrait of RPC and our congregation, its mission and character, as well as prioritizing the talents we are seeking in our new pastor. The MIF has now been submitted to the Presbytery for posting online as an available position. We hope to begin receiving responses, known as Pastor Information Forms (PIFs), by early September. Our next task will be to review PIFs as they are received, with an eye to discerning the candidate God has already chosen to lead us. As we begin this next phase, we ask for your prayers that we may continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit in this important task.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Luscomb, PNC Chair



The dead oak tree in the front of the Church is going to be taken down by Arboristry in the near future. The wood will be used for the firewood ministry in 2023.

Notes from the Building Crew

It's been a long haul from the time we stopped having Services in the Sanctuary until we once again were able to offer praise and song inside our historic site! We recently added a fan in the balcony that will keep the airflow going and bring reasonably cool air to those of you who occupy that closer-to-heaven space! The sound system experienced a few glitches upon our return that have now been corrected. However, if you happen to notice anything in the building that you think needs attention (e.g., a bulb that is out, etc), please let me know so it can be addressed ASAP.

Even as we have begun to feel a degree of return to normal, we must make sure we remain alert to any changes in local COVID-19 infection rates, especially knowing that the Delta variant is more contagious than the original. Given that, if you haven't yet been completely vaccinated, please do so, to protect yourself! Masking up or wearing a face shield while inside and keeping some distance from others outside your immediate family provides an added margin of safety, and will, for now, allow us to continue having Services in the Sanctuary. With all of us pulling together, we will hopefully not have to experience another return to having Zoom Services from afar!

One last item, we only had about one month in the Sanctuary before COVID-19 hit to enjoy the totally repainted Sanctuary and Narthex, made possible through the donation by an anonymous member. So next Sunday make notice of the bright, vibrant walls, ceiling, and trim and give thanks!

Ken Engebretson, Chairperson of the Building Ministry Team

Living Things
By Dave Lawson

We understand much about how living things live
What they use for energy
How they process nutrients and use atmospheric gases
How they move and think, if they do
How they replicate themselves

Indeed, many life processes can be observed and even measured
Ion channels and pumps move charged atoms in and out
Muscle filaments slide between each other producing motion
Complex biochemical reactions magnificently interconnect
Nerve cells communicate with chemical neurotransmitters
Thinking and remembering and feeling involve whole networks of these
Hormones flow to control growth, metabolism, reproduction
Cellular and molecular defenders mobilize if and when needed
The logistics supplied by well controlled movement of blood
The instruction manual held in the genetic code
And “balance” always sought – homeostasis

Although we know much about these amazing things,
We know almost nothing about the nature of the soul
We have no clue where it resides in our bodies
We do not know how God gave it to us when life began
Or how God takes it back when our life ends
But we do know something about what nourishes it
The sounds of laughter or of music or of water flowing over rocks
The sight of a mountain vista in Autumn or the sky painted at sunset
Listening to the inspired spoken word
Receiving an unexpected act of kindness given by others
And knowing that love is abundant everywhere in the universe

Session Highlights 8/17/21

Moderator Rev. Jewell-Ann Parton called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Elder Leslie Buchanan presented the Opening Prayer and Devotions. Joys and Concerns were shared. Prayers were asked for Sam and Kelley Alexander, Katy Jo and Al Gale, Abby Carr, Kate Humphrey Chambers, and Leslie Buchanan and Nancy Johnson.

Clerk's Report:

- Approved Amended Minutes of the Stated Meeting 6/18/21.
- Approved Minutes of the Congregational Meeting 6/27/21.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Rev. Jewell-Ann Parton noted that elder training has concluded and that she enjoyed her 'stay-cation'. She officiated two memorial services, one at Tabor PC and one at RPC. She will officiate a graveside service for Cheryl Borgman's mother on 9/5/21 with a reception in the Pavilion.

Stewardship/Finance: Elder Lee Goodrich presented the Stewardship Report, which included the following motions that Session approved:

- 2021 Stewardship Campaign Schedule
- On Commitment Sunday, November 14, the church will have a 'Brunswick Stew' celebration event at RPC. Folks will bring items for the stew, help in set-up and clean-up, and serve. Dave Priddy will cook the pork.

He noted that budget requests will be due 10/8/21 so that the Committee can challenge the congregation to increase pledges sufficiently to meet the budget. The projected increase in salary to attract a new pastor will require a substantial increase in income versus this year's budget.

New Business:

- Elders Greg Frahm and Kate Humphrey Chambers are assigned as Commissioners to the virtual POJ Meeting 10/16/21. Commissioners for 2/19/22 will be Bill Iverson and Lynne Hess; for 6/21/22 Mac Lumpkin and Ken Engebretson.
- Elders and PNC members Leslie Buchanan and Lee Goodrich presented the church's Ministry Information Form. Session approved the MIF with slight wording changes.

Ministry Team Reports/Motions:

- Elders Greg Frahm and Mike Smythers (Grounds Ministry Team) reported 2 bids for the removal of the dead oak tree in the front of the church: Arboristry \$1,975, which includes cutting the tree into log lengths of 8 feet, leaving the stump, and (for perhaps another \$100) moving the wood to the woodpile and Creation Appreciation \$2,474-2,775, same service, both of which are outside the budget for Grounds. Session approved \$2,500 maximum to remove the tree and move the wood to the woodpile. They also requested purchasing 9 yards of mulch to be spread around the perimeter of the building: \$350-400 range and Session approved it.
- Elder Bob Alpers (Mission Ministry Team) reported that the Mission Committee completed the Head Start Back Pack Project for some 86 Nelson County students and thanked the congregation for its generosity, noting that the Committee has \$300 for next year. Also, the Committee voted to expand the Light in the Valley Scholarship eligibility to include students applying to Virginia four-year colleges and universities but still giving preference to junior college applicants. The Bridgewater student discussed at the last meeting needs to be fully enrolled before RPC awards the scholarship money for him.



Session Highlights 8/17/21 (Cont'd)

- Elder Ken Engebretson (Building Ministry Team) presented the following amended Special Guidance addition to the current Facilities Use Policy, which Session approved:

In consideration of the impact of the Delta variant, guidelines and special orders from all levels of government, as well as recommendations from The Presbytery of the James make it prudent for us to change some aspects of how we handle the use of our facilities to ensure safety for our staff, congregants, and visitors. Even though in June 2021 RPC reopened the Sanctuary for worship services, we will continue to turn away requests for any outside group to use the facility. The kitchen facilities should not be used for any food preparation and all meetings/gatherings should use the Fellowship Hall to encourage social distancing. *Mask or face shield usage is required while inside* as it has been shown to decrease the volume of transmissible virus particles. This is an exceptional time and we appreciate your cooperation with these changes to keep us all as safe as possible. (This situation will be closely monitored and changes to this policy will be made accordingly.)

- Elder Phyllis Savides (Worship Ministry Team) presented a motion to return to outdoor services in the Pavilion starting on 9/12/21. After much discussion the motion was denied by a 7-4 vote. Further, Phyllis presented 4 motions that Session approved:
 1. We will continue with a single service.
 2. We will continue with the time of the service to be 10:00 a.m.
 3. Everyone will wear a mask indoors. Kathleen will buy 3 different types of singers' masks to try out for the choir.
 4. Rev. Jewell-Ann Parton will be on vacation 9/19/21, 10/31/21, 11/28/21, and 12/26/21. We will ask Rev. Gordon Lindsay to preach on those Sundays.

A motion was made from the floor (effective 8/19/21), which Session unanimously approved, stating:

Everyone entering RPC will wear a mask and/or face shield while inside and maintain social distancing as much as possible, keeping alternate rows of pews either empty or with six feet of distance between people not in one's household. There will be no singing (humming is OK), all music will be instrumental or recorded and there will be no fellowship hour. These guidelines will be followed at memorial services as well. Communion will be symbolic with only Rev. Jewell-Ann Parton partaking.

As we move forward, we will continue to monitor the situation and amend this motion as needed.

Ushers are also needed and a request will be sent out by Jamie Heard.

Celebration and Gratitude:

We give thanks for:

1. EVERYTHING (Lynne Hess).
2. RAIN (Leslie Buchanan).
3. COOLER TEMPERATURES (Lynne Carson).
4. the ability to have discussions with varying opinions and move forward (Ken Engebretson).
5. RPC's compassionate, respectful, and prayerful Session (Rev. Jewell-Ann Parton).

Next Stated Session Meeting: Tuesday, 9/21/21 at 7 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. /Opening Prayer: Elder Phyllis Savides.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Fulton, Clerk





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture	2 Noon—Men's Group Lunch 6:00 p.m. Worship Meeting	3	4
5 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Five Cents a Meal Offering	6 Labor Day	7 7:00 p.m. Mission Meeting	8 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture	9 Noon—Men's Group Lunch	10	11
12 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	13 4:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting	14	15 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture	16 Noon—Men's Group Lunch	17	18
19 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	20 7:00 p.m. Zoom Being Presbyterian	21 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	22 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture <i>Spreading The Word Articles Due</i>	23 Noon—Men's Group Lunch	24 Pantry Bag Packing	25 9:00 a.m. Distribution at Food Pantry
26 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Emergency Relief Offering	27 7:00 p.m. Zoom Being Presbyterian	28	29	30 Noon—Men's Group Lunch		