**Rindge UCC Reports for Annual Meeting, May 22, 2022**

**June 2021 – May 2022**

**Moderator’s Report**

* Acknowledge we continue to face numerous challenges getting church family back into church on Sunday mornings, and with overall participation and support of the church and various activities.
* We continue to grapple with serious financial considerations as pledges and plate offerings remain slow and well below planned income
* On the other hand, we have welcomed a host of new visitors to Sunday morning worship and will consider offering a “new member’s class” soon.
* Convened Ministries Assembly at least once every month to manage church business, working closely with ministry leaders
* Extend thanks to Leadership Team who took on a myriad of tasks throughout this challenging year
* Additional kudos and thanks to:
  + **Rev. Kelly Gallagher** for so gracefully assisted us as intentional interim pastor and teacher before leaving to take on the Associate Conference Minister’s position in the Minnesota Conference in January.
  + **Rev. Liz Magill** for making it easy for us to decide to join with the Ashburnham Community Church to form The Small Church Collaborative (TSCC), an innovative approach to collaborate with another small church by sharing pastoral and administrative resources.
  + **Craig Clark** forstepping up to be a church representative to the Board for TSCC.
  + **Susan Schenck** as Vice Moderator while continuing to lead the Spirituality Ministry
  + Ministry Assembly leaders and officers who give their time and talents to keeping their various ministries of the church going: **Susan Schenck**, **Sue Chatwin, Gary Beaton, Becky Beaton, Jack Cantin, Lydia Hatch, Maura Keegan, and Dan LaVache**
  + **Jack Cantin** for upgrading the recording and streaming of our services
  + **Maura Keegan** for tirelessly ensuring that e-blasts went our every week
  + **Andrea LaVache** who is picking up the church mail from the Post Office
  + **Cindy Cantin** for checking the answering machine and getting questions and problems routed to the correct person
  + **Got Lunch Team** for continuing their wonderful work throughout this past year despite so many obstacles
* Drafted and mailed periodic written communication to wider church family providing status of church activities, building closure, opening and safety procedures
* Worked closely with our bookkeeper, Veronika Diab, to ensure our books remained in good order and bills were paid appropriately.
* Worked with Treasurer, Lydia Hatch and Jack Cantin and the staff at Wells Fargo to manage our investment funds to align with church investment policy, while arranging for withdrawals from the unrestricted fund to support cashflow needs.
* Began the transition of the collector’s position to Sandy Pyer who will be taking on those important responsibilities.
* Lead several gatherings of area churches, Southwest Association leaders and New Hampshire Associate Conference Minister to pursue the idea of collaboration, which lead our church forming TSCC with Ashburnham.
* Took on role of chair for TSCC Board and continue to work with that Board representing our church.

**Looking forward**

* Acknowledge we continue to have many challenges ahead – but it’s an opportunity to renew ourselves as we prepare for the church’s future!
* We are open and together, while continuing to operate with the safely of everyone in mind
* Continued focus will be on collaboration activities and exploring various activities to help us determine how best to support our community.
* Additional focus will be on increasing participation by members of the Rindge UCC church family
* Several Ministry leadership openings are noted on the Nomination slate, consider sharing your time and talents
* Extend invitation to attend open Ministries Assembly meeting to be held after church on the second Sunday of each month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Miller, Moderator

**Pastor’s Report**

It feels quite early to be reporting on my hear at Rindge, but hey, we live in strange times! We can hear the text Isaiah 43:19 God says “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth.” I started here January 20. I’ve only panicked one Sunday morning, looking up on my computer to remember which church was my destination before heading out.

The verse goes on to ask “do you not perceive it?” For sometimes its hard to see that change is happening. We have worship every week, we have bible study, we have Ministries Assembly meetings, Caring Cards and More, Got Lunch, Coffee Hour, we continue on with the things that make-up church. We call each other to check-in. We get too much email.

And yet we are doing something very new. The Small Church Collaborative Board is making progress with the painful details of creating a new thing—article of incorporation, figuring out non-profit status, insurance, hiring a Communications Administrator.

And we are getting to know each other. A few people have stopped in to visit, I hope all of you will join me for a discussion in the coming months. I’m starting to get worship in your pattern, you are starting to learn my foibles and failure at details.

We are doing what is important at the start of a new ministry. We are trusting God to lead us into this new thing, we are being gracious with each other, we are finding our footing together. All this will serve us well as we head into the new things that are mission-focused church for the future. Let us let God guide us into the new things ahead.

Pastor Liz

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Mae Magill

**Vice Moderator/Spirituality Ministry**

Some normalcy returned this year. We were able to return to in-person worship with social distancing and masks. Online services were also available. By April the mask requirement was dropped, but the Sunday services could still be streamed.

* During the summer there was work done to move toward joining a church collaborative.
* In September there was a back to church get together at the parsonage.
* Church was inside with masks for singing. Sarah Ames was hired as the new pianist.
* In October Rev. Kelly did a blessing of the animals service on the church lawn.
* The holiday Market was held on November 14. Ornaments and gift cards were sold, and hats and mittens collected for the elementary school.
* We started having communion again with prepackaged elements.
* For Advent the Theme was – Gifts of Love and Light. Each week a different family was asked to light the Advent wreath. An online adult Advent study was held weekly.
* The Christmas Concert and raffle were held in person with an attendance of about 25 people.
* A simple Christmas pageant was done during the service on December 18, the Cantins and their grandchildren participating.
* A decision was made to join the collaborative with Ashburnham. Rev. Liz joined us as minister in January. Rev. Kelly left for a new position in Minnesota.
* Rev. Liz is in the sanctuary twice a month. Streamed service once a month, and recorded video sermon or lay preacher once a month. Fifth Sundays are still mission projects.
* To begin Lent, ashes were made available at the church.
* A Lenten bible study was held online.
* Communion is now back to bread and juice prepared at church. People go up to get the elements and eat together in the pews.
* Palm Sunday Service was held at the church. Before the service a potluck breakfast was held. It was well attended by members of both churches. The Passion story was told/read during the service since there were no other Holy Week services.
* Easter Service was held at the Cathedral of the Pines for The Collaborative and anyone who wished to attend. We were inside due to cold, wind and intermittent snow. Sarah and Pat provided live music, and the congregation joined in the singing

Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

* A Bible study about “Why we Worship” is taking place on zoom on Wednesdays for the month of May.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Schenck, Vice Moderator/ Acting Spirituality Ministry Co-Leader

**Operations Ministry**

Church:

* Plaque for the Child’s church rug donation
* Town installed 1 Gb fiber (supposably at no cost to us)
* New outdoor swing sign
* No Ward money to be spent this year
* Church Steeple painting is the targeted use of any monies
* Repaired and painted stair risers leading to the organ.
* Request approval for $379 for new laptop to enable live services and/or zoom meetings.
* Purchased new computer along with camera. Updated software to run media locally and remotely
* Wired church area for remote broadcast of church services with the help of Barry Thompson and John Marszalek
* Repaired kitchen Sanitizer
* Fixed church entry door from sticking
* Replaced low flowing faucet in kitchen.
* Replaced door stops on swinging doors between the church vestibule and the sanctuary.
* Mounted the Child’s commemorative plaque recognizing their generous donation of the church carpet

Parsonage

* Removed internet and phone from Parsonage (savings of aprox $75)
* Replaced Entry door lock with a keycode lock so that multiple codes can be issued and managed

Respectively Submitted,

Jack Cantin, Operations Ministry Co-Leader with Dan LaVache

**Community Care Ministry**

* Cards have been sent out monthly - thinking of you, get well, sympathy, monthly greeting
* Pocket prayer shawls are available and being taken
* Box of cards available for congregation to take and send
* Coffee hour being served each Sunday.  Organized going away reception for Rev. Kelly
* Soup has been delivered as a thinking of you
* Phone calls are made on a regular basis to members on Caring Card list
* Pew cards will be placed in pews so that we can get interested visitors information and they can receive e-blast notices
* Caring Cards & More meets monthly with a new activity and fellowship.  Seven people attend regularly

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Cantin, Community Care Co-Leader with Sue Chatwin

**Communications**

* Facebook & Web site work (Go Daddy) Updated as needed – included Sunday Worship Link on You Tube link, Got Lunch updates and any events
* E-blast – Major source of communication – (5 members USP mail)

1. We e-mail an average of 95 people with an open rate between 47% to 58 %
2. Nine (9) names were added to the email list. One (1) person un-subscribed from the email list.
3. Annual meeting & Congregational meeting in Sept. published announcements Voting via Survey Monkey set up with a UCC account
4. Weekly worship services with updates & link to Sunday worship on You-tube or zoom streaming.

* Advent Season Raffle & Concert Link was
* Pastor Liz was actively added to our communication system in Nov 2021
* Christa-Belle LaTulippe was added to the Collaborative for communications in Late Feb 2022. She has post on Facebook & s now reviewing the web site.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maura Keegan, Communications Secretary

**Outreach Ministry**

Got Lunch

* We moved the food to parsonage and successfully sent off our April vacation delivery from there.
* This past year we went from serving 116 at the beginning of the summer to currently 56.
* 12 weekend bags are going to students at RMS
* HS food pantry provided mostly snacks and juice to both HS and middle school students in after school activities and is available as needed throughout school year.
* Looking for more people to take on tasks like coordinating the HS food pantry, volunteer to pick-up the Food Bank bi-weekly orders and coordinate bagging and delivery volunteers.

Charity Crafters

* Met monthly, with average o 12 to 15 women attending
* Held 8th annual Project Linus Make-A-Blanket-Day after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Over 25 women attended, with over 90 blanket donated
* Donated over 1000 blankets to Project Linus this past year

Respectively Submitted,

Becky Beaton, Outreach Ministry Co-Leader