



Steeple Notes

First Church of Rowley United Church of Christ

Do You Want to Fast This Lent?



- In the words of Pope Francis:
- Fast from hurting words, and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness, and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

- Fast from bitterness; fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness, and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.
- It is such a mystery that when we FAST our whole life goes SLOW, and then there is room for God.

Blessing to you all in this time of our Lenten Journey.
Rev. Tom

In Celebration of The Community Pancake Breakfast

A big Thank You to all who have supported the monthly Pancake Breakfast! A special shout out to the “Pancake Team”, Doug and Bev Phillips, Ken Sanford, Neil and Stone Butler, Noah McDonald, Eric Gundrum, Mark Berhinger, Angie Estevez’ and Eric Fila.

We have one more breakfast scheduled for April 8th (Easter Weekend). That will be the last one for this season. The Mother, Daughter Tea will replace the May Breakfast. Please join us for the April Breakfast. We will resume in September – April 2024

“We are a church that lives by faith, is known by love...A VOICE OF HOPE SERVING THE COMMUNITY”

Sunday Worship Service
10am
 Reverend Tom Bentley

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

March 11, 8-9:30am



MONTHLY SUPPER

March 18, 4:30pm and 6pm sittings



COMMUNITY CAFE

March 29, 9am-2pm





Mug Painting gave all a chance to explore their creative side



The Bookworm Cafe brought out a brave and happy crowd!

Happy folks enjoying turkey Dinner!

From the Missions Team . . .

Exciting news about the Community Cafe! Burwell Beans specialty coffee roasters will be providing the coffee for future cafes! We held our first cafe on February 22nd, and those who attended had a really great time!

The Community Cafe will continue to be held on the last Wednesday of every month, from 8:30 - 10am. We are hoping to attract school parents after drop-off, senior citizens, work-from-home people, church members and anyone else who wants to have a hot cup of something and connect with others. We offer coffee/tea and treats free of charge, but provide a jar for donations.

Dear Friends

Thank you for your prayers and many kindnesses shown to me throughout my illness. Each of your gestures, whether in spirit, company, prayer, a card sent, a meal cooked with love, have helped the healing I so need. We are all family in every sense of the word, and watching you open our doors to the community is so encouraging. My healing continues, and I look forward to seeing you all soon at church!

With Deep Gratitude,
Penny

MEETING REMINDERS

Cabinet Meetings - The first Wednesday in the following months: March, June, September December

Annual Meeting - The last Sunday of April. This year it's April 30th.

Semi Annual Meeting - The first Sunday in November

The Executive Committee - The first Wednesday of the month between Cabinet Meetings.



The Strategic Plan for Revitalizing Our Church

How Do We Measure Success?

We launched the strategic plan two months ago in January. Teams have been busy planning events and executing those plans. All along we have recognized that some things may work, others may not, and that's ok. We are committed to a non judgement approach recognizing that everyone involved has good intentions but not full control over the results. With that being said, we do need to look a how to evaluate what is working and what isn't. Team leaders have filled out evaluation forms, keeping track of certain data and identifying what they feel is working and what needs to be tweaked.

Success can be measured in a variety of ways. Listed are a few

By the Numbers:

5 events have occurred

- ✓ Two community dinners
- ✓ One bookwork café
- ✓ One Create Your Mug Workshop
- ✓ One Community Café

How Many Have Attended

- ✓ Community dinners = 139 - 38 additional "to go" dinners
- ✓ Book Worm Café = 45 (plus many more who came for books but didn't stay for lunch)
- ✓ Community Café = 7
- ✓ Create your mug =11
- ✓ 625 Views on Facebook of Angie Estevez's videos of our events

240 People have participated in two months!

By the Spirit

Numbers only tell a part of the story. If we gauge our success by the spirit, it may be harder to measure but the spirit can be felt. Perhaps some of these comments speak to how the spirit is moving.

"I am refreshed!"

"It's nice to have a meal you don't have to cook or buy on a Saturday night."

"I love hearing the sound of children in the church again."

" It reminds me of the old days."

“Love seeing former members of the Youth Group again.”

“Something’s happening here!”

“This church’s statement is inspiring” (on Facebook)

“Rowley Church Folks.....I miss you all!” (Facebook, former parishioner)

“I love seeing so many people from the community who we don’t know.”

By the Contributions

\$1,000 was collected at the community dinners and given to local food pantries

A Portion of the funds raised from the Bookwork Café was contributed to the Doug Stoddard Ukraine Fund toward the purchase of a jeep.

By the Pictures

Pictures say a thousand words. Here are a few that will make you smile.



If we stay true to the understanding that the “Church” is not about the number of people in the pews, but the way we demonstrate God’s love in our community, then I think we may be onto something exciting. Please keep the faith and continue to be.....a voice of hope serving the community.

Blessings and Gratitude,

Nancy Schmidt

Moderator