



Growing together in God's Love

Life in the Valley
September, 2020

August 2nd Congregational Meeting Report

On Sunday, August 2nd, RV held a Congregational Meeting following the 10:30 AM Outdoor In-Person Worship Service. The congregation took the following actions during the meeting:

Elected new Consistory Members: Karen Jacobs, Tracy Gruver and Judy Bodkin (Elder)

Elected a new Cemetery Board Member: Bill Justice

Elected a new Elder: Bill Swope

Approved the School House Renovation Proposal: *RV will remodel the School House into a Parish House, containing the Pastor's Study, Church Office, large Gathering Area, Bathroom and Storage Area. Work will be paid from the \$100,000 gift RV received, gifted specifically for the renovation. Current self-contract estimates for the work are \$79,575, which creates a \$20,425 Contingency Fund. Dave Cressman is appointed as RV's Self-Contractor, with the authority to contract work to be done as necessary, submitting monthly reports to Consistory.*

Consistory Re-organization

At their August meeting, the new Consistory re-organized themselves for the 2020 – 2021 year:

President:	Terry Groff
Vice President:	Janet Schlieder
Secretary:	Jaimie Ruane
Treasurer Liaison:	Pam Cressman
Volunteer Ministry Coordinator:	Karen Whitaker
Fellowship Committee:	Judy Bodkin
Christian Education Committee:	Sam Ervin
Mission Committee:	Karen Jacobs
Worship Committee:	Jaimie Ruane
Special Services Committee:	Tracy Gruver
Property Committee:	Karen Whitaker
School House Renovation:	Pam Cressman
Budget/Finance Committee:	Pam Cressman
Nominating Committee:	VP Janet Schlieder
Safety Committee:	Terry Groff
Elders:	Judy Bodkin
Congregational Nursing:	Karen Whitaker
Guardian of the Keys:	VP Janet Schlieder

School House Renovation

Since the Congregational Meeting, work has begun on the School House Renovation. RV applied for and has received the permits we need from the Township for the renovation work to be done. Our dedicated volunteers have spent many, many hours of demolition work, tearing down ceilings and walls and floors. Soon the large beams in the floor will be removed and the new floor can be laid!

If you would like to see the work that's been done, the house is open on Sunday mornings after RV's Outside Worship Service.

In-Person Outdoor Services Continue in September

In September, RV will continue holding In-Person Outdoor Worship Services. We will offer our streamed services at 9:30 AM, as we have been doing these past several months. Then, at 10:30 AM we will hold in-person worship services on the church lawn. Bring your lawn chairs, as we have purchased 13" by 13" canopies to put up on the lawn for shade. Please note that, while not identical, the services will be very similar and the sermon will be the same sermon for both services.

At the service we will be practicing RV's Green Phase Distancing Guidelines listed below, including wearing a mask during the service and keeping six feet of separation from others. We will also ask you to **hum** but not **sing** the songs, as singing is a sure-fire way to spread the virus. We thank you in advance for following our guidelines.

Obviously, the Outdoor Service will be dependent on the weather. If there is a threat of rain, the service will not be held, both for your comfort and also to protect the sound equipment we'll be using. Please use your common sense and watch the streamed service if rain is predicted!

On the Sundays that we are able to hold the outdoor service an offering will be received.

RV's Grocery Cards will be available to be purchased. On the first two Sundays of September, you will also be able to purchase **Gift Cards for area and on-line businesses through Scrip**. Both of these programs will help support RV's ministries. During September, RV will also be **collecting non-perishable food donations which will be donated to the Quakertown Food Pantry**. Simply bring your donations to RV's Outdoor Worship Services on Sunday mornings.

RV continues to need a small group of volunteers (2 – 4 people) to put up the canopies and set up the sound system for the Outdoor Service. Volunteers will want to be at the church about 9:30 AM to set up.

RV Green Phase Distancing Guidelines

Whenever possible, church events should be held outdoors.

Masks will be worn at all times. If you do not have a mask, RV will provide one for you.

Distancing (6 feet) between people should be maintained.

Hands should be washed or cleansed when arriving and when leaving RV.

If an event is held inside the church, participants will be required to sign RV's waiver.

If an event is held inside, please work to reduce the number of items that need to be touched. For example, open doors so that door handles do not need to be used.

We will be utilizing the downstairs of the church: Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and Bathrooms. Unless you are involved in the Streaming Worship Service on Sunday mornings please do not go upstairs to the sanctuary.

At the conclusion of activities and events, any RV facilities or materials used will be wiped down with disinfectant wipes (provided by RV).

RV Online Ministries

The following ministries continue to be available on RV's Facebook page and/or Website. All of them are available after their streaming dates if you'd like to watch them another time. Please make sure to spread RV's message of hope by sharing our streams.

Wednesday Evening Devotions

Pastor Steve will continue to stream from his Dining Room a short devotional (10 – 15 minutes) every Wednesday, starting at 7 PM.

RV Children's Time

Every other week, RV will post a Children's Time, a short lesson for our kids. The lesson will include the telling of a Bible Story and Crafts. While geared toward children, adults are also invited to join in! Thank you to RV's Christian Education Committee, especially Bryan Schlieder, RV's on-air teacher. Thank you also to Trent Yerk, for taping and editing the lessons.

Friday Evening Concerts with Jeff

Jeff Umbehauer will continue to share concerts from his home on his Facebook page every Friday around 5 PM. Please join Jeff and invite your friends, too.

RV Small Groups

Bible Study Class: Coping as Christians – What the Bible Teaches About Stress

This class is looking at the Bible to learn what the Bible has to say about stress. During September, we will continue to explore our purpose in life. Pastor Steve is leading the class, which is held on Monday nights at 7:00 pm. Please join us for our lively discussions and caring support!

Tuesday Brown Bag Lunches

Every Tuesday at Noon, come and join a "Brown Bag Lunch" at RV. Bring your own lunch from home (RV will provide drinks). If you feel like joining us, please do so, as we work to stay connected in this continued time of distancing.

RV Larger Group Opportunities

RV Labor Day Weekend Concert

Following the Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday, September 6th (Rain Date: September 13th), RV will sponsor a concert featuring RV's musicians and readers. The concert will be held outside. We will observe distancing guidelines. Please join us!

RV Mission Outreach

Wednesday Property Work

Every Wednesday from approximately 9 AM to 1 PM members and friends of RV are meeting to do work in the church buildings and on the church grounds. If you are interested in taking part in this ministry, please join us! Thank you to everyone who is working so hard to care for our beautiful property and buildings.

Telephone Pals:

Pastor Steve is using our social media voices (email, facebook, website) to communicate with our members. However, RV has folks who are not on-line. To reach out to them, we have paired up volunteers to act as telephone pals, to alleviate their sense of isolation, make sure they're doing alright, keep them abreast of RV news, and make RV aware of any needs they might have. Thank you to those who are acting as pals. If you'd like to take part, please let me know – more phone calls mean more contacts in this time of isolation.

Errand Runners:

A group of RV volunteers are busy running errands for those who cannot or do not want to go out, primarily grocery and medicine shopping. We are practicing distancing, leaving packages on porches. If you would like to act as an errand runner or need an errand run, please let me know, and THANK YOU to our volunteers.

Good Samaritan Fund

RV is continuing to use our Good Samaritan Fund to help people who come to the church in need. If you would like to contribute to the fund, please do so using your Communion

Envelopes or indicate on your check that your contribution is for the Good Samaritan Fund. Thanks to your generous giving, the fund is currently in the black. However, chances are that we will deplete our current balance by the end of this month, so please continue your support!

People in the News

- Remember Bob Guinther and Marvin Brandis, who were hospitalized in August

September Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
August 30 9:30 AM Streamed Worship Service 10:30 AM In-Person Outdoor Worship	31 7 PM Bible Study	September 1 Noon Brown Bag Lunch @ RV 7:00 PM Consistory	2 9:00 AM Property Work 7:00 PM Streamed Devotion	3	4	5
6 9:30 AM Streamed Worship Service 10:30 AM In-Person Outdoor Worship 11:15 AM RV Concert	Labor Day 7 7 PM Bible Study	8 Noon Brown Bag Lunch @ RV 7:00 PM Consistory	9 9:00 AM Property Work 7:00 PM Streamed Devotion	10	11	12
13 9:30 AM Streamed Worship Service 10:30 AM In-Person Outdoor Worship	14 7 PM Bible Study	15 Noon Brown Bag Lunch @ RV	16 9:00 AM Property Work 7:00 PM Streamed Devotion	17	18	19
20 9:30 AM Streamed Worship Service 10:30 AM In-Person Outdoor Worship	21 7 PM Bible Study	22 Noon Brown Bag Lunch @ RV	23 9:00 AM Property Work 7:00 PM Streamed Devotion	24	25	26
27 9:30 AM Streamed Worship Service 10:30 AM In-Person Outdoor Worship	28 7 PM Bible Study	29 Noon Brown Bag Lunch @ RV	30 9:00 AM Property Work 7:00 PM Streamed Devotion	October 1	2	3

