



Life In the Valley

January, 2022

My RV Brothers and Sisters,

In December RV invited our new brothers and sisters at St. John's UCC (Richlandtown) to our annual Christmas Festival. Twenty to thirty people from St. John's joined us, along with a number of other guests. Fellowship Hall was overflowing with people.

When I went home that night, I can't say that I was energized, as one would expect.

Instead, I felt peaceful. I thought about why I responded that way for the rest of the night.

What I came up with was this: As you know, RV has moved very quickly in your relationship with St. John's. I have moved very quickly in my relationship with St. John's. What would usually take months of consideration and prayer and discernment took weeks.

What happened at Christmas Festival was an affirmation for me that, by entering into this new relationship with St. John's, we are doing the right thing. It wasn't just the number of people. It was the interaction that was occurring between the people, between you and our guests from St. John's. It was affirming to see what was happening.

We've been through, not one, but two very difficult years. Things were already changing here before COVID. We could use a jolt of energy, the promise of new and better things to come. I believe that your new and soon to begin to develop relationship with St. John's promises to be an exciting new chapter of ministry for both congregations. I am excited to see what God is going to do in our midst. I am at peace that we are moving in the right direction. And so, I say to you.....

Happy New Year!

Pastor Steve

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Shared Minister Update:

On Sunday, January 2nd, Pastor Steve will lead worship at St. John's UCC as their half-time settled pastor for the first time. That Sunday he will be on vacation from RV, so RV's worship service time will remain at 9:30 AM for our Annual Carol Sing. However, the next Sunday, January 9th, will mark the first Sunday when he will be leading worship at both Ridge Valley and St. John's. To make this possible RV will move its worship time up one-half hour, beginning at 9:00 AM. This will be our new start time. Please make sure to make note of this change!

Please mark your calendar for the **2022 RV Annual Meeting**, which will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022 following the morning's worship service.. We will be reviewing the *2021 Annual Reports* and approving the *2022 RV Budget & Mission Budget*. Other items may be added to the agenda as well. We will be streaming the meeting. A pot-luck brunch will follow the meeting.

Please place this date on your calendar and plan on joining us, as we continue to move into a new future together.

Pastor Steve will be on vacation from December 27th – January 4th. He will lead worship on December 26th. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please leave a message on the church answering machine. Messages will be checked regularly and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

*Make sure to visit our **Facebook page** and **WEB Site**, www.ridgevalleyucc.org for latest church announcements and information.*

Offering Envelopes

2022 Offering Envelopes are available to be picked up in Fellowship Hall.

Targeted Giving at RV

Karen's Kitchen Towels

Karen Ziegler is donating kitchen towels she makes to RV to benefit our **Building Improvement Fund**. The towels can be found in Fellowship Hall. Currently featured are **Christmas Themed Towels**. A basket for a donation (\$3.00 is recommended) can be found there, as well. THANK YOU, KAREN!

Robin's Cards

Robin Myren has made various kinds of cards and donated them to RV to be sold to benefit **RV's Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund is used to assist those who come to RV seeking financial assistance. Suggested price for the cards is \$3.00 apiece. Enjoy the cards, and thank you for your support of the Fund. A big thank you to Robin for sponsoring this fund raiser!

Improvement Fund

The Improvement Fund is RV's resource for physical care and repairs to our facilities and grounds. Please bring a few extra dollars with you on a Sunday and use the envelopes in the pews to contribute to the Fund, so that we have adequate resources in the event of something breaking or needing to be repaired. Thank you!

Good Samaritan Fund

RV's Good Samaritan Fund is used to help those who come to RV in need of financial support to purchase groceries or gas and pay rent or utilities. It is supported by your donations, primarily through your using the Communion Envelopes in your Giving Envelope Boxes. Please consider donating to the fund as RV continues to support those in our community who need a helping hand.

*Direct Contributions to RV's General Fund can be made through
RV's Offering Envelopes*

Sunday Morning Offering Plate

On RV's Facebook page through Tithe.ly

RV's Bank Bill Payment Program

*Indirect Contributions to RV's General Fund can be made by
Buying Grocery Cards*

In 2022 RV will continue selling **Grocery Cards from Landis, Giant and Redners**. Five percent of all your purchases using the cards is donated back to RV. This is a "free" way that you can help support RV as we work toward meeting our Budget in 2022! Cards can be purchased in \$20, \$50 and \$100 amounts following worship on Sunday mornings. Remember: The cash cards can be used at Giant and Landis Gas Stations to fill your car up with gas.

Shopping with Scrip

You can still order Scrip Cards on Sunday mornings, order at home or buy on your phone at the moment you need them!

This is an easy way to support RV. You do the shopping and RV benefits!

Ordering from RV's Amazon Smile Account

Thank you for your continued dedication to the ministry we share here at RV!

What happens at RV in case of **Winter Weather** on a Sunday Morning? If the weather is bad on a Sunday morning, please watch our streamed service. If no one can get to the church, Pastor Steve will stream the service from his Dining Room.

Property Report

Church:

-Certa Pro has returned to fix our punch list.

-Jeff has done the balcony and has started the right side of wainscot. The color is beautiful and so is the job. Thank you to Sue Leidy and other on PT. who worked hard to consult on paint colors.

-Jeff has offered to do the ceiling under the balcony and refresh the white woodwork for \$500. The Property Team has all agree to this proposal.

-Electric rates spiked Dec. 1st from 7.54 to 10.28 per KWH for Commercial use.

A rate of 7.01 was locked in for the Church for 12 months Nov. 29th. This is a savings of 32% for the Church on generation charges for 1 year. It is the "standard" offer through PPL, it is not a "shopping rate". The rate will be monitored and checked for the best renewal rate again next Nov. 2022.

-Bill Justice is still exploring the Church insurance. No report yet, but costs are forecast to continue to rise in 2022.

-Our 3rd year of wreath making has earned us \$2060. towards repaying the Capital Fund for the paint project. A report on the total Capital Fund payback earned in 2021 will be presented at the Congregational Meeting.

-A very special thank you to Karen Zeigler, who's beautiful towels are a great property fundraiser. Way to go Karen!!! Thanks to all who purchase the towels. Candy / snack earnings are also helping! Thank you to our Candy replenishers!

-Property Team is still looking for help to remove bagged trash and recyclables weekly. Please take a bag home with you. We don't want to add trash removal costs to our budget.

-A wish list of projects and goals of the Property Team for 2022, will be composed for the Congregational Meeting. We are asking for input, but would like to keep costs very low in 2022 as we rebuild the Capital Fund from the painting.

Some suggestions already submitted:

-Tracy Gruver has expressed a desire for a "real light" with a "real switch" in the steeple storage area.

- Liz Schreier has suggested lines be painted in the parking lot.

- Doug has suggested the flat roof on the Kitchen and Bell tower will need a coat of sealant.

-Sue L. Use some paint we have purchased to brighten the Fellowship Hall.

-Trent. Kitchen floor update and painting some of the Kitchen area.

Considering what was achieved in 2021, these projects are very achievable.

Cemetery

-\$10,000. in RVUCC Cemetery money is now earning a "inflation indexed rate of return", that can help supplement our portion of the "old Cemetery" mowing in the future. Since investing in the Treasury Bonds in late Oct. we have already earned \$59 in interest.

-In Jan. a final tally of the RVUCC Cemetery Perpetual Fund account will be made.

Enough money will be set aside for the expected 2022 mowing and remaining funds will be used to buy more US Treasury I bonds.

It is expected we can buy another \$3000. @ the 7.12 % I Bond rate.

-We will need to continue the Memorial Day and All Saints Day Cemetery appeals to cover our portion of the old cemetery costs. Thank you for generous support in 2021.

FYI. Our 50% portion of the mowing from the old Union cemetery agreement is projected at \$2600. for 2022 (which we pay directly to maintain the Bridge Cemetery). We pay for 50% of the care for only the 2 older sections of the cemetery. We don't contribute financially to the newer St. John's section care of Cemetery, except through "new plot sales" and "opening fees".

Schoolhouse

-A robotic vacuum has been ordered to clean the school. It is hoped that this will take care of most of the cleaning needs. Please always leave the building better than you found it. Property Team will supplement cleaning as needed.

-Tia Chi classes are now being held Monday and Tuesday Night. How wonderful!

Consistory, Sunday School and other meetings. Wreath classes were held in the School. I believe everyone is in agreement, our use of building is beyond expectations.

-The cement walk and blacktop of the church parking lot needs transitional blacktop.

-Discussions are still being held on future use needs and planning furniture and storage needs.

RV In-Person COVID Distancing Guidelines

1. Mask wearing at RV is strongly, strongly recommended and encouraged. Unless you have a medical condition which makes mask wearing difficult for you, please

wear a mask. We do this not only for ourselves, but also for everyone around us. RV will have masks available for you at the church. However, mask wearing inside at RV events and worship is not mandatory. If it is your decision not to wear a mask, you are welcome at RV.

2. When sitting in the sanctuary for worship, please spread out from those not in your family. We will not put the X's back on the pews - use your own judgement. Likewise, please space out in Fellowship Hall before and after worship and at RV meetings and events.
3. Please use hand sanitizer available at RV upon arriving.
4. We will once again be opening the windows during worship for better air circulation in the sanctuary.
5. If you are ill or have been in contact with someone who has COVID, please do not attend events at RV until you have met the CDC guidelines.
6. We will continue to ask the sexton to clean for COVID.
7. Please make the best decisions for your family.
8. Consistory reserves the right to mandate mask wearing at specific events when the occasion makes mask wearing necessary. For instance, if a couple who is having an infant baptized during a worship service requests that everyone be masked, we will honor their request. Consistory will also be monitoring the situation and will make any changes to these guidelines when needed.

Worship in January

Pastor Steve will continue to offer **Wednesday Evening Devotions** from his Dining Room, streaming live on RV's Facebook Page starting at 7:00 PM. Please join him on Wednesday evenings or watch the post later in the week!

On December 24th, please join RV for a **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**, starting at 7 PM. The theme of the service is *"Our Christmas Heritage: Christmas This Year."* The service will be in-person and streamed.

Upcoming Worship Highlights

December 24th 7:00 PM Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

"Our Christmas Heritage: Christmas This Year"

Lighting of the Christ Candle

December 26th First Sunday after Christmas

"Our Christmas Heritage: Christmas in the Future"

Lighting of the Christ Candle

January 2nd Carol Sing

"Carol Sing"

Lighting of the Christ Candle

January 9th Celebration of Epiphany

"Our Epiphany Heritage"

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Celebration of Communion

Sunday School during Worship

Please join the Special Services Committee after Worship on Sunday, January 9th to help take down the Christmas Decorations.

Please sign up to help on Sunday mornings in 2022 by sponsoring **Sunday Bulletins** (\$12.00), Silk Altar Flowers (\$10.00) or Fresh Flowers (which you provide).

Fellowship Activities

Please plan on staying following the *2022 Annual Meeting* on January 30th for a **Pot-luck Brunch**. Sign up in Fellowship Hall to provide specific food items which will be needed for the brunch, or bring a “brunchy” dish to share and join us!

RV BINGO NIGHT returns on Saturday, January 15th. Please join us starting at 6 PM for a light dinner, BINGO and of course, fabulous prizes!

Wednesday Brown Bag Lunches will no longer be held. Instead, we will gather once a month for a **Church Pot-Luck**. In January the Pot-Luck will be held on Wednesday, January 19th. Please bring a dish to share and join us, starting at noon!

LOOKING AHEAD: 2022 FELLOWSHIP EVENTS!

In December, Fellowship Committee met and set the following 2022 Fellowship Event Calendar. Of course, new events will be added as the year goes by, but for now make sure to get these dates on your social calendar!

February

Game Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, February 5th
Pot-Luck: Noon, Wednesday, February 9th
Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, February 19th

March

RV GRAS!!!: 6:00 PM, Tuesday, March 1st
Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, March 12th
Pot-Luck: Noon, Wednesday, March 23rd
Lent Dinner & Discussion: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, March 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

April

Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, April 9th
Easter Egg Hunt: 10:00 AM, Saturday, April 16th
Easter Sunday Reception: 10:00 PM, Sunday, April 17th
Pot-Luck: Noon, Wednesday, April 20th
“The Sound of Music” @ DeSales: 8 PM, Saturday, April 30th
Lent Dinner & Discussion: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, April 6th & 13th

May

Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, May 14th
Pot-Luck: Noon, Wednesday, May 18th

June

Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, June 11th
Pot-Luck: Noon, Wednesday, June 15th
Iron Pigs Game: 6:35 PM, Saturday, June 18th
Cornhole Night: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, June 29th

July

Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, July 23rd
Cornhole Night: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, July 13th & 27th

Outdoor Service & Brunch: Sunday, July 31st

August

Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, August 20th

Cornhole Night: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, August 10th & 24th

Cookout & Pet Blessing: 5:00 PM, Sunday, August 28th

September

Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, September 10th

Pot-Luck: Noon, Wednesday, September 14th

Game Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, September 24th

October

Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, October 8th

Pot-Luck: Noon, Wednesday, October 12th

Fall Festival: 6 PM, Friday, October 21st

November

Bingo Night: 6:00 PM, Saturday, November 12th

Pot-Luck: Noon, Wednesday, November 16th

Christmas Decorating Day: 10:00 AM, Sunday, November 27th

December

Christmas Festival: 4:00 PM, Saturday, December 3rd

Christmas Eve Reception: Saturday, December 24th

Christian Education News

RV's Monday Night Bible Study meets from 7 PM to 8 PM every Monday night. Following a Christmas break, starting January 10th we will continue to discuss the ways that God is speaking to us in our lives today. The **Sunday Morning Bible Study** will not meet during the winter.

2022 Sunday School

"The Ten Commandments"

Moses & the Exodus

9:00 AM, Sunday, January 9th

Moses @ Mount Sinai

9:00 AM, Sunday, January 16th

On January 9th and January 16th, RV's children are invited to attend Sunday School during worship. We are introducing a study of the 10 Commandments by learning about Moses.

✝ **Mission Outreach** ✝

Code Blue Emergency Homeless Shelter is a volunteer staffed community ministry which provides a warm bed and meal to the homeless of Upper Bucks County on cold winter nights when the temperature or wind chill are 26 degrees or lower.

The homeless shelter is located at the Masonic Lodge in downtown Quakertown. The volunteer season will run from November 15, 2018 to April 15, 2019.

Volunteer Opportunities at Code Blue include:

Host/hostess Transport Driver Morning Aide Meal Preparation Overnight Team

To learn more about volunteering at Code Blue, please contact them at leslinrice@yahoo.com or call 215 - 536 – 5166.

***While at RV, thank you for your help in being a good steward of
God's creation by using***

Paper Recycling Bin in the church parking lot

Bulletin Recycling Basket in Fellowship Hall

Recycling your **cans and plastics** in the bins opposite the bathrooms in the kitchen

**Please treat the church as you would your home, cleaning up after yourself
before you leave. Let's show our pride in the beautiful
building with which we have been blessed!**

RV Caring for Family Pets!

RV is collecting needed items for the local no-kill shelter Animals in Distress in Coopersburg. Specific items we are collecting include:

Bleach/Disinfectant Spray

Paper Towels

Hand Sanitizers/Wipes

Dog Collars & Leashes

Clumping Cat Litter

Kitten & Cat Food

Puppy & Dog Food

Animal Bedding

Training treats

Cat & Dog Toys

Dog & Cat Beds

Grocery Cards

Blankets & Towels (old and new)

For larger animals (horses, goats, etc.): RV will pick up bedding and food if you like

There is a display in Fellowship Hall where gifts can be left. There's also a jar where monetary gifts can be made. Each month all of the gifts will be delivered to Animals in Distress.

Thank you for caring for all of God's creatures!

In the Spirit of Health

Please stop by the Church Office on Sunday, January 9th for RV's monthly **Blood Pressure Screenings!**

People to Remember

Prayer Concerns

Hospitalized in December: Marian Lewis, Levi Myren, Terry Groff

Illness: Jaimie & Alice Ruane, Chip Stevens, Judy Bodkin, Helen Freed, Cathy Ziegler, Pam & Dave Cressman's great-daughter Brynlee

Injury: Robin Myren

Recovery: John Bruno, Jack Daniel, Sue Swope, Karen Ziegler, Joan Freed, Kay Rossall, Bill Huskin, Shirley Detweiler, Glenn Ziegler's mom Elaine

Grieving: Pam & Dave Cressman, Bob & Donna Guinther, Marge & Hank Schmidenberg family

Personal: Samantha Ervin

Thank you to:

- * Everyone who helped lead the Advent Services
- * Brenda Detweiler, for decorating the piano with period Christmas Decorations
- * Everyone who donated to this year's gifts for the children at Bethany Home. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
- * Everyone who sent Christmas Cards to RV's two Compassion Children or donated to their Christmas Gift from RV.
- * Sue Swope, Brenda Detweiler, the Special Services Committee and everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas and Advent

January Birthdays: 1/3 Sue Leidy, Karen Whitaker, 1/10 Ken Young, 1/13 Cindy Bickel, 1/15 Barry Leidy, 1/17 Cassandra Krout, Suzanne Bateman, 1/18 Madeleine Barlow, 1/19 Gloria Brandis, Sandy Yerk, 1/24 Billy James, 1/26 Tim Moyer, 1/29 Kristine Wolset, 1/30 Chris Brandis, Carson Sinnott

Ridge Valley United Church of Christ

905 Allentown Road

Sellersville, Pennsylvania 18960

Visit RV's WEB Site, www.ridgevalleyucc.org for latest church announcements & information

Visit us on Facebook

rvucc.pastor@verizon.net

Church Office

215-257-7244

Pastor Steve Myren Home Phone:

267-923-8838

Pastor's Cell Phone:

267-575-6773

President Bill Swope

215-538-2263

Gloria Brandis (Prayer Chain)

215-723-7130

January 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
January 2 Carol Sing 9:30 am Worship	3	4	5 9 am Work Day 7 pm Devotion	6	7	8 10 am Card-making Class
9 Epiphany 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Take Down Decorations & Blood Pressure Screenings	10 7 pm Bible Study	11	12 9 am Work Day 6 pm Devotion	13	14	15 6 pm BINGO NIGHT!
16 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Sunday School	17 7 pm Bible Study	18	19 9 am Work Day Noon Pot-luck 6 pm Devotion 7 pm Worship Committee	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Sunday School	24 7 pm Bible Study	25	26 9 am Work Day 7 pm Devotion	27	28	29 10 am Card-making Class
30 Annual Meeting 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Annual Meeting & Brunch	31 7 pm Bible Study	February 1 7 pm Consistory	2 9 am Work Day 7 pm Devotion	3	4	5 10 am Card-making Class 6:00 pm Family Game Night

