

The Vine

News, Information and Inspiration from Royersford Baptist Church

Volume 53/Issue 1

January/February 2022





A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Recently, I was working on a crochet project and the ball of yarn I was using was horribly tangled. In my attempts to untangle it, I created a bigger tangle. I kept trying to fix it, only to make a bigger mess. Meanwhile, I had a half-finished sweater on the line. Now, in the world of crochet it is not that difficult to start a new piece of yarn. But I was insistent that I could complete the project without cutting it off and starting again.

Finally, after days of wrestling with the yarn, I just cut it off and started a new piece. Within a few hours, I was done, my project was beautiful and no one could tell that I had started a new piece of yard mid-way.

I could have saved hours of frustration and gained more free time if I had given up my futile attempts at disentangling the yarn and stopped clinging to some made-up ideal about not breaking the yarn.

Sometimes we cling to ideas of how things must be done, and in the process, we lose out on time, talents, and energy that could have been better used. During Advent, we spoke a lot about endings and beginnings. So, as we enter 2022, what are the things that you are called to end in order for something new to begin? What are your proverbial balls of yarn that need untangling? Or do you need to just cut the string and start fresh?

One thing I'm grateful for is that we don't have to go it alone- surely, if one of you had seen me fighting with that yarn, you would have told me just to cut it and move on. That's what we can do for one another.

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

As we continue to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, a reminder that masks are required at all times while at RBC.

If you don't feel well, or if you have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, please stay home until you receive a negative covid test or have completed a full quarantine.

Please get your boosters, practice social distancing, wear a mask, and take care of one another.

We will continue to offer our worship service online- you can access it by going to our website.

<https://rbcabc.org/online-worship>

A message from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health:

Our community is stronger when we're all protected. The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccinees are safe, effective, and widely available.

The COVID-19 vaccine will protect you from severe illness, hospitalization, and death; and protects vulnerable people in your community who can't get the vaccine. A healthier community starts with you. For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, call the Montgomery County Office of Public Health at 610-278-5117 or visit

<https://www.montcopa.org/COVID-19Vaccine>

Ever miss a Sunday Service? Check out the recordings on our Website:

<https://rbcabc.org/online-worship>

RBC BOOK CLUB

January & February 2022

January 20 - This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger

(author of "Ordinary Grace") 1932, Minnesota— 4 Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, flee the Lincoln School, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own. Their journey into the unknown has them crossing paths with struggling farmers, displaced families and lost souls of all kinds as they discover the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

February 17 - The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna by Juliet Grames

From Calabria, Italy to Connecticut, this is a sweeping family saga about sisterhood, secrets, Italian immigration, and the American dream. Stella's family believes she is cursed, an oddity because of her beauty and intelligence. This witty novel tells her tenacious fight against her own fate for what she desires most, independence.



RBC Youth Group



The new year is here! And I can't help but feel like everything we have been doing these days feels new. Even when we are doing activities and events that we used to do, they feel now new again. It goes without saying how Covid put a stop to a lot for us, as a church and as a Youth Ministry, and we are slowly trying to regain momentum as we put the pieces back together gradually. But each time we add an element back into our Youth Ministry program, it feels a bit like new life. And to be honest, new life is exciting! Even if, and sometimes especially if, that new life is bringing back something we used to do.

So, with that said, our Youth Ministry is looking at a fairly clean foundation for this new year and we are the builders. We will draw from our past experiences, and be influenced by our current surroundings, and of course refer to God's blueprints as we build. But it is going to feel new and different. However, it is going to take some time before we have four walls and a roof, and it is going to take time to see the big picture and feel the comfort of stability, and that is okay. For now, we focus on vision, and faith. We know that God is at work in our Youth Ministry and our church, and that our timeline is not His timeline. There is peace in that. There is pace in that.

The youth have been going strong with our weekly gatherings at the church from 6:00 – 8:00 pm every Sunday. Along with monthly fun nights, whether that be the Haunted Hayride at Colonial, or a night out bowling at Limerick Bowl. We have a great group of middle school students ready and eager to make this youth group their place of community and retreat. They are the pioneers to this new reconstructing RBC Youth Group. And let me tell you, if there is anyone who has the energy to work on new construction.... It is middle school students.

-Ryan Seckman, Youth Director

Royersford Baptist Church Nursery School

Excitement is building every day for Christmas! In the classroom we have made nativity scenes and ornaments representing the birth of Jesus. The 2S have had snowball fights and made snow, of course we haven't had snow, but we had fun with cotton balls and shaving cream. In our 3-yr old class we have been working on our writing skills, made snowmen and even Santa faces! In Pre-K we have been practicing our letter sounds, numbers, and writing our names. Our Enrichment traveled around the world visiting several countries and learning about how they celebrate Christmas. It has been a fun month! On Monday, December 20th and Wednesday, December 22nd Santa came to visit!! We were all so excited to see him! The kids all found out they were on the NICE list because their teachers told Santa they are all working so hard in school. On January 20th, open enrollment will begin for the 2022-2023 School Year! If you or know of anyone who may be interested in learning more about our program please reach out to the director, Melissa Moffa, at directorrbcnslc@gmail.com!

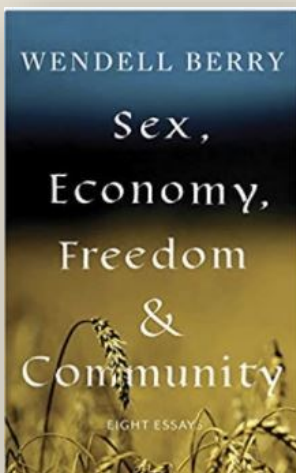
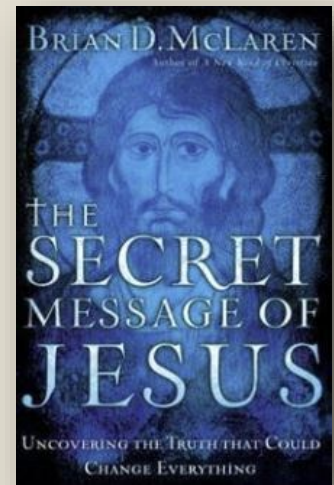


A Quick Update From Mark Hite, Your Friendly Local Moderator

From Your Friendly Local Moderator: Some Books That Are Blessing Me

One of the things I've enjoyed immensely about retirement from my long-time career is having time and energy to *read*. I want to tell you about three books that have been blessing me immensely over the past year-and-a-half or so.

The Secret Message of Jesus, by Brian McLaren (2006) –What? Secret? The gist is that if we read the message of Jesus understanding its original context, the Good News is not primarily about having a change of heart and saying a formulaic prayer that ensures our entry to heaven after we die. It's much more radical, demanding, close and exciting. This reading makes sense out of what may otherwise seem to be inscrutable sayings. The revolutionary message of Jesus challenges us to turn our thinking, being and acting in the world upside down, based on the great commandments "love God, and love your neighbor". I spent quite a few years trying to "fake it 'til you make it" as a classic evangelical – I never "made it". This understanding of the gospel, though – this makes my soul vibrate. The

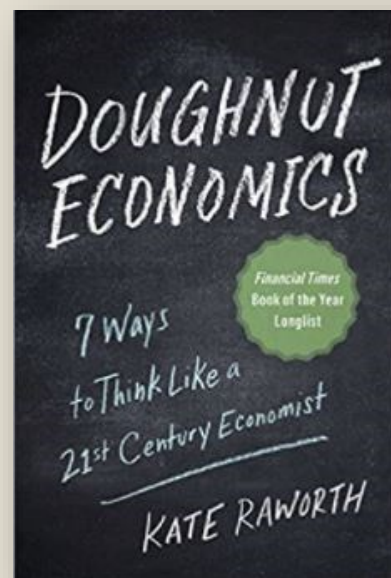


Sex, Economy, Freedom & Community – Eight Essays, by Wendell Berry (1992) – This guy is a novelist, poet and essayist...and a Kentucky farmer for the last 56 years. His experience is both rural and urban, his worldview both highly informed and down-to-earth. These essays are characterized by piercing insight into what it means for people to live together on the earth and what makes that go well and what makes it go badly. The concept of "community" lives deep in Berry's heart and enlivens every word.

These essays address community, economy, ethics, and creation care in their connections with each other. The inspirations for these essays came along 30ish years ago; the passage of time has only proven the prescience of Berry's thinking. Brilliant, inspiring, grounding.

Doughnut Economics – Seven Ways to Think Like A 21st Century Economist, by Kate

Raworth (2017) – Raworth explains how the current economic “orthodoxy” came to be, how it has wormed its way into our thinking and acting, and how it is deeply flawed by treating as “laws” concepts that are actually human inventions full of convenient but ungrounded assumptions. But she doesn't stop there – she continues by throwing out some amazing ideas about how we need to (and can) re-think economics by starting with a goal: for everyone to be able to thrive within the bounds of what our beautiful planet can support.



The theme running through all three of these books is that we humans are really good at missing the point, and it's possible to understand why, and it's possible to move on and make progress. Jesus tells us that if we have faith like a mustard seed, we can say to a mountain “move”, and it will move. Translation: if we believe in the kingdom of God just enough to start acting on it, seemingly impossible things can happen.

I'm looking forward to a new year with you all in the already-here and still-coming kingdom of God! Blessings!

RBC Leadership Council members are here for you!

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

OFFICERS

Moderator

Presides at meetings of the Leadership Council, and at meetings of the Membership.

Mark Hite

Vice-Moderator

Assumes all roles and responsibilities of the Moderator during the Moderator's absence.

Karen Mason

Clerk

Keeps accurate records of Leadership Council meetings and meetings of the Membership.

Keeps records of membership, conducts business correspondence.

Deb Savage

Treasurer

Receives records of deposit and disburses funds as directed, keeps accurate records of disbursements and monthly reports to Leadership Council.

Weegee Neiffer

Financial Secretary

Receives and records cash and checks, and deposits them promptly. Monitors online giving.

Provides a monthly summary to the Treasurer.

Bernice Rogers

GROUPS

Education & Discipleship Group

Learning and teaching how, today, to live and serve like Jesus.

Leader: Mary Panetta

Assistant Leader: Millie Collins

Worship Group

Going to God with all our hearts and offerings.

Janelle Trulson

Membership Care Group

Attending to the social and spiritual needs of members, deepening friendships through small group ministries and other RBC activities, and making it fun and easy to become an RBC member.

Melissa Reitnour

Mission & Outreach Group

Discerningly, through attention and selfless action, bringing hope to a world in need of our caring.

Reid Trulson

Youth Ministry Group

Bucking trends through Jesus-sponsored risk-taking and engagement in activities of Groups at RBC.

VACANT

Facilities Group

Through RBC-owned buildings and grounds, creating and preserving a beautiful and socially responsible place to worship God and serve the community.

Leader: George Reitnour

Assistant Leader:

Herb Rogers

RBC COMMITTEES 2021

Finance Committee

Assist in budgeting and financial matters affecting RBC.

Leader: Mark Hite

Members: Weegee Neiffer; Bernice Rogers; Ryan Crist; George Reitnour

Staff Relations Committee

Foster constructive communications between RBC and the staff.

Leader: Karen Mason

Members: Del Engstrom; Cathy Slade; Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi

RBC MINISTRY TEAMS 2021:

RBC Kids Planning Team

Leader: Mary Panetta

Assistant Leader:

Millie Collins

Members: Ginny Dearolf; Lorri Engstrom;

Marcia Ricketts; Sandi Rosenberry;

Ryan Seckman (Youth Leader)

Sarah Strosahl-Kagi (Pastor)

Selectives Team

Karen Hite; Stan Slade; Reid Trulson

RBC/RBCNS LLC Team

Millie Collins (representing RBC)

George Reitnour (representing RBC)

Cara Burrell (representing RBCNS)

Michelle Hang (representing RBCNS)

Melissa Moffa (representing RBCNS)

Facilities Maintenance Team

Leader: Chris Scales

Members: Charlie Denning;

George Reitnour; Herb Rogers;

Dan Stauffer; Dave Strosahl;

Gene Wheeler

Membership Care Team

Leader: Melissa Reitnour

Members: Tonya MacCoy; Marty Murray;

Nancy O'Neil; Marcia Ricketts; Sandy Smoyer

RBC Reopening Team

Millie Collins (representing Education & Discipleship Group)

Janelle Trulson (representing Worship Group)

Reid Trulson (representing Missions & Outreach Group)

Diversity Team

Leader: Reid Trulson

Members: Elle Crist; Judy Denning; Charlie Denning;

Shawn MacCoy; Deb Savage; Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi

Green Team

Leader: Kay RolfsMassaglia

Members: Mary Glassman; Mark Hite; George Reitnour

Youth Ministry Support Team

Charlie Denning; Shawn MacCoy; Marcia Ricketts; Sandi Rosenberry; Ryan Seckman (Youth Director)

Sympara Exploration Ministry Team

Leader: Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi

Members: Mark Hite; Nancy O'Neil; Mary Panetta; George Reitnour; Kay RolfsMassaglia; Deb Savage; Reid Trulson



Winter PRIDE Drive



The LGBT Equality Alliance of Chester County sponsors the Winter Pride Drive to benefit homeless shelters in Chester County. RBC actively participates in the drive.



Before the pandemic shutdowns in March 2020, we brought food, clothing and toiletries to church for the Drive. Donations to the Drive were given online in 2021. Watch the RBC *Midweek Reminders* for details on the 2022 Winter Pride Drive.



RBC Hosts Anti-Human Trafficking Event

Michelle Chamburn, Education Team leader for the Montgomery County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition (MCAT), will speak about human trafficking in Montgomery County on Sunday, January 16 at 2:00 p.m. The public event at RBC is sponsored by Royersford Churches in Action in cooperation with MCAT.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Linnie Smoyer	1
Dolly Eichelberger	2
Grace Herstine	3
Mary Panetta	3
Sandi Rosenberry	3
Mason Theusch	8
Susan Davis	9
Del Engstrom	9
Curt Parker	10
Bobby Fisher	12
Sky Lynn Moore	17
Dan Stauffer	17
George Reitnour	19
Jacob Murray	20
Barry Davis	23
Joy Dramby	23
Larry Groves	28
Thomas Reitnour	29
Kugaobi Obijuru	30

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Bennett Turley	2
Bob Brownback	7
Steve Smith	7
Abigail Turley	8
Deb Savage	12
Molly Moser	13
Sarah Strosahl-Kagi	22
Anna Phillips	23
Karen Mason	26

*If there are any
additions/changes
that need to be made
to the birthday
and anniversary list,
please contact
the church office.*



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

None

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

None

Royersford Baptist Church
452 S. Lewis Road
Royersford, PA 19468

***Royersford Baptist Church
(RBC)***

Office - 610-948-4170

Email - rbcabc@rbcabc.org

Website - www.rbcabc.org

OFFICE HOURS:

***Monday through Friday,
9:15 AM - 1:15 p.m.***

*RBC is affiliated with American
Baptist Churches USA*



STAFF:

Pastor - Sarah Strosahl-Kagi

Youth Director - Ryan Seckman

Worship Coordinator – Lara Cifelli

Minister of Music – Alex Cifelli

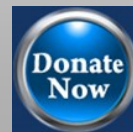
Office Manager - Kate Ligouri

Technology Coordinator - Josh Kagi

Nursery School Director – Melissa Moffa

**Please call the office at
610-948-4170 if you wish to
schedule an appointment with
the Pastor or Youth Director.*

If you have been touched by the ministry of RBC, you can be part of continuing our ministry together through your financial gifts. Our website has online giving options that make it possible for you to be a part of supporting the work of Royersford Baptist Church. Your gifts and your prayers make a vital difference in the Kingdom of God.



For the latest in news and information about Royersford Baptist Church, visit our website at:

www.rbcabc.org