

The Vine

News, Information and Inspiration from Royersford Baptist Church
Volume 52/Issue 1

January/February 2021



Mark your calendars for the
RBC Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 31,
2021

Join us on Zoom, immediately following worship, for this once-a-year time of prayerful consideration of our ministries and of sharing our vision for making a difference in the year ahead.

Happy New Year 2021!



Happy Valentine's Day!



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Around the turn of the New Year, we always see a lot of “year in review” or “top 10 this and that of the last year.” I thought I’d make us a Top 10 Things RBC Learned for 2020. (Some of these things we already knew but 2020 reaffirmed for us.)

The Top 10 Things We Learned In 2020:

10. How to Zoom, mute, unmute, and share our screen.
9. The amazing talents and creativity of RBC (for proof, check out the Christmas Pageant).
8. That we are all much stronger than we realized.
7. Worship doesn’t have to happen in the sanctuary.
6. Cookies can be used for communion elements.
5. God is always present.
4. Our traditions are dear- and sometimes need to be reimaged (see our Silent Night video on YouTube).
3. We care about each other so much that we will stay home to keep one another safe.
2. How much we love (and miss!) hugs.
1. Church isn’t about a building or a set time on Sunday, but a community of believers doing their best to love and serve God and each other.

If you had seen this list a year ago, you might not have believed it, but here we are in 2021 and we have learned so much about ourselves, our community, our church, and our faith in God. Look at how God has stretched us in new ways and how we’ve adapted and grown as a church! What new ways can God work through us now that we’ve experienced this? Imagine what our year-end list might look like at the end of 2021- I wonder what God will do this year that we can’t even imagine yet.

Here’s to all the ways God will work in us and through us in 2021!

New Year blessings,
Pastor Sarah



Well, we have been back in lock-down again for the past month or so, meaning our newly socially distant small groups have been put on hold. While this is of course the right decision to maintain safety and care, we are saddened to be back to only online gatherings. That being said... we have had some great success in connecting over Zoom during the holidays and if I am being honest, as the Youth Director, I have been able to connect with students in a way I just would not have had in our larger group, in-person meetings. I am thankful for those opportunities

I also want to give a shout out to Charlie Denning and our team of Youth group supporters (not sure what to officially call this group of individuals yet) who worked with me to create a New Years Eve Zoom game night with prizes! It was something a little extra than just our average Zoom meeting, where we combined our heads to come up with and lead a night full of interactive games over Zoom. For each game we offered prizes for the winners, as well as other goofy opportunities to win prizes. And to top it off, a chance to win a big prize just for showing up to the event! We wanted to offer some extra excitement as we ended 2020 and started a new year!

This event was a great success, as the kids who came had a great time, and we as a leader's team really felt good about how the night went. Charlie then volunteered to drop off the prizes to the individual's homes, on their doorsteps, and in the best way we could, we connected and grew as a group!

So, as we start off this new year, full of unknowns, we are eager to find new ways to connect, grow and love as a group.
—Ryan Seckman

Calm in the Midst of CHAOS

Facilitator: Michelle Govan

When the world around you goes crazy, will you stay sane and hold things together or unravel ?



Guest speaker Michelle Govan of Govan Coaching and Consulting from Royersford is presenting a series on wellness and stress management for RBC's Adult Selectives class on three Sundays, January 10, 17 and 24 at 11:00 a.m. Please invite others join us for this informative and practical series.



RBC members support one another and their community through the church in times of need. Gifts from members have built up RBC's **Fellowship Fund**, which supports needy members of the church community, to the point where we now have well over \$10,000 available for such grants. In addition, our **Loan Guarantee Fund** (providing loans to church members in need) exceeds \$25,000. Members also give through RBC to Project Outreach's Food Pantry and to ABC ministries. This is a testament to the generosity of RBC members. Do not forget, though, that RBC staff and facilities costs can be covered only through gifts to RBC's **General Fund**. Gifting to RBC's General Fund must increase substantially, and soon, if RBC is to continue supporting its missions, from the nursery school, to youth programs, to worship and outreach. Gifts can be made on-line or by text (see RBC's website for the link) or by checks mailed or delivered to RBC. Email George (reitnour@reitnour.com) with any questions.

Online Giving

Support the Ministries of RBC

GIVE



HOW TO MAKE GIFTS TO RBC BY TEXTING.

RBC now participates in a program, Text2Give, to supplement our on-line giving system. Text2Give allows you to make gifts by texting. Here's how it works: Text "Register" to 610-890-5200. Click the link in the response. Next, enter your contact information in the form. Then select your preferred payment method, insert your gift limit (maximum amount that can be given per text from your phone), and click Submit. Review the info and either click "Return to Input Screen" to correct, or "Complete Registration". Thereafter, each time you want to give, you'll just text the amount of your gift amount to 610-890-5200, and when you give, you'll get a confirmation with a link to designate your gift. As with on-line giving through RBC's website, you now have 10 choices for how you can direct your gifts to the missions of RBC, American Baptist Churches, and our local food pantry (if not designated, gifts go to RBC's general fund to pay our budgeted expenses). Be aware that each gift by ACH (i.e., where the funds are drawn from your checking account) costs RBC 25 cents, while each gift made by credit card costs RBC 35 cents + 2.19% of the amount charged, so paying by ACH results in more of your gift going to RBC. When you give by texting, you'll be texted confirmation, and will be able to request correction of any errors that you made by texting "Refund" or "Void" to the 610-890-5200 phone number. You'll also be able to text "Update" to that number to update your info. If you have any questions on Text2Give, on-line giving, or RBC's finances, please contact RBC's Treasurer.



FEBRUARY MISSION OPPORTUNITY

In February we express our love by giving gifts of Valentine's cards, flowers and candy. The pandemic has given us a new perspective of the importance of showing love and care for others. We understand better what it means to have limited access to healthcare or medical personnel, shortages of food and medication.

There's a program called **Parenting with Love**, whose goal is to decrease the long-term impact of the Nicaraguan crisis on children and their families. In conflict settings, pregnant women, mothers and children bear the brunt of ill health, depression and death. Once curable diagnoses for women and children have turned deadly.

The Parenting with Love program will train volunteers to teach healthy parenting skills including the benefits of breastfeeding, nutrition and early childhood development. Give a gift in honor of the one you love, and the impact will last far longer than any bouquet of flowers or box of chocolates. Donate to this mission project online at: <https://www.internationalministries.org/nicaragua-parenting-with-love/>

GUARD THE CHILD: Sex Trafficking of Minors

Children in Montgomery County can be vulnerable to human trafficking. **GUARD THE CHILD** is a free online event with Clare Henderson speaking about trafficked children based on her work as an anti-human trafficking advocate. Ms. Henderson is the Family Advocate Supervisor with Mission Kids, a child advocacy center with a multidisciplinary team that responds to allegations of child abuse in a dedicated, child-friendly setting to achieve justice for child victims and promote their physical and emotional well-being. Ms. Henderson also coordinates Mission Kids' collection and assessment of human trafficking and modern slavery risks. The **GUARD THE CHILD** event taking place online on Sunday, January 17 at 6:30 pm is co-sponsored by Royersford Churches in Action (Royersford Baptist Church, Royersford United Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Royersford Church of the Nazarene, Church of the Epiphany, Sacred Heart Church and First United Church of Christ in cooperation with Mission Kids and the Montgomery County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition (MCAT). You are warmly invited to the **GUARD THE CHILD** online event. Please also consider supporting this cause through your tax exempt donation to Mission Kids or MCAT.

<https://missionkidscac.org/ways-to-give>

<http://www.mcatpa.org/donate.html>



FROM THE GREEN TEAM



2020 has been a difficult year on so many levels. There's the pandemic, the economic disparity, the racial injustice movement, the divisiveness in our country, and the environmental crisis with one example being the extreme weather. But the Good News is that there is Hope, in all categories. The very difficult times have brought out the best in a large percentage of people, both here and around the world.

The vaccine is being distributed, a grass roots movement is helping to care for the many who have lost jobs, homes, and the very food on their tables, our whole country has been awakened to the racial injustices we have perpetrated for centuries and are responding as never before, and thousands of grass roots environmentalists are working hard to bring about the changes needed to save our planet. There is much cause for rejoicing. So, what about RBC? How are we responding to the crisis before us, affecting nearly every person in this country? The first great news is that we have called a Pastor who is smart, creative, loving, fun, open, accessible, and insightful, and an excellent preacher. I think we hit the jack pot.

Thanks be to God. Her job, however, is not to come up with all the ways we can be a part of the solutions to these issues, but to support us as WE discern the guidance of our loving God, to help as needed in each of these areas. First, for inspiration, the Sierra Club has shared a few victories from 2020 which can bring us hope. 1) Banks and investors are bailing on dirty energy, including every major US bank ruling out the funding of Arctic drilling. 2)

Pipelines have experienced enormous setbacks.

3) All signs point to a transportation future that promises to be clean and green, from CA phasing out internal combustion engines, to others working on doing the same for both light trucks, and heavy freight trucks. 4) The environmental movement is embracing equity and social justice, taking steps to make major investments in equity, and supporting people-of-color-led-frontline organizations. 5) Congress has passed the historic Great American Outdoors Act, with broad bipartisan support. It gives hope for other conservation measures pending, like the 30x30 Act, to protect 30% of US lands and waters by 2030. Don't you find all this encouraging? So, where does RBC fit into the help and hope category? This Green Team leader has been a bit of a slacker due to Covid-19 related commitments, but 2021 promises to be a year with more energy to devote to RBC's response to Creation Care. Look for another Sunday School class about the church's thoughts about Creation, many more articles, and some guidance in the area of plastic pollution reduction, both locally and nationally. We are still thinking of ideas to reduce the amount of grass to mow, but some discussions need to wait until the financial picture of our church is discerned. Many other ideas are being batted around, so stay tuned for the next information or suggestion. It takes a community to make an impact to save our planet, so it is up to all of us to take part. There IS hope, and RBC can be a part of taking action to make a difference, to help save our planet.

RBC Virtual Book Club



The RBC Book Club will discuss “A Gentleman in Moscow” on January 21. This is perhaps the ultimate quarantine read, as the young Count Rostov is sentenced in 1922 to house arrest at the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov is an unrepentant aristocrat, who has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room during some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history. Filled with humor and an intriguing host of characters, this novel relates the count’s endeavor to understand what it means to be a man of purpose as he learns the importance of community, the meaning of a kind act, and the need for resilience.

The book for February 18 is “The Stowaway”, a spectacular, true story of a teenager from New York, who in 1928 stowed away on a science expedition to explore Antarctica, the planet’s final frontier. In an age when everyone craved adventure, Billy Gawronski is desperate to escape a dreary future in his family’s upholstery business, so he jumps into the Hudson River and sneaks aboard, little knowing that he would become a Roaring Twenties celebrity, and a mascot for an up-by-your bootstraps era. This period piece is told with gusto, taking readers on a “novelistic” adventure that is not only about the making of a man, but of a nation.

If you’d like to join our lively discussions, please send an email to K26mason@gmail.com and you’ll receive a Zoom invitation. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

When contacting Pastor Sarah, please use the following information:

Email: pastorsarah@rbcabc.org

Mobile phone: 484-366-1155 Church phone: 610-948-4170

What's happening at RBCNS?

Currently RBCNS is providing a virtual program for our families. During the months of November and December Mrs. Moffa and Mrs. Amit have provided crafts and live-in person instruction on topics of families, friendship, Christmas and the birth of Jesus. Our social meet-up consisted of the children coming with their families for a fall walk and a Christmas Read-A-Long. Our Pre-K/Pre-K+ even performed our Christmas Show this year from their own home for their families! We are enjoying our time together but are longing for our time in person. At this time RBCNS is accepting applications for current families for the 2021-2022 school year. On January 20th RBCNS will open registration to families who are not currently enrolled to join our school. Now is the time to contact the director, Melissa Moffa (director@rbcns.org), if you are considering enrolling your child or a child you know in our program. We look forward to our Arctic Unit, Science Experiments, Learning our Letters, and more during the next few months! Come see what we are all about!!!



Christmas Social Meet-up



Christmas Social Meet-up



Christmas Social Meet-up



First Nativity by the 2s/3s



Pre-K/Pre-K+ The First Family



JANUARY

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| 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

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 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.*

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,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**



*RBC is affiliated
with American
Baptist Churches
USA*

STAFF:

Pastor -
Sarah Strosahl-Kagi

Youth Director-
Ryan Seckman

Worship Coordinator-
Lara Cifelli

Accompanist-
Alex Cifelli

Administrative Assistant-
Terry Myers

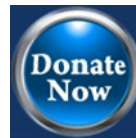
Custodian-
Danielle Crist

Nursery School Director-
Melissa Moffa

NOTE:

*Pastor and Youth Director hours
will vary during the COVID-19
pandemic. Please call the office
at 610-948-4170 to schedule an
appointment.*

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