

A photograph of two men, one with dark hair and a light blue polo shirt, and the other with a beard and a white polo shirt, smiling and embracing each other outdoors. The man in white has his hand on the shoulder of the man in blue.

Newsletter June

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ROLLING BAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor's Pen

Dear Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church,

I am so excited that we are moving into a new stage where it is safer to gather. It is quite odd to be a pastor of a church where I have not met all of the members after 7+ months of serving this congregation. With the vaccine rollouts, seasonal changes, and our pastoral search underway, I am filled with hope and joyful anticipation about our next few months together.

Liturgically speaking, we are also moving from Pentecost to Ordinary Time. I feel that spiritual shift as well and find that this time of year is a great time to lean into the Spirit's invitation to dwell in the presence of the Holy One. Summer brings opportunities for retreat, contemplation, and sabbath.

As you prepare your hearts for the shifting seasons, I offer this prayer (to the right) by Meta Herrick Carlson in her book *Speak It Plain: Words For Worship And Life Together*.

Blessings,

Pastor Laura

(Extra) Ordinary Time

*There is a season
that stretches like the days,
long and green until
you think there's only this
one way of being alive.*

*There are prayers for sun and rain.
What we have planted bears fruit
and the gardens grow wild,
making us share and reminding:
There is enough after all.*

*When you dive into the lake
or wade with your legs in the river,
the cold water steals your breath
and your baptism comes to mind.*

*When you pack sandwiches and wine
and feast with neighbors and crickets
in the grass at sunset, and the meal is
enough
with baskets left over, remember the supper.*

*These are ordinary times, of course,
but they are also extraordinary,
filled with promises that follow you
to the ends of the earth and back again.*

Pastoral Nominating Committee

The Pastoral Nominating Committee continues to meet weekly. The PNC is now using the summarized information from the Next Chapter Surveys to write in narrative form the information that identifies RBPC's vision for ministry, how we feel called to reach out to the emerging needs of our community, characteristics of the future pastor, and tasks, assignments, and programs for which the new pastor will be responsible.

Once this is completed it will go to session for approval. Then once approved by session, this information will go onto a Ministry Information Form (standard for all PCUSA churches who are seeking a pastor).



Once that is completed, then RBPC can "send out" it's MIF via a Church Leadership Connection avenue so that pastors who are interested in a new pastorate can evaluate if they are interested in applying to be a pastor at RBPC. And as those applications are returned, the PNC will read and evaluate them. And then the decision process of determining our new pastor will be very active.

The PNC is continuing to complete the Ministry Information Form. Please pray for RBPC and the PNC as we go forward in this process.

Ted Eimon, Moderator, Pam Barr, Linda Birum, Katie Brown, Cory Dunn, Caroline Reed, and Brett Saks.

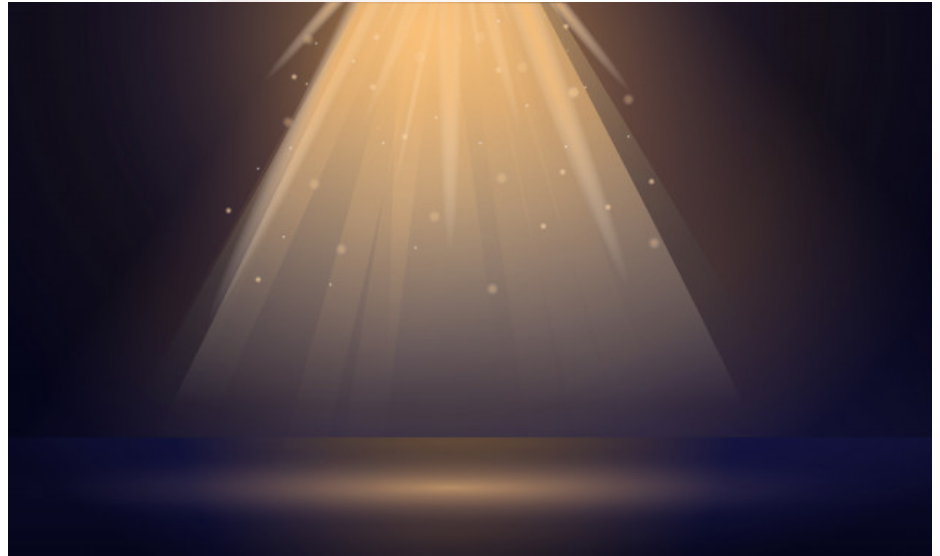
Newsletter Changes

After a thoughtful yet difficult personnel budget reduction this year, we have updated our staff position descriptions to honor their time in their revised positions. Consequently, we have eliminated the monthly newsletter tasks from our Office Administrator's responsibilities. Starting July, we will no longer have a paper newsletter and instead will focus on our email newsletter the "Enews". If you are not currently receiving this email and would like to, please email gail@rbpres.org and she will get you on our list. Thank you for understanding.



Session Highlights for May

- The following motion regarding Covid19 precautions was passed—**MOTION** that masks will continue to be required indoors in common areas, but that groups of vaccinated people may agree to remove masks while not in common areas. (Masks will continue to be required for Sunday worship services)
- During the Clerk's report, the following motions were approved: **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the April 18th stated meeting of session and the May 2nd called meeting of session. **MOTION** to remove the following members from the rolls: Audrey Kooreman (#965) by reason of her death on April 21, 2021, and; Dianne Zbinden (#1923) by reason of her death on May 9, 2021. **MOTION** to release Pam Walker from service as a deacon.
- Elder Gray recapped preparations for the planned summer Youth Hometown Mission service projects (June 21-23). Session passed the **MOTION** for session to authorize use of \$4,000 from the church's "Preschool" designated fund to finance service project materials.
- During the Community & Spiritual Formation Committee report, Elder Chadwick presented plans for the transition of Rev. Erin Grayson's adult ministries in view of the termination of her contract at the end of the month. Session also passed the **MOTION** that the session approves the free, monthly use of the church labyrinth by the Dances of Peace group, including welcoming them to use a restroom as needed. C&SF will handle the contact and scheduling
- During the Personnel Committee report, Session approved the **MOTION** to approve the revised position description for the Custodian/Caretaker. (This revision was warranted in view of the adjustment to hours and schedule for the job during the 2021 budget decision process.) The Personnel Committee also approved a position description for Nancy Lyman's temporary enhanced role as both keyboardist and music director following Sharon's recent retirement.
- During the Finance Committee, Elder Birum briefly recapped a number of items including that income and expenses are tracking generally as expected based on previous months.
- Session also addressed the subject of providing the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) with a range for a compensation offer for a prospective permanent pastor. The following was passed - **MOTION** that the session authorize the PNC to offer a total compensation package in the range of \$110,000 to \$130,000 for hiring an installed pastor.
- Session members addressed at length the prospect of imposing a Bainbridge Island residence requirement on the next pastor. With no formal decision reached on specific limitations, there was general agreement that there was no need for PNC to mandate on-island residence.
- As for the Pastor Nominating Committee, Elder Dunn reported that the PNC is making progress, especially on the Ministry Information Form (MIF), and that it may be ready to present for session endorsement by the end of the month.



Erin's Letter

Dear Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the congregation of Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church as a part-time Associate Pastor during this interim period of transition at the church. As I have from the beginning of my ordained ministry at RBPC, I continued to enjoy teaching bible study, leading faith formation efforts, and preaching occasionally as offered to me in my contract.

When I learned in January that due to finances my contract would not be renewed, I began to prayerfully consider where God is calling me in my ministry. While I have not finalized my next steps, I feel called to serve in a role that will provide an opportunity to practice, grow, and expand my skills as a minister. To give me the time I need to prepare for my next steps, I would like to terminate my contract effective on May 24, 2021.

While this date is earlier than the expiration of my contract, it is good timing in that the bible studies I lead traditionally pause for a summer break during the months of June, July, and August. For my part, I will be able to finish the studies we're currently engaged in, and preach on the final date I was scheduled for on May 23. I will also be available to offer any support you may request in the transition.

I want to end how I began: by expressing my sincere gratitude for the congregation at Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church. You have been my family's "church" family over the years, and you nurtured my call to ministry. You called me to ordained ministry, and that connection will always be special. Although this change will affect my employment status, it won't change the love I have for this church. I'll carry that in my heart no matter where God leads me next.

Thank you.

In Christ,

Erin Grayson

Session's Letter

Dear Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church,

It is with both gratitude and lament that we accept the early end of Rev. Erin Grayson's contract as our Associate Pastor. Pastor Erin has blessed this congregation immensely with her gifts of teaching, preaching, community engagement, and pastoral care. She has brought a wealth of knowledge in her ministries, demonstrated Christ's love for the poor and marginalized in her community and interfaith work, and has tended souls and held grief through her incredible pastoral care skills. While we feel sad about this transition, we also are grateful for the opportunity to affirm Erin's call to ministry and the privilege to ordain her to service as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

With this transition, some of you may be wondering about the future. The Session and the Committee on Spiritual Formation are partnering with Pastor Erin to identify interim leadership for the bible study programs she currently leads. Please stay tuned for more details as they unfold.

Additionally, we hope you can join us on Pentecost Sunday for in-person worship as this will be Pastor Erin's last Sunday and she will be preaching the Word. We will send her off with our blessings that day and it would be a great opportunity for you to express your appreciation for her face-to-face (masked, of course!).

Erin, you have been a shining example of Christ's love and compassion to this congregation-- we wish you all the best. May you go with the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the peace of the Holy Spirit!

With gratitude,

Rev. Laura Terasaki, Interim Pastor and Head of Staff

The Session of Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church

Missions

Dear friends,

Thank you so very much for your incredible generosity during the special offering at Easter. We raised \$3,119.71 for One Great Hour of Sharing and that money will provide quite a bit of assistance for people that need access to sustainable food sources, clean water, proper sanitation and the associated education and opportunities that come along with it. If you are interested in learning more about OGHS, please find contact information below.

The blood drive continues to try and get its feet up and moving. Many of you have courageously volunteered to donate blood when the truck comes. Right now, we have a total of 25 people signed up and need 5 more to really make it work. So, if you're on the fence, please come to our aid and help make this Mission vision a reality! Contact Cory Dunn at dunnesqc@gmail.com to sign up!

Last time we mentioned that Helpline House has a Housing and Utilities Assistance Program. They continue to need aid if you feel called to assist. This is directly from Helpline House:

"Helpline House's Annual Appeal is happening now. Keeping our neighbors in their homes during the financial and mental health effects of lockdown, lost wages, and uncertainty of the many past months and the time ahead, Helpline House's 2021 ask is for The Housing & Utility Assistance Program to help Preserve Diversity on Bainbridge."



Please see below for contact information.

The Crop Walk is looking for volunteers. Several main team members are stepping down and they are in serious need of new members. If the Crop Walk, an event and organization dedicated to reducing hunger locally and worldwide, calls to

you, please don't hesitate to reach out. Interest can be directed to Laura Alonso (laura.alonsobi@gmail.com).

Finally, Missions is still working on the development of a new mission that would see us building relationships in our community for individuals that have been experiencing hard times. If you feel called to participate in the formation of this mission's vision, or you know of a contact that could be valuable in the vision's formation, we would greatly appreciate your information,

feedback and/or support. Please contact Cory Dunn at dunnesqc@gmail.com.

We appreciate you friends. God Bless.

Mission's Committee

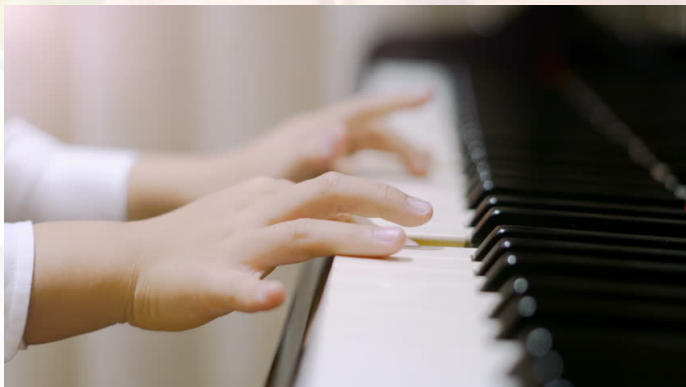
One Great Hour of Sharing:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Helpline House: (206) 842-7621

Music Notes

From Nancy Lyman



Welcome to Summer! Your music ministry has been busy the last few weeks as we move back to in-person worship. Thanks to the many talented singers and

instrumentalists who have joined us for the pandemic and beyond. We are always looking for more folks who sing, drum or play. There is a place for you in our fellowship!

This month, our featured Young Artist is Aubrey Cecka. Aubrey is working on several piano pieces and you will hear from her soon.

Here's what she wants you to know:

"Hi! I'm a ten-year-old 4th grader named Aubrey Cecka. I play the piano and like art and dragons. I have a younger brother named Oliver. We have a dog named Loki, gerbils named Salt & Pepper, stick bugs and brine shrimp. I also like growing plants."

Elizabeth Drury - Celebration of Life on June 5th

If you haven't heard— Peter Drury is planning a Celebration of Life event in memory of his mother, Elizabeth Drury. Her family would like to let the congregation of RBPC know that they are invited to the upcoming Celebration (both in-person and live-stream, with a need to keep the in-person # controlled due to COVID, of course) on Saturday, June 5th at Islandwood. The gathering will be open-house style from 1:00 to 4:00, with a program beginning at 2:30. For pandemic safety reasons, the family needs to secure RSVP's (to control the # of people physically attending and also to share the live-stream link at the appropriate time).



The Evite for info & rsvp is at <https://www.evite.com/event/01EFCWZVCXEMRIKIMEPLVPDEQO5GQA/rsvp>.

Coming Soon to RBPC!



**Special Thanks to
the RBPC Youth
Group who will be
building this on their
Hometown Mission
Trip in June 2021!**



Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church
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Happy Father's Day!

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

Luke 15:20

