



## THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

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### **Join us on Zoom for Worship each Sunday at 9:30 am, Fellowship at 9:00 am**

*We will email the link to you with the bulletin. The ZOOM Worship & Fellowship link does not change, so once you have saved it, you can use it each week. Services will also be uploaded to RUMC's Facebook and YouTube Channel for later viewing.*

### Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp

Dear Friends,

Through parables and direct example, Jesus brings up the question of whether we are truly being God's people in every situation in which we find ourselves. He turns accepted norms on their head, pushing us to ask ourselves difficult questions. He insists that we should not rest on what we have done in the past, but reminds us that our faith requires action *now*.

I have never been comfortable with conflict, even the small disagreements that are a part of any normal relationship – friendship, family, community or church. This time of year, with the elections coming up, is peppered with disagreements under normal circumstances. But throw the pandemic, racism and extreme weather events into the mix and there is even more that good people disagree about.

Maybe you are like me and you try to avoid those disagreements, or maybe you thrive on them and see exchanging differing opinions as a way of helping you clarify what you think. If you enjoy a good argument then you have good company. Debate is an important aspect of Jewish tradition. Rabbis would examine the history and context of a passage of scripture and revel in what they could learn from one another by debating various aspects. Each party would walk away from their discussion richer for the exchange. Perhaps we can take our cue from this rich history? In the midst of this challenging time, we can engage in difficult conversations about race, about God's will, about the kind of leaders we want or need for our community and country.

*What does God require of us?* This is an excellent starting point for discussing Scripture. It is also a good way to start the day – *any* day! Micah 6:8 asks this question, and responds with a simple answer that resonates very clearly even in the midst of challenging times such as the ones we are living through. The following is from Eugene Peterson's translation:

*“But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do,  
what GOD is looking for in men and women.  
It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,  
be compassionate and loyal in your love,  
And don’t take yourself too seriously—  
take God seriously.”*

Currently in our society, there is disagreement about pretty much everything, but I suggest that if we align ourselves with these simple but clear standards, we will find our way forward with clarity. May we discern what is right and just with faith and with courage. *God, we ask you to guide our thoughts, our words and our actions this day and every day. Amen.*

Blessings,  
*Pastor Shirley*

**Worship Liturgists** - Pastor Shirley would like to involve more people in the Sunday worship services as liturgists. This entails reading the scripture and other parts of the service. You can do this in the moment when we are on ZOOM, or if you prefer to record this ahead of time, we can arrange for that as well. Please reach out to Lori or Shirley if you are willing to serve in this way.

**Bible Study** will be meeting on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm via ZOOM. Each week we will look ahead at the scripture for the upcoming Sunday, discuss what they mean to us and for our lives. Everyone is welcome! Please let Shirley know if you would like to receive the ZOOM sign-in information. (And remember you can join in by phone or computer.)

### Rutland Food Gathering Event

Thanks to Eloise McGarry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, along with community members, RUMC is trying to gather at least 500 food items for The Comfort Zone’s food shelf. If we **collect 500 food items by October 31, the Comfort Zone will receive \$500** from Thrivent Financial Services in Appleton, WI. The \$500 will enable us to continue to feed members of our community throughout the winter.

**Items needed: Individual box juices, individual shelf-stable box milk, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, individual hot cereal packets, spaghetti sauce, pasta, tuna, canned chicken, small bottles of water, peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, saltine crackers, soup, cheese, butter, breakfast bars, granola bars, and fruit cups.**

You may drop items off at the Church or call the office to coordinate items to be picked up.



Thank you!! We have had positive responses to the “Virtual Chocolate Fest” both online and by way of checks sent to the Church. To date \$1,680 has been collected! We are aiming to at least double that by the end of November in order to enable us to distribute a fair amount to the recipients.

Even though we cannot host Chocolate Fest this year, we are asking you to consider supporting this event without the benefit of the decadent chocolate desserts or the lovely silent auction items we offered, many generously donated by local businesses.

However, this Virtual event isn’t completely without chocolate!

  
37 Center Street  
Rutland, Vermont

For a \$25 donation: Certificate for a 2-truffle box of chocolate

For a \$50 donation: Certificate for four truffles

For a \$75 donation: Certificate for six truffles

For a \$100 donation: Certificate for eight truffles

(Certificates will be mailed to you)

If this is something that you are willing to support, please send donations to “RUMC Chocolate Fest,” 60 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701. You may also donate on the “Rutland United Methodist Church” or “Chocolate Fest RUMC” Facebook page, or call the Church office (802-773-2460) to pay by credit card.

We are accepting donations until November 30, 2020, at which time we will evaluate the giving and how your donations will be distributed to best meet the needs in our community.

### Annual Church Conference

Annual Church Conference is scheduled for Monday, November 23, 2020 at 7 pm by way of Zoom. Documentation for this event will be provided for you by email or U.S. Mail at a later date.

### Comfort Zone

We are now giving out lunches/dinners as well as breakfast on Tuesday through Thursday.

We are receiving 25 free meals to distribute from the “Everyone Eats” program coordinated by the Vermont Farmers Food Center. These meals are made by area restaurants, and paid for by a grant that the “Vermont Everyone Eats” program received. This helps local restaurants that are struggling during this time and also helps feed more people in need.

Also, Comfort Zone is now receiving donations of food from Tops Market bakery on Tuesdays.

Pastor John Longworth from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has applied for a grant from the United Way for Comfort Zone. We are waiting to hear from him about that.

We have also requested funds from the Vermont Foodbank to help buy paper goods and two outdoor heaters for winter.

Comfort Zone is in great need of volunteers. If you can help at all, please call Marsha at 775-7212 or the Church. Thank you everyone for all of your help!

**Marsha Johnson**  
Comfort Zone Coordinator

### Breaking Bread

Last month, Breaking Bread was also fortunate to receive our dinners from **Everyone Eats**, a food relief **program** that uses CARES Act funds to purchase to-go meals from area restaurants to be distributed to anyone impacted by COVID-19. The Church provided salad, a drink and dessert, and the restaurant meal was a stuffed bread mixture with veggies. This program requires that a portion of the ingredients be purchased from local farmers. It's really a win, win, win, with hungry people being fed, local farmers supported and area restaurants being utilized!

We gave out 80 meals, and donated the rest to the Open Door Mission.

Next month, a donation of McKenzie hotdogs will be the protein for the meal, and we'll be soliciting macaroni and cheese, some kind of side dish and desserts!

We have been so blessed to have received \$1,001.00 from *Hannaford* Fight Hunger Bag Program, as well as a separate grant of \$500.00 from Hannaford.

As always, thank you to all who have donated, worked, and in all ways supported the meal. During this strange time, food insecurity is increasing daily and we are so fortunate as a church to be able to meet some of that need.

**Linda Allen**  
Outreach Coordinator



*Jim, Marsha Johnson & Linda Allen social distancing while working on the Comfort Zone menu.*

## Thank You's

We wish to send out a big thank you to the GSLC and to Pastor John Longworth, for joining us in ministry to the community. Pastor John has applied for and received several grants that have kept us going with *Comfort Zone*, *Breaking Bread* and *Faith in Foot*!

So many people from GSLC and Church in the Wildwood, have donated time, energy, and food to keep CZ and BB going, that we can't imagine doing without them. The juice campaign has provided many containers of juice, saving funds for baked goods and other food items! A huge thank you to all who have been a part of the work we do in the neighborhood. This is a true collaboration.

## Church Finances

In order to balance the budget, it is necessary to take in an average of **\$12,500 per month** in deposits. As you can see, we are not quite there, but are hoping folks will catch up on their pledges if the virtual nature of worship has held them back, or reach a little deeper if they are able. *We understand that finances are tight for many of us, so please just do what you are able.* Listed here are the weekly deposits for September:

September 6	\$ 2,415
September 13	\$ 2,301
September 20	\$ 3,240
September 27	\$ 600
	<b>\$ 8,556</b>

## Financial Support

During this time of worshiping at home, the work of the Church continues. We are reaching out through phone, letter and internet, feeding hungry people and offering spiritual support to those in need of encouragement (which is really all of us). Thank you for continuing your faithful support of our church through your offering, which may be mailed to Rutland UMC at 60 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701.

## Advent & 12 Days of Christmas Projects

Pastor John Longworth is working on two creative projects for the upcoming holiday season. He is collecting brief videos from people in various churches that he will combine into a daily Advent Calendar. Likewise, the 12 Days of Christmas will have their own video celebrating various themes. These are a wonderful effort to bring people together when the pandemic makes it difficult.

You are invited to take part in one or both of these projects. We would love to have a mix of lay and clergy working on these projects and helping to celebrate!

To sign up for a day of Advent:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4baeac22abf94-video>

To sign up for a day of Christmas:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4baeac22abf94-12days>

## October and November Birthdays & Anniversaries

<b>OCTOBER</b>		<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
2	Sam Groom	5	Ellen Wakker
3	Andrew Siliski	7	Brenda Arley
	Lorraine & Steve Dotson ♥	9	Jack Mackin
6	Bruce Gee		Lynn Tucker
8	Wayne Carlson	13	Beth Fernandes
10	Lindsey Siliski	14	Ava-Grace Mackin
15	Ron & Vikki Colomb ♥	15	Doug Allen
	Matt O'Morrow	16	Sofia Villano Betts
16	Heather Betts		Rodney Siliski
19	Mike & Deb Estey ♥	17	Ely Abuel
20	Alex Hemmer	23	Rose Wetherby
	Sam Groom, III	25	Sharon Whitney
21	John Anderson	27	Diane Sharrow
			Betty Corey

### Supplies Needed for the Church

**Call first and we will make sure the back door is unlocked for you to drop items off. The best time to drop by is 11 am to noon. Please put your name on the items so that we can thank you!!**

<b>FOR COMFORT ZONE &amp; BREAKING BREAD</b>	
NAPKINS!	PLASTIC KNIVES!
Paper Towels; Kleenex	Coffee
Butter	Plastic utensils
Plastic grocery bags (used)	Bacon
Ham (thinly sliced)	Non-stick spray ("Pam")
Cheese – sliced or grated	Eggs
Band-aids	Clorox wipes
<b>FOR THE FOOD SHELF</b>	
Peanut butter	Tuna
Shelf-stable milk	Cereals
<b>IN GENERAL (COMFORT ZONE)</b>	
Gently used men's and women's boots	

Rutland United Methodist Church, 60 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, Vermont 05701

802.773.2460 - Fax: 802.773-8491

Office hours: Monday through Thursday 9 am to 12 pm

Email: rutlandumc@aol.com - Website: rutlandumc.com

Facebook: Rutland United Methodist Church

Contact Pastor Shirley Oskamp for any pastoral emergencies at 802-779-7146