



THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

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,

I preached recently about how our sense of hospitality is challenged by the restrictions we are living with due to the coronavirus. As I continue to reflect on the notion of what hospitality looks like in our current circumstances, it became clear to me that wearing a mask is an act of hospitality.

When faced with the threat of illness, the preventative measures we take usually focus on taking care of ourselves and limiting our chances of getting sick. With Covid 19, however, choosing to wear a mask actually protects everyone *else* more than it protects you. Jesus charged his followers to care for one another, and most especially to care for the vulnerable people in our midst. So, in terms of our faith, wearing a mask is actually a profoundly spiritual and caring thing to do.

Rev. Adam Taylor, of Sojourner's, shared his experience of living in South Africa and learning the Zulu greeting, *Sawbona*, which means *I see you*, and the response, *Sihkona*, which means *I am here*. He says that these greetings reflect the African notion of *Ubuntu*, which translates *I am because we are*.

This notion that we are most fully ourselves when we are fully a part of a community, is very much in keeping with the teachings of our faith. I think, particularly of 1Corinthians 12 where Paul writes: *"there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

We are in this together. My prayer is that we seek out ways to bring our faith into practice every day. May we continue to live according to the legacy of Christ as we care for one another in these challenging times. Please reach out if I can offer you support as you deal with personal stresses and anxieties. Let me know how I might pray for you.

In Christ's Love, **Pastor Shirley**

Reopening

We are excited to announce that weather permitting, we will hold an outdoor in-person worship service on Sunday, July 5th at the home of Kristen Jarvi, 1212 Boardman Hill Road, West Rutland. **Please wear a face mask and bring your own chair, bulletin and communion elements (bread or cracker and juice/water).** The service will begin at 9:30 am, but we encourage folks to show up by 9:15 to get settled. A bathroom is available for emergencies. This service will also be posted online for those who prefer to remain at home.

Our July 5th gathering is the only in-person service we have planned so far. Our Re-launch Team continues to discuss moving forward in various ways, but in the meantime, we will worship online through ZOOM and/or Facebook Live. Bulletins will be emailed and sent by U.S. mail to ensure we reach everyone in the church family. Thank you for patience as we all stay safe and healthy.

The RUMC Re-Launch Church team members are: Pastor Shirley, Judy Blair, Craig Cota, Bobbie Fillioe, Linda Allen, Paul Dunbar, Ellen Wakker, and Lori McVeigh. You are welcome to reach out to them to share your ideas and thoughts.

Memorial Service for Dori Lyon

A service celebrating the life of Dorothy "Dori" Lyon will be held on July 7th at 1 pm at Evergreen Cemetery in Rutland. A potluck reception will follow at the home of Nancy Hodgson at 313 Sunset Drive. All are welcome! If you would like to help with the luncheon, please contact Penny Ford at 747-8414. Please wear a mask to maintain everyone's safety, and if you are able to bring your own chair for the reception, that would be helpful. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Rutland UMC.

In the Church Office....

The Church staff is available Monday through Thursday from 9-2 in various ways as we continue to maintain safety guidelines by limiting in-person contact. If the doors are locked, please ring the bell or call the church number and someone will come to greet you. *We ask that anyone coming to the church wear a mask.*

Pastor Shirley is in the office on Mondays from 9-2 and Wednesdays from 9 to noon. She also works from home and can be reached by email (pastor.rutland2019@gmail.com) or phone (802-779-7146). Pastoral visits are possible outdoors at your home. Please call or email her to set up a mutually convenient time. (She will bring her own chair.)

Linda is at the Church on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday working with Comfort Zone. She is most available after 10 am, when breakfast distribution is complete.

Lori is back in the office on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm, as well as at flexible times as needed. She is also working from home and regularly checks the Church email and responds to or forwards messages as needed. If you can't reach her at the office number (802-773-2460), her home number is 802-772-7143.

We are all doing our best to ensure that the life of the Church goes on, offering spiritual nurture and keeping folks connected in the best ways we are able. We count on you to help us do this by letting us know who is in need of support or a simple call of connection and care. Thank you for being in ministry with us!

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.

Donations may be made through our Facebook page. They add no additional fees for you or the Church. Donations are deposited into the bank monthly, and a record of giving is provided to the Church. Your offering can also be made by credit card. Contact Assistant Treasurer Kristen Jarvi (236-4269) or Lori in the Church office to provide your information. Your donations are kept in strict confidence. Thank you for your support!!

Scholarships

If you are planning to attend an institution of higher learning, you could receive financial help. The Francis & Edwina Clark Scholarship is for high school graduates under the age of 21 who were in the Rutland County school districts for at least three years, having graduated there, and who will attend an American institution of higher learning. Previous scholarship recipients who are college undergrads are still eligible. **Deadline to apply for Clarke Trust is July 16, 2020.** Applications are in the Church office or will be emailed to you.

Hannaford Shopping Bags

Our Breaking Bread Community Meal program will receive a \$1 donation for every \$2.50 “Fight Hunger” Bag sold in January at Hannaford located at 318 South Main Street in Rutland.

Vermont has adopted a new law which took effect on July 1, 2020 and it prohibits retailers from providing customers with single-use plastic bags at checkout, drink stirrers and foam food packaging. Plastic straws are available upon request only.

Thank you for your support of our last Fight Hunger bag appeal. **We received \$115** from Hannaford for your purchases! That pays for one monthly Breaking Bread event!



Comfort Zone

Comfort Zone continues to be very busy. We managed to survive the heatwave, although kitchen volunteers weren't sure they would!! Once again, we had a day at the end of the month that we put out 67 breakfasts!

We have started keeping the Church Comfort Zone open inside from 9 am to 2 pm on a limited basis, with cold water and coffee available. No food is allowed to be eaten inside. Social distancing and masks are a must.

Marsha Johnson
Comfort Zone Coordinator

Breaking Bread

This month, on June 25th, we prepared another community meal, with amazing Macaroni and Cheese, Homemade Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Hotdogs and brownies for dessert. We had a slow start, in the first half hour, we gave out only about 60 meals. But by 6:35, we had given out a hundred meals, and within the next few minutes we finished with a total of 112 sent out the door!

We get lots of "thank you's" from the people picking up meals. One of our new visitors took a meal back to the motel he was staying in, and came back at 6:30, asking if there was any more food, because there were a lot of hungry people at his motel. We quickly put together 10 more meals! He was so grateful for our food and for our willingness to put together more meals after everything was put away.

Once again, I want to thank everyone who made brownies, beans, cole slaw, mac 'n cheese, who set up, cleaned up, etc. This ministry not only feeds the individuals who come to pick up meals, but it also sends a message to the community that we are a Church that cares for its neighbors. Thank you to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church members who are equal partners in putting it all together, and gratitude to everyone who continues to show up and work hard to make this event come together.

*If anyone knows of an organization that is looking for community service projects, we're hoping to gain a few partners willing take on a month and be the cooks and bottle washers!

Linda Allen
Outreach Coordinator

Sunday School

We finished this school year of Sunday School on June 21st. Among the lessons for June was a celebration of Flag Day, stressing the Christian ties to our country's flag. Each child was given a small American Flag.

We also did a lesson on Father's Day including both their earthly father and our Heavenly Father. The lesson included a craft to make and give to their father, as well as a "World's Greatest Dad" certificate to make and give.

We were unable to have a Children's Day celebration this year for the last day of Sunday School due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Sunday School will resume in September, hopefully in Church! Wishing you all a happy summer!

Marsha Johnson
Sunday School Superintendent

“Rutland’s Promise” Family Shelter

Are you interested in helping to make this long dreamed of program a reality? The hope is to rent a home in the community and to provide support to help them get on their feet. There are many roles available with varying time commitments, and training will be available to you as needed. We need people who have a heart for this ministry to help move the plan forward. Please call Rebekah Stevens at 558-6487 by July 13th to find out more.

Are you Missing Your Daily Devotionals?

We continue to receive the Upper Room (small and large print) daily devotional, and have copies of Our Daily Bread for June, July and August. Contact the Church office by phone or email to arrange to pick one up or to have one mailed to you.

Relay for Life

Due to COVID-19, Relay for Life was rescheduled to take place August 8th through 9th at the Vermont State Fairgrounds. My daughter, Stephanie, son-in-law, Andrew, and I will be taking part as we usually do.

They will have the Luminaria Bags and ceremony on Saturday evening. For a donation of \$5.00, you can have a Luminaria Bag in honor of (living person) or in memory of a loved one who had cancer. I would be happy to make that bag for you. I will also be collecting donations for Relay. If you would like to donate, call me at home, 802-775-7212 (leave a message), or call me at Church. You can also send your donation to me at 71 School Street, Rutland, VT 05701. Make checks payable to “Relay for Life.” Stephanie and Andrew will also be collecting donations. They can be contacted at 802-779-8608.

Marsha Johnson



BAYADA Need Volunteers

You may think this is a useless time to volunteer, what with so many closures and restrictions. You’d be surprised just how much you are needed by the community, especially those on hospice care. If you’re out of work or school and have the time, there is no better way to beef up your resume and show future employers your willingness to do what it takes. Bayada Hospice volunteers can complete the brief training from their own homes, then slowly enter the community to help with small tasks, reading to clients, gardening, or just having a simple conversation. Join Bayada Hospice’s marvelous team of volunteers today! Contact Martha Perantoni at 802-282-4122 or mperantoni@bayada.com for more information and an application.

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!!

Napkins	Muffins
Sponges	Juice pouches
Cheddar Cheese	Toilet paper
Zip lock bags – all sizes	Fruit cups
Rubber gloves	Eggs
Bottled water	Fresh fruit
Paper lunch bags	Handle paper bags (used)
Plastic spoons & forks	Sandwich bags
Photocopy paper	Scotch tape roll refills

July and August Birthdays & Anniversaries

JULY		AUGUST	
2	Adrienne Bentley	1	Joe & Marilyn Watson ♥
	Allyson Stoodley	3	Debbie Stone
7	Don & Lexi Moore ♥		Fay Tucker
8	Linda Allen	5	Robert Colomb, Jr.
9	David & Dottie LaFountain ♥	7	Ed & Daphne Hemmer ♥
10	Christopher Whitney		Trudy Billings
11	Pam Allen	11	Ed & Peggy Hackett ♥
	Lorraine Dotson		Marge Davis
	Brenda Pratt	12	Malia Allen
12	Caydence Lafond	18	Hannah Sotak
	Gwen White		Scott & Diane Sharrow ♥
15	Vikki Colomb		Blanche Kelley
16	Edward Hackett		Peter Colomb, Sr.
18	Katelyn O'Connor	19	Marilyn Watson
	Jackie Gauthier	20	Gary Lindorff & Shirley Oskamp ♥
22	Joan Cota	22	John & Dianne Anderson ♥
26	Kevin & Debbie Stone ♥		Peggy Hackett
27	Don Moore	25	Evan Drake
	Catherine Ricketts	26	Danielle Wakker Yango
		28	Kristen Jarvi
		30	Peter and Stacy Colomb

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

802.773.2460 - Fax: 802.773-8491

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

Facebook: Rutland United Methodist Church

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