



# THE IN-SPIRE

## The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

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**Join us for worship on Sunday at 9:30 am**

### Meetings and Events

**Lent and Easter Schedule:** See article below.

**Leadership Team Meeting:** Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6 pm.

**Collaborative Ministry Team Meeting:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 5:00 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

**Breaking Bread Community Meal:** March 26, 2020 from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

**Paint & Snack Fundraiser.** Friday, March 27, 2020 at 6 pm. See article below.

**Retreat:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 9:00 am. See article below.

**Study Group:** See article below.

**Comfort Zone Walk-In Center:** Monday - Thursday 9 am-noon. Breakfast served until 11 am.

### Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp

We have just begun the Lenten season. This is a period in the church year that takes us into the wilderness with Jesus. It is a time for honest reflection on our lives and the choices we have made. It is a time to ask for forgiveness and a time to make amends.

Lent has its roots in the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness right after he was baptized. No sooner had God claimed him as “my beloved Son” than Jesus was sent out into the wilderness to fast and pray. To me, this is a stark reminder of the fact that every single one of us stands in the need of prayer. Each of us needs to take time alone with God and with ourselves, in order to strengthen our faith.

Sometimes, Lent brings with it a sense of feeling alone, while at other times, we know instinctively that Jesus is walking right beside us. During the alone times, the wilderness challenges us, pushes us, and perhaps even frightens us. We may not think we can make it through. But rather than coming to a place of despair, if we can bring ourselves to pray, our faith will lift us up. If we open our hearts to God’s presence, we will find strength, and will recognize that we are not really ever alone.

My prayer for each of us, is that this Lenten season might be a time when we take time to nourish our relationship with God. May this be a time when our faith is strengthened and deepened by the simple attention of reflection and prayer.

*May the winds of the Holy Spirit blow through us,  
May we reflect in honesty, on our lives,  
May we ask forgiveness, and offer the same,  
May our souls find refreshment,  
May our hearts find hope,  
May our faith grow ever stronger in You.*

***Blessings, Shirley***

## Lent & Easter

Pick up your copy of the “Lenten Reflections” booklet which was produced by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and includes writings from congregants from both churches.

Here is a schedule of Lenten season events:

**Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5th** - We will enter Holy Week with a worship service featuring special music, scripture, prayer and communion. Church of the Wildwood will be joining us for this service of worship and for fellowship afterward.

Remember “Blessing of the Bread.” There is a sign-up sheet in the rear of the Church where you can volunteer to bake bread and/or deliver it to shut-ins on Palm Sunday. The bread will be blessed during the service.

**Maundy Thursday: April 9<sup>th</sup>.** Communion service at Church of the Wildwood UMC at 7 pm.

**Good Friday: April 10<sup>th</sup>.** Service at RUMC at 7 pm, with joint choirs from several area churches.

**Holy Saturday: April 11<sup>th</sup>.** Special 2-hour service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 5:30 pm.

**Easter Sunday: April 12<sup>th</sup>.** No sunrise service at RUMC or GSLC. Regular service at 9:30 am.

## Open Spirit Task Force

As a Reconciling Church, we at RUMC believe that ALL people are God's children no matter what, so we want to ensure that everyone knows they are welcome when they walk in the door. The New England UMC's Open Spirit Task Force has been working to clarify the choices available to us in light of the General Conference Special Session which affirmed language and practices that limit the inclusion of people in the LGBTQ+ communities. There is a District meeting set for March 7th at Montpelier UMC from 1:00-3:00pm. (Contact Evie to sign up ([vmtdistrict@neumc.org](mailto:vmtdistrict@neumc.org) or 802.485.4724). For more information on the possibilities, check out their website: [www.ostfne.org](http://www.ostfne.org).

## Retreat at Mercy Farm

Church of the Wildwood invites you to join them at a Women's Retreat at Mercy Farm in Benson, Vermont, for community building, spiritual growth and personal insight. We see it as a time to get to know each other better and form new bonds in a lovely country setting. Our theme for the day will center around “Connecting with Creation” and will offer opportunities to do this both outside and within ourselves, since we are each a special creation of God.

The Retreat is on **Saturday, April 25, 2020** and runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at 9:00 a.m. Registration fee of \$30 includes snack and lunch. The retreat is limited to 20 people attending, and there are 10 openings remaining. Please contact the office if you are interested in this event.

## Study Group

Pastor Shirley is leading a study group to discuss Jim Wallis' book, "Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus". The study just began, and all are welcome to join the group! We will meet over lunch - from 12:30 - 1:30 on Tuesday or Thursday at RUMC 60 Strongs Ave. (see schedule below).

*About the book: In Christ in Crisis, bestselling author, renowned speaker, and iconic Christian activist Jim Wallis argues that our cultural and political crisis largely stems from how the American church has become disconnected from the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our gatherings will center on sharing ideas and insights gleaned from our study. Some of these themes will challenge us, and we may not always agree with one another or with the author, so please bring an open heart and mind. See Pastor Shirley or Lori McVeigh for more information.*

### **Upcoming meeting Dates:**

Tuesday, March 3rd - "The Truth Question"  
Tuesday, March 10th - "The Power Question"  
Thursday, March 19th - "The Fear Question"  
Tuesday, March 24th - "The Caesar Question"  
Thursday, April 2nd - "The Peacemaker Question"  
(April 5-11 Holy Week - no study group)  
Thursday, April 16th - "The Discipleship Question"  
Tuesday, April 21st - "Becoming Salt, Light and Hope"

## Fundraising Committee

The Committee met on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at Nancy Hodgson's house. We discussed several fundraising ideas.

We have planned and scheduled a Paint & Snack Fundraiser with Cricket's Eye Art Studio on March 27, 2020. Invite your family members and friends to come! (See separate article below).

If anyone has an idea for fundraising, you can contact one of the committee members, Linda Allen, Marsha Johnson, Nancy Hodgson or Jenn Yakunovich.

## "Paint & Snack" Fundraiser

Join us for a fun evening with Cricket's Eye Art Studio. This fundraiser will be at RUMC on Friday, March 27, 2020 commencing at 6 pm. We will be painting on canvas. The cost is \$40 each or \$75 for two, and includes all supplies and instruction. Contact the Church office (802-773-2460) to hold your spot. Tickets can be purchased by credit card at [cricketseye.com](http://cricketseye.com). No experience is required.

## Sunday School & Souper Bowl of Sharing

The Sunday School children collected money again on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. During the two Sundays, they collected a total of \$91.07 for Comfort Zone and \$128.50 for the Community Cupboard. We received a thank you letter from the Cupboard which is posted on the bulletin board.

Thank you very much to the congregation for their generous donations.

**Marsha Johnson**

## Comfort Zone

Thank you to everyone for the generous donations to Souper Bowl Sunday for the Comfort Zone. The \$91.07 collected was a real blessing. The good Lord seems to be watching over us, as donations of money, food, paper products and clothing seem to appear just when we need it most.

Comfort Zone served 222 meals in the month of February.

**Marsha Johnson**

## Breaking Bread

In January, our volunteers cooked and served Spaghetti and Meatballs, and many side dishes and desserts. 68 were served. It was great to see many of our friends and neighbors and to catch up on how everyone has been doing this winter.

In January, Hannaford Supermarket on South Main Street donated one dollar for each re-useable Bag-For-A-Cause purchased. We'll be receiving \$115.00 from this program. This will pay for one Breaking Bread meal this year. Thank you, Hannaford, for your generosity!

The February meal was pulled port on rice and was very successful, with 68 being served!

We also want to thank all of the amazing cooks and volunteers from our church, from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and from the community. We had a wonderful array of foods to choose from!

February is the second month that an open mic has been hosted at Breaking Bread. This is a fun event to participate in and enjoy!

**Linda Allen**

## Edith Schisler's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Edith Schisler is now living in St. Petersburg, Florida. She wrote a beautiful letter to several friends at RUMC. Included was an invitation to her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party on May 9, 2020. Call her daughter, Susanna at 803-553-1493 if you are able to attend.

## Summer is Coming!

Be thinking about Christian Summer Camp for a youth that you know. Up to \$500 has been generously donated for camperships for those who would like to attend. The office will be receiving paperwork with more information about camps throughout New England, and will be happy to pass it onto anyone who is interested.

## Liturgists

Sunday worship Liturgists are always appreciated. This involves Sharing the Story of Faith (reading the Old Testament scripture), leading the congregation in a unison prayer and Moments of Quiet Meditation, and introducing the sung response. Sign-up sheet is on a clipboard on the literature rack.

## Daily Devotionals

Pastor Shirley's printed sermons, *Our Daily Bread* and *The Upper Room*, along with *Lenten Reflections* are available in the literature rack.

## Supplies Needed!

### **For Comfort Zone, Breaking Bread and General Church Use:**

Butter	Syrup
Sugar	Orange juice
Napkins	Ketchup
Paper towels	Toilet paper
Spring-weight socks	Sausage (bag of 50 links or patties)
Combs	Half & Half
Masking tape	Bacon
Sausage	Regular & decaf coffee
Granola bars	Paper bowls
Ham	Cheddar Cheese (2 pounds)
White vinegar	Vegetable oil
Plastic silverware	9-ounce juice cups

## Attendance

February 2: 53	February 9: 47
February 16: 44	February 23: 50

## Finances

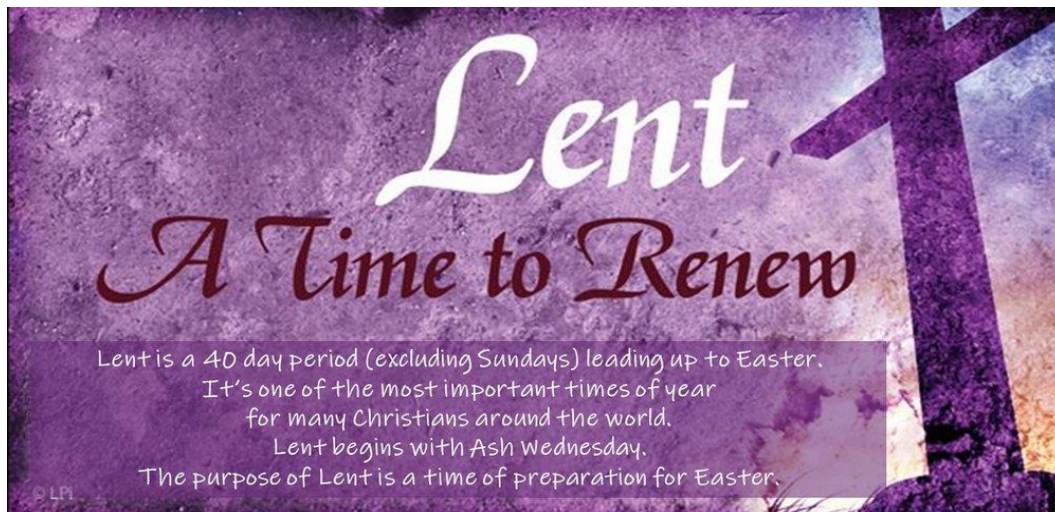
Estimated Monthly Income: \$9,300  
 Estimated Monthly Expenses: \$14,300  
 Shortfall: \$5,000 per month

*May we all prayerfully consider ways of lessening this shortfall.*

### March Birthdays & Anniversaries

### April Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Faith Berg	2	Jan Senecal
	Richard Fales, Jr.	4	Brenda Lear
	Devin Derepentigny	5	Marsha Johnson
3	Kristina Pettis		Katie Gauthier
4	Gary Archer		Nalani Lavedure
6	Laura Lafond	11	Arianna Allen
	Ashley (McVeigh) Somers	13	Sarah Gee
11	Sharon Crosby	14	Linda Kuiken
14	Sue Smith	15	Cee Cee Hall
20	Scott Kuiken		Nancy Hodgson
	Brayden Moore	17	Alan Betts & Karen James ♥
22	Ron Colomb	19	Ariel Siliski
26	Brody Scott Somers	21	Jackie Bartenstein
29	Ely & Susana Abuel ♥		Scott & Lori McVeigh ♥
		22	Bobbie Fillioe
			Deborah Estey
		24	Lydia May Reynolds



## **RUTLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Facebook: Rutland United Methodist Church 

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

WEEK 1	<b>FAST</b>	When we fill our lives with obligations, relationships, or ways of thinking that distract us from focusing on Jesus, we are less able to experience life to its fullest. This week challenges you to create space in your life for the full life Jesus came to give us.
WEEK 2	<b>PRAY</b>	Prayer can seem mysterious, either because of doubts about the ability of prayer or because it's difficult to incorporate prayer into daily life. The challenge for week 2 is make time in your day to read and pray the Lord's Prayer, then to create your own prayer based on the model of the Lord's Prayer.
WEEK 3	<b>GIVE</b>	When we give of ourselves by using the gifts God has given us to serve others, we are able to uniquely worship God. This week challenges you to explore your gifts and talents and then creatively use those to serve those around you.
WEEK 4	<b>THANK</b>	Thankfulness is more than an expression; it is an attitude of life. When we are thankful we are better able to experience blessings in our lives. The challenge for this week is to thank someone in your life who has expressed God's goodness to you. This week also challenges you to express God's goodness to others in your life.
WEEK 5	<b>SERVE</b>	God values everyone equally and immensely. When we express this to each other we are experiencing life with more love. This week challenges you to think critically about how your actions value others.
WEEK 6	<b>REFLECT</b>	Living a full life requires change. During this week, we will reflect on each of the previous weeks, what we have learned, and how we will recommit ourselves to those actions, even after this journey is over.