

December, 2020



THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

**Join us on Zoom and Facebook 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

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.*

~ by Eleanor Farjeon

Dear Friends,

It is Advent. This is the season of preparation and of waiting, both of which can be difficult. Preparation takes time and effort, usually far more time and effort than the actual enjoyment itself. But it is necessary if we want to do our best and present our best selves. When company is expected, we make our homes as fair as we are able. We prepare good food to share and do what we can to ensure our guests feel welcome.

Then comes the waiting. Waiting is hard. Right now, many of us are spending a whole lot of time waiting. Yes, we are waiting for Christmas, but we are also waiting for this pandemic to settle down. Some of us don't even have a place to call home, and so we are waiting for that. We are waiting for some kind of sign that everything will be okay.

If we are being honest, we are waiting for God to intervene, somehow, in our lives. We know this situation is beyond our skills and capabilities. What is interesting, though, is that life is actually *always* better when we leave room for God to intervene. This is perhaps one of the most powerful insights for us. It has to do with Advent, which is a time of waiting for the Christ Child, but it also has to do with every single day of our lives.

When we prepare as best we can and then wait for God, miracles happen. What miracles are on the horizon for you, for us as a church, for this world? *Love, the guest is on the way.* Amen, and so may it be.

Blessings this Advent,
Pastor Shirley



Image: iStock

Advent Video Calendar

A project edited by Pastor John Longworth and contributed to by many people, including Pastor Shirley. One video becomes available each day during Advent. <https://videoadvent2020.tumblr.com/>

Christmas Eve

There will be a Conference-wide Service of Lessons and Carols that we can all enjoy from our homes this year. Our very own Bells of Joy Quartet is featured in this special time of worship. We will email the link as soon as it becomes available.

Christmas Eve plans at RUMC are up in the air due to the rise of COVID numbers in our area. We will let you know our plans for this holy night's celebration as soon as we are able. Thank you for understanding that our priority is to keep everyone safe.

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. We can film you at the church at a time that is convenient to you. Please reach out to Lori or Shirley if you are willing to serve in this way.

Virtual Chocolate Fest

Thanks to all who participated in the Virtual Chocolate Fest. This fundraiser gathered over \$4,400! We are busy determining how much we will be able to give to each community partner. Your generosity is most appreciated, as we were disappointed not to have been able to do the silent auction and chocolate festival in person this year. Let's look forward to a better 2021!!

Virtual Bible Study

Bible Study will be meeting on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm via ZOOM. Here is the Zoom info: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85438229806?pwd=bzlBMU5zNmNNMzJ6dlllQmVpUzhQZz09>
To join by phone: dial 1.646.558.8656 then Meeting ID: 854 3822 9806 and then the Passcode: 178551.

Comfort Zone

To begin with, we are sorry to announce that we have had to suspend our deliveries of breakfasts to homebound people. If anyone is interested in volunteering to do that, give Marsha Johnson 775-7212 or Linda Allen 773-2460 a call.

We are also looking for someone to pick up lunches on Wednesday at 4:00 pm, at the Farmer's Market building on West Street, after the 16th. Please call if you can help with that!

The need for food becomes even greater as the weeks go by and COVID surges again. Many days we are giving out 60 to 80 breakfasts, and we are giving out more food from our food shelf.

We are down again on volunteers as people seem to come and go for various reasons. Again, if you would like to volunteer or know someone who would, call Marsha or Linda at the Church.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Marsha Johnson
Comfort Zone Coordinator

Sunday School

Sunday School will continue with at-home lessons being dropped off for the foreseeable future, as COVID continues. The children are learning about and celebrating Advent and Christmas this month. I hope the children have fun and enjoy this very special season with the stories, puzzles, Advent calendars and wreaths, and crafts that are included in the lesson.

Wishing you all a joy-filled Christmas and hope for a happy and safer New Year!

God Bless,
Marsha Johnson & Linda Allen
Co- Sunday School Superintendents

Church Finances

In order to balance the budget, it is necessary to take in an average of **\$12,000 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.* 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. Listed here are the weekly offerings for November:

November 1	2,052
November 8	1,918
November 15	1,613
November 22	2,007
November 29	1,367
TOTAL	\$ 8,957

December and January Birthdays

DECEMBER		JANUARY	
8	Ericka Wakker	3	Steve Dotson
9	Kevin Stone	8	Ralph Perry
11	Mark Allen	9	Dottie Lafountain
12	Lori McVeigh	11	Edmund Hemmer
18	Lexi Moore	13	Roberta Hemmer
19	Carol Marold	16	Natalia Mendoza Betts
	Ann Reed	28	Stephanie McMahon
	McKenzie Barnes		
	Alec Barnes		
20	Glenda O'Connor		
21	Mike Gauthier		
24	Terry O'Connor		

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!!

FOR COMFORT ZONE & BREAKING BREAD	
Paper Towels	Coffee
Kleenex	Refrigerator thermometer
Dawn dish detergent	Sponges
Cheese	Shelf-stable milk
Disposable gloves (vinyl or nitrile) Size L and XL	
Yellow-lined legal pads of paper	

Rutland United Methodist Church

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Facebook: Rutland United Methodist Church

