



January, 2021

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 or mail 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.

Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp

*There's a season for everything
and a time for every matter under the heavens ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1*

I have spent some time in Ireland, and even more time learning about Celtic Spirituality. The Celts are fond of honoring and commemorating threshold times such as the ending of one year and the beginning of another. They call these *thin places*, when the old is not quite complete and the new has not yet taken hold. A thin place is a time and space in our lives when all of the possibilities are open. Opportunity abounds. Change can happen more readily than at any other time because all it takes is a little push at the threshold and all of a sudden you are pointing in a new direction, facing an open field of possibility.

Today we often make New Year's resolutions. We choose the direction we would like to go. We choose a path and we decide how we will make the journey. We choose our travel companions or we decide this is a journey we would do best to undertake on our own. But even as we step forward, an important aspect of the ritual of this moment is to acknowledge and give thanks for what you are leaving behind. Offer gratitude for the gifts you have gleaned, even if they were hard won. Give thanks for the people who accompanied you up until this point, acknowledge how they helped you along your way. Offering gratitude allows us to take the next step with a lighter heart, less baggage and a bit more freedom.

As the author of Ecclesiastes says, there is a time for every purpose under heaven. It is our responsibility to figure out what our purpose is in this moment in time. A new year is dawning, and with it the slate is wiped clean. We are standing on the threshold. As we come to a new year, maybe you would like to reflect on the same questions:

What do you choose to let go of?

What are your intentions for this new year?

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. We film on Wednesday afternoons, but 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

\$4,500 was collected from generous donors! Thank you so much for helping us continue this annual tradition despite the challenges of the pandemic. We will be able to give to each of the local organizations that we normally help.

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.

Breaking Bread

The Everyone Eats program, which was administered by the Farmers' Food Center, has ended, leaving the community without a major source of meals. That program, which provided lunch or dinner on Tuesday through Friday, helped feed local families, helped local farmers where much of the food was sourced, and helped small local restaurants.

Because of this, the Breaking Bread meal will be needed more than ever. We will be starting up again this month on Thursday, January 28th. We plan to serve biscuits and chicken with gravy. As usual, we are looking volunteers, and desserts.

Linda Allen

Breaking Bread Coordinator

Comfort Zone & Outreach Ministries

Comfort Zone continues to offer to-go breakfasts to an average of 60 people daily. We have given out 45 winter coats to folks in need. Many of these were donated by the Zen Community, who provides a meal on Fridays. They also took care of feeding folks on Christmas and New Year's Day when we were not available.

We received a surprise grant for our food shelf from the Vermont Community Foundation. An anonymous advisor recommended us for the grant of \$250.00. This will help us to be able to purchase some of the most requested items on a weekly basis; we plan to use the funds for shelf stable milk and for cheese.

Thank you to all who have been providing canned goods and other staples. In the past 6 months, we've given out 463 items!

Linda Allen

Outreach Coordinator

Sunday School

It's hard to believe that another year has passed. Let us pray that 2021 gets better. I continue to prepare and deliver lessons to the children's homes. They completed Advent and Christmas lessons. Unfortunately, we were unable to have the children's Christmas party, but we did give them gifts, which had been donated, and "goodie bags."

Looking forward to a New Year when, hopefully, we can start having in-person Sunday School. Happy New Year to all and prayers for a safe, well New Year!

Marsha Johnson

Sunday School Superintendent

Stewardship & Finances

Stewardship has to do with how we make use of the gifts we have at hand. Rutland UMC strives to be faithful in ensuring that your gifts are used to do the work that God asks of us. We continue our weekly Worship Services, keeping our spirits lifted and holding one another in prayer. We maintain the Outreach programs that serve many people in our community with food and clothing. Our music program continues despite the challenges of working remotely. Sunday School, is going strong, thanks to Marsha's efforts. ***The life of the church continues. Thank you for your support in making all of this happen.***

Here are the weekly offerings for December:

December 6	1,747
December 13	3,922
December 20	882
December 27	1,593
TOTAL	\$ 8,144

JANUARY & FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3	Steve Dotson	1	Craig Cota
6	Gary Lindorff		Scott Sharrow
9	Dottie LaFountain	3	Linda Mackin
	Joyce Robarge	4	Theresa Bushey
11	Edmund Hemmer	8	Judy Pidgeon
13	Robert Hemmer	9	Russell Perry
16	Natalia Mendoza Betts		Arlene O'Connor
18	Amy Mackin Mills	11	Norman Desjardins
28	Stephanie McMahon	13	Emily Pettus
		14	Karen Cartier
		15	Jim Mills, Jr.
		17	Linda & Mark Allen ♥
		18	Toban Crosby
		19	Judy Olson
			Alison Gauthier
		26	Bonnie Partridge
		28	Jane Jepson
			Matt Fillioe

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	
Juice	Sugar packets
Paper towels	Toilet paper
#8 Paper bags	Reusable grocery bags
Dawn dishwashing liquid	Brillo pads
Sponges	Coffee

Rutland United Methodist Church

60 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, Vermont 05701

802.773.2460 - Fax: 802.773-8491 - Pastoral emergencies 802-779-7146

Office hours: Monday through Thursday 10 am to 12 pm

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

Facebook: Rutland United Methodist Church

Wisdom ascribe, and might and praise
to God, who lengthens out our days,
who spares us yet another year,
and lets us see goodness here.

— H A P P Y N E W Y E A R —

