



## THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

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

*Also, on Sundays at 11 am, anyone who wishes to may join in fellowship time by way of Zoom. Pastor Shirley will email the link to these meetings before Sunday.*

### A Final Good-Bye to 71 and 73 Williams Street

The Board of Trustees reports that on May 29, 2020, the sale of the former Church building and parsonage at 71 and 73 Williams Street was finalized. They were sold to Madeline Michelle who has hopes of creating a respite and retreat center through her company, Lyrical LLC.

We were glad to find someone who intends to use the church in a way that will positively impact our community.

Thank you to all of the people within the church family also who have worked so hard over the past two and a half years on this undertaking. It has been a difficult journey for so many of us.

Although it has been difficult to leave the old church behind, making this a bittersweet time for us, we are grateful to have the challenge of maintaining the old buildings and properties behind us.

We are most grateful for the long history of faithful people who have worshipped in the beloved Sanctuary and Chapel, been married and baptized there and whose lives were celebrated there with funeral services. Let us hold these memories dear to our hearts, and that we will share them with one another with a deep sense of gratitude for God's gifts that have come to fruition for us in that place.

### Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp

Dear Friends in Christ,

Peace with Justice Sunday is coming up in just a few days, and it feels like it is right in time. The past few months have been difficult, dealing with the worries and restrictions placed upon us in trying to avoid the spread of Covid-19. But the past weeks have become even harder to navigate as the inherent racism in our country has raised its ugly and violent head. As a Christian and as a pastor, I feel overwhelmed by the lack of peace and the lack of justice for all people.

I feel sad that our country cannot not even live up to the secular promises made in our Declaration of Independence, the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. At this point a person of color is not guaranteed the right to life if they have an encounter with law enforcement or choose to go jogging. Liberty is not available because the simple freedom of existing, let alone expressing an opinion, can get a black or brown person driven out of their home and community, as a state representative here in Vermont discovered recently. As for the pursuit of happiness, if you are a person of color, you dare not enjoy a hobby such as bird watching in your local park, out of concern for who else might be there and be uncomfortable with your presence. I find these facts of our current situation deeply troubling.

When the coronavirus hit, it seemed that we banded together and felt a sense of camaraderie and being in it together. But soon it transpired that people of color were getting sick and dying at a higher rate than white people, and rather than digging in to figure out why and how we could stop these inequities from happening, many of us white folks just breathed a sigh of relief that we were safer. It also transpired that the wearing of masks became a political statement rather than a simple act of care and compassion for the people around you.

If we want to say that we are followers of Jesus, then we have to get back to the basics of what this means. We have to prioritize the needs of vulnerable people in our midst and heal the wounds of strangers. We need to remember how to love one another and show compassion to each other, no matter what our differences might be. Maybe it would help to do as Mother Theresa did, and remember to see Christ in the face of every person we encounter? Maybe if we look for Christ in this way, it will jolt us into acting in a way that is more expressive of our faith in our everyday lives? At the very least, I hope and pray that we remember whose children we are, and start making a difference for good, for God, in these very difficult times.

***Pastor Shirley***

### Reopening

All of us are eager to get back together for worship. We miss seeing one another and celebrating God's presence in our lives in person as a congregation. To this end, the RUMC Re-Launch Church team met via Zoom on Monday, June 1st to discuss the logistics of reopening for in-person worship at 60 Strongs Avenue. Members of this committee 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.

Team members attended a webinar and read over guidelines set by the State, CDC and New England Conference of the UMC in preparation for our meeting. Weighing all of these, we determined that there are so many variables involved in meeting the requirements for safe gatherings, at this point indoor worship is just too risky. We hope to be able to hold outdoor worship in July and are looking into logistics and planning for this.

In the meantime, we will continue to have Facebook live worship. Plans are in the works to add the option for people to call into the service on their phone through ZOOM. This technology will also allow more people to participate in leadership of the service as liturgists and musicians as we move forward on the learning curve. Bulletins will continue to 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.

### 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. Visiting will be done outside whenever possible. We have set up chairs in the parking lot for this purpose.*

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](mailto: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 10am, when breakfast distribution is complete.

Lori is back in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to Noon and Wednesday from 1 to 3, 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. This comes at no cost to 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!!

## Are you Missing Your Daily Devotionals?

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

## Recognition of Graduating Seniors

We have received notice of two seniors related to our Church family who, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 situation, are graduating from high school this month.

Pam Allen's granddaughter, Arianna Mackenzie Kelley, will graduate from Rutland High School, where she is a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to attend Keene State College. Arianna is the daughter of the late beloved Jason Allen and her mother is Amanda Kelley.

Jackie Bartenstein's granddaughter, Ila L. Bartenstein, will be graduating from Bishop Brady High School, in Concord, NH, on June 12<sup>th</sup>. She will be attending the University of New Hampshire in the Honors Program and will be majoring in Environmental Science.

Congratulations Arianna and Ila on your accomplishments and best wishes for a successful future!

## 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.

## Comfort Zone

Here we are at the beginning of Summer, and we're still doing take-out bagged breakfasts. One day at the end of May we gave out the most we ever have – 67 breakfasts in one hour!

We continue to receive many, many generous donations of food, supplies, and money, from inside our Church, Church of the Wildwood, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We have also received grants and donations from outside the Church. "The Lord does provide."

Continued thanks to everyone who has helped.

**Marsha Johnson**  
Comfort Zone Coordinator

## Breaking Bread

Breaking Bread goes drive-through!

Last Thursday, Breaking Bread resumed, this time with a takeout meal of lasagna, garlic bread, green beans and pie with ice cream. Because we've had a crowd for our pizza giveaways, we decided on a drive through format, delivering the meals in to-go containers, and encouraging diners to stay in their cars while runners brought everything needed to make a complete meal.

So many organizations and people worked together to make this meal a success! Thank you to **Hannaford** for their generous donation to help support our meals, to **Champlain Orchards** for the amazing apple pies! And thank you to **Wilcox Ice Cream** for their donation of ice cream to make the pie "a la mode"! We are so touched by each of these organizations for their commitment to the community!

Thank you to all the individuals who worked so hard on all aspects of this meal including shopping, donating items, cooking, building the lasagna, cutting pie, plating food, buttering, bagging, boxing, running, directing, cleaning, putting away, and any other jobs done by the amazing group of volunteers, including everyone from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Teamwork made it possible to give out 120 meals! Thanks to everyone who is part of this ministry!

**Linda Allen**  
**Outreach Coordinator**

## Sunday School

I've continued to deliver Sunday School lessons each week to seven children at home. In May as part of the lessons, we observed Mother's Day and the kids each got a Mother's Day craft and card to make for their Moms. This month, they'll celebrate Father's Day, making a craft and card for their Dads.

They also learned the story of Stephen and why he was stoned, and stories about Paul and Silas.

The end of the Sunday School year is fast approaching and we are trying to decide how we might make "Children's Day" year-end celebration special for the children under the current circumstances. The last day will be June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Marsha Johnson**  
**Sunday School Superintendent**

## JOY Choir

**JOY Choir** is meeting via ZOOM on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Contact Ann Reed for the link so you can join us. Musically speaking it might be a little funky singing together this way, but it is a whole lot of fun!

## Supplies Needed for Comfort Zone!

**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	Tape
Sponges	Juice boxes
Scotch tape	Toilet paper
Zip lock bags – all sizes	Fruit cups
Rubber gloves	Eggs

## June and July Birthdays & Anniversaries

<b>JUNE</b>		<b>JULY</b>	
1	Sara Reynolds	2	Adrienne Bentley
3	Chris & Terry O'Connor ♥		Allyson Stoodley
4	Saylor Belle Somers	7	Don & Lexi Moore ♥
	Gail Moore	8	Linda Allen
5	Shawn Abuel	9	David & Dottie LaFountain ♥
6	John Anderson	10	Christopher Whitney
9	Paul Whitney	11	Pam Allen
10	Peg Manney		Lorraine Dotson
11	June Fredette		Brenda Pratt
	Chris O'Connor	12	Caydence Lafond
14	Susana Abuel		Gwen White
15	Sam Groom, III	12	Ethan Hackett
19	David Lafountain	15	Vikki Colomb
	Cathy Archer	16	Edward Hackett
20	Erika Mead	18	Katelyn O'Connor
21	Judy Blair		Jackie Gauthier
	Jack & Linda Mackin ♥	22	Joan Cota
	Mike & Jackie Gauthier ♥	26	Kevin & Debbie Stone ♥
	Scott & Linda Kuiken ♥	27	Don Moore
22	Diane Fleur		Catherine Ricketts
	Kayla Siliski		
23	Penny Ford		
29	Steve & Peg Manney ♥		
30	Paul & Sharon Whitney ♥		
	Devyn Rogers		

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Facebook: Rutland United Methodist Church

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