



## THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

---

### **In-person Worship at 60 Strongs Avenue at 9:30 am**

*Services will also be livestreamed on RUMC's Facebook page*

### **Zoom Fellowship at 9:00 am**

*Link will be emailed to you with the bulletin.*

---

### **Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp**

*And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? ~ Micah 6:8*

Dear Friends,

The beauty of the world God created is so evident. Perhaps this is most evident in the season of autumn. Leaves change color and eventually fall, and yet the trees themselves remain alive and strong, well prepared to weather the cold winter winds and snows.

If only we could learn to be gracious about the need for change and transformation from the trees. If only we could let go of things that have served their purpose, and make room to receive what is to come. But we tend to hold onto a whole lot of "stuff", even after it has served its purpose. We hold onto our beliefs about how things should be, even when they cause harm.

I have been thinking a lot about love and compassion lately. These are, of course core teachings for Jesus. But loving others and extending compassion to those with whom we disagree can be challenging, to say the least. So often, the people who need our compassion and love are so different from us that we can't relate to them or their life choices at all!

As if this isn't difficult enough, I recently revisited an old favorite, *Mere Christianity* where author C.S. Lewis basically says that loving others is not enough. *"You might think love of humanity in general was safe, but it is not. If you leave out justice you will find yourself breaking agreements and faking evidence in trials 'for the sake of humanity,' and become in the end a cruel and treacherous man."*

I am pretty sure that none of us wants to become "a cruel and treacherous man" or woman. These are difficult times, though. These are times that challenge Christians to be diligent in living up to God's hopes and Jesus' expectations for us. Loving one another in deeply divisive times is tough. But ensuring that each person receives justice is even tougher.

As we consider what is happening in our community, in our country and in the world, we may have to give up some of our own privileges in order to bring God's love and compassion into play. May we learn from the trees to show forth the beauty that God has given us, but may we also learn to let go and open our hands and our hearts, to receive what God sends to us next.

Blessings in this Autumn Season of Letting Go and Letting God,  
***Pastor Shirley***

## **Chicken Dinner Fundraiser for Comfort Zone**

Our collaborative ministry is sponsoring a chicken dinner on October 1<sup>st</sup> to benefit the Comfort Zone outreach. As of Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, commitments for dinners and donations are nearing \$1,500! Thanks to all from RUMC, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Grace Congregational UCC who participated and worked behind the scenes to make this event come together successfully. Special thanks to dinner coordinator Ellie McGarry, (from GSLC).

### **Joy Choir**

Joy Choir rehearsals are on **Tuesday at 5:15 pm** at the Church building. Please wear a mask. Contact Ann Reed (skuldose@hotmail.com) or the office if you wish to participate. All are welcome!

### **Bells of Joy**

The next rehearsal for Bells of Joy will be on **Thursday, October 14 at 5:15 pm**. Thereafter, rehearsals will be held on **Wednesdays at 5:15 pm** at the Church building. Please wear a mask. Contact Karen James (kjamesbell@aol.com) or the office if you wish to participate. All are welcome!

### **Comfort Zone**

We have used all of our Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant money from the Foodbank, which bought eggs and some fresh produce for several months.

We will continue to receive lunches from Vermont Everyone Eats! Program from Tuesday through Thursday until the end of December. We are in need of a volunteer/volunteers to pick up the meals on Wednesdays at the Farmers Market building on West Street and bring them back to RUMC. Many thanks to Jackie Bartenstein and her friend, Gary, for picking up meals for the last several months. It was appreciated so very much.

If you would like to volunteer to do this once a week, please call Marsha or Linda at the Church.

**Marsha Johnson**

Comfort Zone Coordinator

### **Outreach**

This month we have had so many requests and have had to deny many requests for funds.

We helped an older woman and her disabled brother to pay for their cell phone, helped an injured young man with health conditions pay for his cell so he could be in contact with his doctors.

We purchased sneakers for 2 different individuals whose sneakers were falling apart. In collaboration with Virginia Parker from Troll House and Rabbi Ellie at the Jewish Center, we put a mom and child in a motel for 2 nights until their check came in.

One of the things we see most often amongst the homeless is lack of proper documentation. The Church helped two people who had lost their licenses get their ID's, so they can get moving on jobs and apartments. Without proper ID's, legitimate companies won't hire, and no landlords will allow people to move in.

The needs are increasing as the cold weather arrives, and we are almost out of funds. There are many more people out on the streets than last year. Thank you so much for all that the Church has done to help our neighbors!

**Outreach needs:** Funds, Winter jackets, Jeans, sweatpants, hoodies, thermal underwear, sleeping bags, warm blanket Handwarmers, mylar blankets, sterno.

**Linda Allen**

Outreach Coordinator

## **Spotlight on our Volunteers**

Rutland UMC is very grateful for its many volunteers. This month we feature **Arlene O'Connor**.

Arlene has been involved in RUMC since the late '60's when she and her husband, Gene, moved to Rutland with their family.

Over the years she has served with Nancy Hodgson as Co-Sunday School Superintendent, as a member of the Choir, on the kitchen crew, and has been on various committees/teams within the Church.

For over 20 years, Arlene has made sure that the altar and pulpit are maintained, and she continues lending a helping hand to RUMC as a member of the Worship Team. She always makes sure that the paraments (hangings on the pulpit and altar) are the correct color to agree with whatever the season or occasion!

Arlene enjoys using her well-known artistic talents to create live floral arrangements, many of which are comprised of fresh-cut flowers from her own garden. She also makes special arrangements at the request of Church family members.

Along with Penny Ford, Arlene has enjoyed decorating the Church during the holiday season with poinsettias and wreaths.



Arlene O'Connor completes an Autumn theme for the altar

## **Sunday School**

We have had a bit of a slow start to Sunday School as we continue to deliver lessons in the homes. We started the year with a curriculum about Adam and Eve and Creation to coincide with Pastor Shirley's services. We continue to pray that we will be able to resume in-person Sunday School soon!

**Marsha Johnson**  
Sunday School Co-Supt.

## Stewardship & Finances

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to RUMC. You make our ministry possible by financially supporting our staff as well as all of the outreach we do as Christ's hands in this community. **In order to balance our budget, an average of \$8,600 monthly** needs to be received in offerings and donations.

Donations can be made by mail, in person, through Facebook, or by credit card. Call Assistant Treasurer Kristen Jarvi (438-9805) or Lori in the office (773-2460).

September 5	750
September 12	2,159
September 19	769
September 26	987
Facebook donations September	614
	<b>\$ 5,279</b>

## October and November Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	
2	Sam Groom	5	Ellen Wakker
3	Andrew Siliski	7	Brenda Arley
	Lorraine & Steve Dotson ♥	9	Jack Mackin
6	Bruce Gee		Lynn Tucker
8	Wayne Carlson	13	Beth Fernandes
10	Lindsey Siliski	14	Ava-Grace Mackin
15	Ron & Vikki Colomb ♥	15	Doug Allen
	Matt O'Morrow	16	Sofia Villano Betts
16	Heather Betts		Rodney Siliski
19	Mike & Deb Estey ♥	17	Ely Abuel
20	Alex Hemmer	23	Rose Wetherby
	Sam Groom, III	25	Sharon Whitney
21	John Anderson	27	Diane Sharrow

## Supplies Needed for the Church

**Call first to make sure someone is here. The best time to drop by is 10:30 am to noon.**  
**Please put your name on the items so that we can thank you!!**

Individual juice boxes (we use up to 420 per week)	
Napkins	Cookies & snacks
Eggs	Shelf stable milk
Muffins	Breakfast bars
Granola bars	Ziplock: Sandwich & Snack
Parchment paper	Scotch tape

## Do you need Egg Cartons?

Do you know of anyone who needs good, clean eggs cartons? We have an abundance of them! Contact Marsha or Linda.

**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**