



## THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

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### **Join us on Zoom 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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to September and the very beginning of the Autumn season. The cooler weather has already started for many of us, pushing us to drag those wool sweaters and warm fleece pants out of the closets. What I have always loved about being in Vermont is the way people here embrace the cool weather. In some ways I think of Vermonters being a perfect match for the weather here – brisk and strong, ready for each change as it comes to them. Vermont does not make any bones about the fact that we have four distinct seasons, perhaps even five if you count mud season. Each season has a very clear identity with its own gifts and joys to be celebrated.

I laugh a bit when I hear myself say this, but I really enjoy the onset of each season, so I don't think I could choose a favorite. The beauty of this particular time of year, with the glorious colors of Autumn leaves, though, is obvious, so obvious that people travel from all over to experience it firsthand. Even though we may roll our eyes at the number of tour busses driving through town to see the foliage, some of us take drives to particularly beautiful parts of the State ourselves.

It feels really good to take note of the beauty of this place we call home. To my mind, this pausing to appreciate the beauty God has gifted us with is important. This is true whether it takes the form of a drive to Lincoln Gap, or along Lake Champlain, or simply standing on our porch in the morning with a steaming cup of coffee as we watch the sun light up the scene.

I encourage us all to take time to appreciate the gifts God has given us every day, and maybe even figure out a special way to appreciate them each week. It is way too easy for us to start taking things for granted whether it is the beauty of the land on which we live or the depth of friendships we have formed over the years. It is also way too easy for us to focus on the challenges we face with coronavirus fears, persistent racism, and rising unrest in so many communities across our country.

But God's way in the midst of all of these fears and concerns is steady and strong. God's way is imbedded in the wisdom of the natural world. God's way is to show up every morning with the rising sun, bringing light and warmth. It is to show up every Autumn with the beautiful colors that lift up our spirits. It is to show up in the kind words and compassionate actions of people who continue to reach out in loving support of their neighbors.

As Autumn begins, may we notice the gifts that God offers to us each day, and may we in turn offer our gifts to the world and the people around us. May we be as reliable in giving of ourselves as the rising sun each morning, as the rolling seasons in our beautiful home. In giving our gifts, we often find the strength we need to move forward with faith, hope and love, despite the challenges of life.

May it be so,  
**Pastor Shirley**

## Outdoor In-Person Worship on September 5<sup>th</sup>

We will hold an outdoor in-person worship service on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at the home of Kristen Jarvi, 1212 Boardman Hill Road, West Rutland. **Please wear a face mask and bring your own chair and bulletin. Also bring a drink for communion. Individually wrapped crackers will be provided.** The service will begin at 9:30 am, but we encourage folks to show up by 9:15 to get settled. A bathroom is available for emergencies. This service will also be on Zoom and Facebook live for those who prefer to remain at home.



Bobbie Fillioe, Nancy Hodgson and Lori McVeigh are spearheading Bobbie's idea that we reach out on social media to see if anyone would be willing to contribute to the Chocolate Fest this year. COVID-19 has put a damper on EVERYTHING – stress on businesses, inability to safely hold in-person events, etc. This is part of the letter that went out via email to our members and constituents, to the Project Vision email list, and on Facebook – the page is Chocolate Fest RUMC.

“Even though we cannot host Chocolate Fest this year, we are asking you to consider supporting this event without the benefit of the decadent chocolate desserts or the lovely silent auction items we offered, many generously donated by local businesses.

However, this Virtual event isn't completely without chocolate!



37 Center Street  
Rutland, Vermont

For a \$25 donation: Certificate for a 2-truffle box of chocolate

For a \$50 donation: Certificate for four truffles

For a \$75 donation: Certificate for six truffles

For a \$100 donation: Certificate for eight truffles

(Certificates will be mailed to you)

If this is something that you are willing to support, please send donations to “RUMC Chocolate Fest,” 60 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701. You may also donate on the “Rutland United Methodist Church” or “Chocolate Fest RUMC” Facebook page, or call the Church office (802-773-2460) to pay by credit card.

We are accepting donations until November 30, 2020, at which time we will evaluate the giving and how your donations will be distributed to best meet the needs in our community.”

## Comfort Zone

Comfort Zone has been very busy. Most days recently, we have given out 55 to 68 breakfasts. This is a lot of work, and we have lost some of our volunteers who had to stop for various reasons. So, **we are very much in need of some more volunteers.**

If you could volunteer one day a week, or even an occasional day, please contact me at 775-7212 and leave or message, or call the Church office. We especially need more people on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Many thanks to all who volunteer and/or donate food or supplies for the Comfort Zone breakfast.

**Marsha Johnson**  
Comfort Zone Coordinator

## Sunday School

It's hard to believe that Summer is almost over, and it soon will be time to start the new Sunday School year! The new year will begin on September 20, 2020. Unfortunately, because COVID restrictions continue, we will not be able to have our Sunday School Rally that usually kicks off the start of the year. I will be delivering lesson packets each week to students' homes as we did at the end of last year.

We will start the new year learning about the Miracles of Jesus. I look forward to seeing all of the children again.

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

## Church Finances

We hope that everyone received the 6-month financial update and letter from Pastor Shirley that was sent out last month. If you did not, please advise and we will get one to you. It gives a picture of our financial situation for the first half of 2020. In order to balance the budget, it is necessary to take in an average of **\$12,500 per month**. Listed here are the weekly deposits for July and August:

July 5	\$ 1,251	August 2	\$ 3,994
July 12	\$ 3,945	August 9	\$ 3,742
July 19	\$ 2,453	August 16	\$ 1,480
July 26	\$ 1,210	August 23	\$ 821
		August 30	\$ 691
	<b>\$8,859.00</b>		<b>\$10,728.00</b>

## 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 Ave., Rutland, VT 05701.

Donations may be made through our Facebook page. They add no fees for you or the Church. Your offering can also be made by credit card. Contact Assistant Treasurer Kristen Jarvi (438-9805) or Lori in the Church office to provide your information. Your donations are kept in strict confidence. Thank you for your support!!

## September and October Birthdays & Anniversaries

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		<b>OCTOBER</b>	
1	Karen & Chris Cartier ♥	2	Sam Groom
3	Daphne Hemmer	3	Andrew Siliski
	Craig & Joan Cota ♥		Lorraine & Steve Dotson ♥
10	Alan Betts	6	Bruce Gee
11	Elyvian Abuel	8	Wayne Carlson
	William Butler	10	Lindsey Siliski
	Ron & Vikki Colomb ♥	15	Betty Corey
	Betty Corey		Ron & Vikki Colomb ♥
14	Elijah Abuel	19	Mike & Deb Estey ♥
16	Scott Tucker	20	Alex Hemmer
	Thelma "Teddy" Murphy		Sam Groom, III
17	Karen James	21	John Anderson
23	Mike Estey		
24	Edith Partridge		
26	Mary Barnes		
27	Scott McVeigh		
	Lynn Gee		
28	Malia Madison Allen		
	Andrew McMahon		

### 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!!**

PAPER TOWELS!	Coffee
Juice boxes	Plastic utensils
Plastic grocery bags (used)	Napkins
Ham (thin sliced)	Bacon
Office needs copy paper – even one ream would be great!	Ziploc quart, snack, gallon, portion bags

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 Facebook: Rutland United Methodist Church  
 Contact Pastor Shirley Oskamp for any pastoral emergencies at 802-779-7146