

February, 2022



## THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

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### “Mark Your Calendar”

Sundays at 9:00 am: **Zoom fellowship** prior to and including worship  
Sundays at 9:30 am: **Worship** (in person, by Zoom and live on Facebook)  
Sundays at 11 am: **Worship** at Church of the Wildwood in Chittenden  
Tuesdays at 5:00 pm at 60 Strongs Ave.: **Choir rehearsal**  
Thursday, February 10 at 5 pm via Zoom: **Finance Team**  
Monday, February 14 at 6 pm via Zoom: **Leadership Team**  
Wednesday, March 2 at 12:30 pm: **Ash Wednesday Service** (in person and by Zoom)

### Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp

Dear Friends,

In February my thoughts turn to Valentine's Day and to love, but not just in the ways you might think. I understand God's love as a broad and deep love that encompasses everything and everyone. There is nothing and no one outside of its reach. The trick is, that many people do not know this, and their experiences may not live up to it either. So we, as children of God and as sisters and brothers of Christ are the ones charged with bringing this love out into the world. It is our responsibility to make sure that no one feels beyond the reach of God's love.

I believe that we save what we love, and so for this Valentine's Day I encourage us all to think about what we love most in this world, and then consider taking one small action that protects or cares for them. If you love children, then maybe you want to volunteer at your local school. If you love the earth, then maybe you will pick up trash as you walk or commit yourself to reusable bottles for your water and cloth bags for shopping. If you love animals then maybe you will volunteer at the local humane society or create habitat for the wild animals who live near you.

Saint Valentine, whose name gives us the holiday, was imprisoned because he performed weddings at a time when the authorities did not want men to marry since it was assumed marriage would make them poor soldiers. While he was in jail, he wrote notes about God's love to the daughter of his jailor, signing them, “*Your Valentine*”. He was put to death on February 14, 269 CE.

To celebrate Valentine's Day this year, maybe we could send notes of loving encouragement to people we know and even to those we don't!

~ *Thinking of you with love today and holding you in prayer.*  
~ *You are a special person, with unique gifts for the world.*  
~ *Sending love and light your way this Valentine's Day.*

Remember, dear friends, that God *does* love you. God wants the very best life for you, filled with meaning and hope, with joy and peace. And the best way to achieve this is to find ways to spread God's love around until our entire world is permeated by this love, and transformed.

Happy Valentine's, *Pastor Shirley*

## **“Soup for Good” to go!**

Companions in Wholeness is holding a soup fundraiser on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help out with that by making soup, handing it out to those who purchased it ahead of time, or if you would like to purchase a quart or two of delicious homemade soup, please let us know by calling the church office. To make it simpler for all, we have recipes for the three flavors of soup.

## **Ash Wednesday Services**

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. We will hold a brief worship experience to help us prepare for this season of renewal and recommitment to living as God's people. As a part of this service, you will have an opportunity to consider what you hope to let go of for the Lenten season, and to receive ashes as a reminder of the fact that we are human. Come and join us at 12:30 pm at the church or on Zoom. This service will not be available on Facebook.

## **Thank You from Dismas House**

Rutland Dismas House sends a big Thank You to volunteer cooks from Rutland United Methodist Church!

With the recent opening of the Women's Dismas House on Royce Street in Rutland there is an on-going and added need for volunteer cooks to cook, Monday- Friday. Cooks may stay to eat with residents or drop off food for the meal. Dismas House Council members, staff and/or resident representatives are available to speak about Dismas to your faith community at any time. For more information and to volunteer, contact Geraldine Burke at [geraldine@dismasofvt.org](mailto:geraldine@dismasofvt.org) or call 775-5539.

## **Grants for Education**

RUMC is fortunate to hold responsibility for the Richard A. Dexter & Ruby Jenness Dexter Christian Education Trust Fund. Grants from this fund may be used by anyone related to the Church to further their education. The intention of this Trust is to enable people to take a course or workshop that will prepare them to serve the community and/or enhance spiritual growth. If you are looking to gain new skills and/or knowledge in a field that is calling to your heart, please contact the church office for an application.

## **Companions in Wholeness**

We are moving forward on obtaining our LLC certification from the State, and people are taking on new responsibilities in order to help the work flow more smoothly. Linda Allen, our Outreach Coordinator, will be focusing on meeting with guests and helping them with particular needs including clothing, food, and connecting with community resources. Ellie McGarry, Coordinator for Companions in Wholeness, has taken charge of food operations including ordering supplies and coordinating menus and volunteers. Marsha Johnson, Founder of Comfort Zone, organizes the volunteer schedule, writes In-Spire articles, and picks up food from the Vermont Food Bank each week. We are grateful for these three women as well as for every person who volunteers in some capacity or makes donations to the cause. It is due to this generosity of spirit that we are able to serve our community so well.

## Comfort Zone

We would like to extend a welcome to Ellie McGarry who has just been appointed as the new Comfort Zone Coordinator. We know she will do a great job.

Our new griddle and metal table have arrived and have been installed. Also, a new warming box has been added to the kitchen. We were able to purchase all of this from grant money we received.

We are feeding 80 to 100 people daily at this point and could use a little more help. We could use one more person on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

**Marsha Johnson**  
Comfort Zone Founder

## 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.

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).

Stewardship is more than finances, so we are deeply grateful for your prayers, the work of your hands, and your presence during worship and more. **In order to make our budget, an average of \$8,600 monthly** needs to be received in offerings and donations. Here are the offerings and donations for January:

January 2	2,145
January 9	6,036
January 16	430
January 23	1,121
January 30	2,352
Facebook donations in January	387
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 12,471</b>

## Supplies Needed for Our Ministries

<b>JUICE BOXES or POUCHES!</b>	
<b>LARGE BOTTLES OF JUICE!</b>	
<b>PAPER TOWELS!!</b>	
<b>SOCKS to give out to folks</b>	
Shelf stable milk	Sweet cereal
Instant oatmeal	Chunky soup
Granola bars	Hormel "Compleats" meals
Canned chicken	Cookies
Baked beans	
Individual rolls of toilet paper to give out to folks	

**FEBRUARY & MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**



1	Craig Cota	1	Richard Fales, Jr.
1	Scott Sharrow	3	Kristina Pettis
3	Linda Mackin	4	Gary Archer
4	Theresa Bushey	6	Ashley Somers
5	Tanya Derstine	11	Sharon Crosby
8	Judy Pidgeon	14	Sue Smith
9	Russell Perry	20	Scott Kuiken
10	Arlene O'Connor	20	Brayden Moore
11	Norman Desjardins	21	Gregory O'Connor
13	Emily Pettus	26	Brody Somers
14	Karen Cartier	29	Ely & Susana Abuel ♥
17	Linda & Mark Allen ♥		
18	Toban Crosby		
	Alison Gauthier		
26	Bonnie Partridge		
28	Jane Jepson		
	Matt Fillioe		

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