



September/October, 2023

## THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

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### **In-person Worship at 60 Strongs Avenue at 11 am**

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

### **Zoom Fellowship at 10:45 am**

*Link will be emailed to you with the bulletin  
or contact the office for information*

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### **"Mark Your Calendar"**

Sundays at 9:30 am: **Joy Choir** rehearsal

Sundays at 10:45 am: **Zoom fellowship** prior to and including worship

Sundays at 11:00 am: **Worship** (in person, by Zoom and live on Facebook)

Thursdays at 3:30 pm: **Bells of Joy** rehearsal

Saturday, September 9 from 1 to 3 pm: **Outdoor Games Event** (see below)

Monday, September 11 at 6 pm: **Leadership Team Meeting** via Zoom

Friday, September 29: CIW **Chicken Dinner** Fundraiser

Friday, September 29 at 1 pm: **Memorial Service for Susan Smith** at Tossing

Sunday, October 8 at 4 pm: **Concert: Area Musicians & Grace UCC Choir**. Proceeds to CIW.

Saturday, November 4: **Holiday Fest** fundraiser for Companions in Wholeness

Beginning Thursday, September 21: **Book Study** with Pastor John via Zoom at 7 pm,  
discussing the book Red Letter Revolution: What if Jesus Really Meant What He Said, by Shane  
Claiborne and Tony Campolo.



### **Message from Pastor John**

It seems that speaking one's truth, regardless of what others think (or feel), has become for many people a virtue and a badge of freedom, a license to say whatever we want to say, however we want to say it, to whomever we want to say it. We might be quite proud of speaking "the truth," even if we have not done our research and confirmed the facts, or thoroughly thought through the issue with the help of reputable persons and sources. It may not even occur to us that we know only in part and may be mistaken.

Speaking the truth is paramount. Healthy persons and loving relationships depend on it; unified and just societies depend on it. Given the extent of self-deception and duplicity in every tier of society, one wonders if truth-telling is much of a guiding principle anymore in our personal, social and civic lives. Even taking an oath over a sacred text matters little when it comes to the selfish pursuit of money and power and attempts to justify it. Without a sense of responsibility before God, even sacred texts are ineffectual in safeguarding the integrity of truth-telling.

It is crucial to our mutual well-being that we speak the truth. It also matters how we speak it. Presently in society, there is no shortage of people speaking their truth in tones and language that make it difficult to listen. If we want to be heard, if we want credibility, we need to "speak the truth in love," the Christ-ethic admonishes. "In love," that is, with humility, with respect, non-defensively, non-aggressively, and with an open mind and open heart to what others have to say in reply. Then, even if we are mistaken or short-sighted, the deeper message can get through - that your sacred dignity as a person has been honored and that together we can ferret out the fuller truth.

I hope I have spoken some truth in love. What do you think?

*Pastor John*

## **New Members**

On Sunday, August 13, we welcomed two new members to the RUMC family of God, **Irene Goebel** and **Margaret Ellison**. We are so blessed to have them as official members of the congregation!

## **Care and Connect Team**

Paul Whitney, Bobbie Fillioe, Judy Blair, Anne Reed and I (along with others) have been exploring ways for our congregation to reconnect after masks, Zoom meetings and COVID have separated us. If anyone has ideas on this or would like to join our committee, please see Irene.

We hope to have a fellowship event once a month. In July we had an ice cream social at the Maples; in August we had outdoor worship with a congregational picnic.

**On September 9 from 1 pm to 3 pm, we plan to have an outdoor fun and games afternoon at the Godnick Center pavilion and backyard. There will be access to the indoor bathroom. Bring a lawn chair, refreshments, and any outdoor games that you enjoy and are willing to share. This is "carry in, carry out" and we will provide a large garbage bag.**

In October we plan to have a movie night, in November perhaps a game night, and in December a cookie swap and card making night for shut-ins. We encourage all to bring a friend, shut-in or anyone without transportation to these events!

In the future I hope to see us form a visitation team to supplement our Pastoral visits. Anyone interested in this ministry please contact Irene or pastor Sue.

***Irene Goebel***  
Care & Connect Team

## Pastoral Care

Office hours for pastoral care: Pastor Sue ~ Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until noon.  
Pastor John ~ Wednesday from 9 am until noon.

They are also available by appointment. Pastor Sue: 570.267.8611 ~ Pastor John: 802.282.7532

## Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to recipients of Scholarships for the upcoming school year! Scholarship Team was pleased to award monies from the Francis & Edwina Jones Clarke Scholarship Trust and from the Richard A. Dexter & Ruby Jenness Dexter Christian Education Trust Fund.



**KATELYNN REGULA**

**Katelynn Regula**, granddaughter of John and Dianne Anderson, daughter of Charles Regula and Rebecca Regula, is a sophomore at The University of Vermont majoring in Exercise Science.

**Owen Smith**, son of Dawn Smith and Todd Smith, is going into his second year at Paul Smith's College, studying Business Management.



**OWEN SMITH**



**COMPANIONS IN WHOLENESS**  
Feeding our Neighbors

We continue to stay busy! An average of 250 breakfasts and 185 lunches per day were served in July. An average of 140 breakfasts and 118 lunches per day were served in August. While we saw a decrease in the number of meals served, we have not seen a decrease in the number of people served.

At the beginning of August, the CIW board made a strategic decision to limit the number of meals an individual could receive. This was done in an effort to preserve capacity, both financial and human. Prior to this decision, staff and volunteers were preparing close to 500 meals per day, and it was simply too much. While it took some getting used to, the staff, volunteers, and guests have gotten comfortable with the new policy.

In addition to the meals, CIW gave out 1,857 items from the food pantry, 1,865 snack items, and 525 pieces of clothing. Most of these items are generously donated by local businesses and community members.

We continue to receive many generous donations from the community. This includes over 600 items from the Vermont Foodbank, over 2,000 items for the food pantry and over 500 clothing items. This equals to over \$30,000 worth of in-kind support. It's not an exaggeration to say **"we couldn't do this without you!"**

Fundraising and grant writing continues. We received a \$10,000 grant from the United Way of Rutland County, and CIW will be highlighted in their upcoming campaign video. After submitting a letter of intent, CIW was asked to submit a full application to RRMC's Bowse Health Trust for a 3-year grant totaling \$100,000. Ellie McGarry is working hard to finalize the application for submission later this month.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **BBQ Chicken Dinner** is being held on Friday, September 29. Preorders are due by September 24, and can be ordered online or by signup at the Church. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Holiday Fest and Silent Auction** is November 4. Local businesses are being solicited for auction items. Both of these fundraisers raise a significant amount of money to help support CIW. If you're interested in helping with either, please reach out to Ellie.

We've got a great team of volunteers yet can always use more. **If you or someone you know would like to volunteer**, please contact Ellie McGarry at 802.236.3136.

**Jennifer Yakunovich**  
CIW President

## Items Needed for The Comfort Zone

**CIW Pantry Needs:** *Any type of Ready to Eat Meals (packaged or canned with pop tops)*

Chunky Soups	Macaroni & Cheese	Canned Pasta Meals
Protein Bars	Juice Boxes	Family-sized Juice
Canned Meats & Fish	Crackers	Microwavable Meals
Shelf Stable Milk	Peanut Butter	Canned Fruit
Cereal	Tea Bags	Coffee
Sugar	Cleaning Products	Dish Soap
Toilet Paper	Paper Towels	Snack Food
Canned Ravioli	Canned Chili	

**Outreach Needs:**

Tents	Tarps	Sleeping Bags
Blankets	Can Openers	Toothpaste
Tooth Brushes	Body Wash	Razors
Gauze Wrap	Medical Tape	Band-aids
Individual Packets of Antibiotic Ointment	Socks & Underwear for Men and Women	



## **Music Notes and Worship Team**

Thank you to all of the individuals and groups who played and sang in the worship services this summer. Your music was greatly appreciated.

Joy Choir practices will take place on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:30. The first practice will take place on Sunday, September 10. There may also be some evening practices in the late Fall to prepare for Advent and Christmas. The Joy Choir will be singing at Sue Smith's Memorial Service on Friday, September 29.

Bells of Joy starts rehearsals on Thursday Sept 7, from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Bells will play in church on September 17, October 22, November 12, and December 10.

There is a Bell Concert tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Wallingford Town Hall.

New "departing songs" for worship services are: Sept. "As We Go" and Oct. "Rule of Life."

All Saints Day will be celebrated on November 5, 2023

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, November 21 at 7 pm at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Services for Christmas Eve Sunday were discussed, and will be addressed at the Leadership Team meeting on September 11.

**Ann Reed**, Music Director, **Karen James**, Bells of Joy Director  
**Ellen Wakker**, Worship Team



## **Sunday School**

The 2023-24 Sunday School year is getting ready to begin. The opening date has been changed to Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have a "Rally Day" Celebration on that day, including a light lunch for the children.

All children are welcome! So, if you have children, grandchildren, neighbors, or know anyone who may be interested, invite them to come. We would like to grow our Sunday School. Remember, the children today are the Church of tomorrow!

**Marsha Johnson**, Sunday School Co-Supt.  
**Linda Allen**, Sunday School Co-Supt.

## Financial FYI

Folks have found it helpful to have some financial information listed in the bulletin and In-Spire. Our figures show that an **average income of \$2,000 per week** is necessary to balance the Budget. Our year-to-date income from tithes, offerings and other donations is **\$61,633**, which averages out to **\$1,761 weekly**.

## September & October Birthdays & Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
1	Karen & Chris Cartier ♥	2	Sam Groom
3	Daphne Hemmer	3	Lorraine & Steve Dotson ♥
3	Craig & Joan Cota ♥	15	Ron & Vikki Colomb ♥
10	Alan Betts	16	Heather Betts
17	Karen James	19	Mike & Deb Estey ♥
24	Edith Partridge	19	Ben & Tanya Derstine ♥
27	Scott McVeigh	21	John Anderson
27	Lynn Gee	21	Sue & John Hardman-Zimmerman ♥
28	Malia Madison Allen		
28	Andrew McMahan		

### **Rutland United Methodist Church, Inc. d/b/a Companions in Wholeness**

60 Strongs Avenue ~ Rutland, Vermont 05701

**802.773.2460 ~ Fax: 802.773.8491 ~ Email: rutlandumc@aol.com**

**Co-Pastors:** Rev. Sue Hardman-Zimmerman  
and Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman

**Office Administrator:** Lori McVeigh

**Music Director:** Ann Reed

**Bells of Joy Director:** Karen James

**Sunday School Superintendents:**

Linda Allen & Marsha Johnson

**Altar Design & Flowers:** Arlene O'Connor

**Ushers:** Diane Sharrow & Paul Dunbar

### Companions in Wholeness

**Companions in Wholeness Director:** Eloise McGarry

**Outreach Coordinator:** Linda Allen

**Companions in Wholeness Coordinator:** Sherri Prouty