



March/April, 2024

THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

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

"Mark Your Calendar"

Sundays at 9:15 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)

Monday, March 11 and Monday, April 8 at 6:00 pm: **Leadership Team Meeting** via Zoom

Sunday, March 17 after worship: **"Family Favorites" Potluck** and **Farewell to Pastor John** luncheon

Sunday, April 14 after worship **Quiches and Salads Potluck** luncheon

Sunday, March 24: **Palm Sunday** worship at 11 am

Sunday, March 31: **Easter Sunday** worship at 11 am

Sunday, May 5 after worship: **Tacos and Burritos** potluck luncheon



Message from Pastor John

I heard it from my mom more than once growing up. "The older you get, the faster time goes." She was getting older; now I am; we all are. And yes, she was right. I begin this way to tell you that time is moving us along. Sue has been reassigned by her Bishop to a church in southern PA, Trinity UMC in Walnut Bottom. We will be moving in June, but I will be retiring this month. My last Sunday in the pulpit will be March 17th.

How fast 5 years in Vermont have gone by, almost 2 with you. I already knew from my mom and my own advancing years, that time would go faster than it seemed it should. And it has. But it has been time chock-full of blessing, reminding me of that culture-bound image of Aaron, prophet and priest, in Psalm 133, which says, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in the bond of love. It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes." (Don't get any ideas!).

Blessing upon blessing - that has been Sue and my experience of you. And we couldn't be more grateful. Thank you for your friendship, your ministry, and for the opportunity to pastor Rutland United Methodist Church. I'm hoping I have helped you grow in the love that is the essence of God, the basis of our faith, and the means of peace and fulfillment in our lives. You have certainly done so for me. I will be leaving a better version of myself, with a heart full of gratitude, with many wonderful memories, and with enduring friendships. Continued blessings to you all. Thank you, thank you, forever thank you.

Pastor John

Care and Connect Team

Mark your calendars, phones or clay tablets for our farewell potluck luncheon for Pastor John on March 17th after worship. On the 17th, please bring a family favorite dish to share, an entree, salad or beverage. We hope to hear Pastor John play his banjo, (he says he's been practicing!) accompanied by Paul Whitney. Hope to see you there!

Other fellowship luncheons that are planned include: Quiches and Salads on April 14; Tacos and Burritos on May 5.

We have put together a collection of photos of our "shut-ins" whom we do not want to be forgotten. These folks have devoted many years to RUMC. Please enjoy the poster, and feel free to connect with one or more of the shut-ins, either in person, in writing, or by phone. The office will provide contact information for you.

Irene Goebel

Care & Connect Team

Pastoral Care

Office hours for pastoral care by Pastor Sue. She is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until noon, and is also available by appointment. Pastor Sue's number: 570.267.8611.

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 \$1,800 per week** is necessary to balance the Budget. Our income from tithes and offerings in 2024 to date totals **\$12,557**, which averages out to **\$1,570** per week.



COMPANIONS IN WHOLENESS
Feeding our Neighbors

We have been very busy throughout the month of February. As of February 26th, we served 1,894 breakfasts, for an average 135 per day, and 2,066 lunches, for an average of 148 per day.

We continue to need items for our clothing section for both men and women, blankets, and underwear. We understand that folks will soon be left out of the hotels/motels and we will be in need of tarps, tents, and sleeping bags. Our pantry is extremely bare right now. A list of needed items is below.

A huge thank you to those of you who supported our soup fundraiser. We raised \$950.

We want to express our gratitude for all of you who donate your time, items and money to help us Feed and Care for Our Neighbors. We are still in need of volunteers anytime from 6:30 am to 11:30 am, Monday through Thursday. We have many different jobs and can always use assistance with a variety of things that need to be done. If you don't want to work in the kitchen, we would like to have folks who can circulate among our guests and form relationships. Making those connections means a lot to our guests. One never knows the impact you can have on someone's life when you share a part of yourself to help another person who is struggling in our community.



**CIW welcomes
Kelly Major as
Kitchen Manager &
Head Cook**



**CIW welcomes
Raven Crispino as
Coordinator**

Outreach Coordinator

February brought some really cold weather and more hardship for our unhoused men and women. Because of the wonderful donations from Zumiez, and so many clothing donations from the community, we were able to give out many blankets, gloves, hand warmers, body warmers and anything we could provide to keep people warm.

We spent about \$2,102.01 on financial help for 21 individuals and families. We helped a woman return home, paying for her gas along the way. Her car had broken down and she used all her traveling funds to fix the vehicle. We helped with a storage unit rental, 2 electric bills, medicine, phone service, gas cards for 8 individuals, and a bus ticket.

Grace Congregational church gave us laundry cards, and we gave all of them out this month. If our visitors return them, each card will give us a \$1.00 credit when we refill it. We also received many donations from the **fill our pantry** collection, a milk collection from Trinity Episcopal church and a lot of clothing donations.

Linda Allen

CIW Outreach Coodinator/Faith on Foot

Items Needed for The Comfort Zone

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

Chunky Soups	Mac & Cheese (Shelf stable)	Canned Pasta Meals
Peanut Butter	Jelly	Tuna
Canned Ravioli	Juice Boxes	Family-sized Juice
Canned Meats & Fish	Crackers	Microwavable Meals
Shelf Stable Milk	Canned Chili	Canned Fruit
Cereal	Snack Food	Coffee
Toilet Paper	Paper Towels	Shelf-stable meals

Outreach Needs for the Comfort Zone:

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



Music Notes and Worship Team

We are in the midst of the season of Lent and are planning for Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24 and Easter, March 31. Joy Choir practices continue to take place from 9:15 - 10:30 on Sunday morning. We may have a couple of evening practices to prepare for Holy Week. The choir is continuing to grow. It is so exciting to have new members!

The Bells of Joy will resume practice later in the spring. We look forward to having a joint concert with the handbell choir at Grace Congregational Church on Sunday, June 2. Stay tuned for more details.

The worship committee met on Wednesday, February 7. We talked about Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We also made changes to the order of service which will take place in March. There will now be an opening and closing song for service. The opening songs for March, April, and May are "Surely the Presence," "Here I Am to Worship," and "Sanctuary." Closing songs are "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross," "Every Morning Is Easter Morning," and "Shine Jesus Shine."

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



Sunday School

In-person Sunday School has been put on hold for a few weeks for a number of reasons, including the fact that I am going to be having surgery. Hopefully, we can do a lesson and/or Easter activity at the Church around Easter-time. Please stay tuned for further info in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I will be delivering lessons each weekend to the children at their homes. Please notify the Church office at 802.773.2460 if your children have not received them, and you would like them to have them. Best wishes for a Happy Easter and Happy Spring! May God Bless,

Marsha Johnson, Sunday School Co-Supt.

March & April Birthdays & Anniversaries

MARCH		APRIL	
1	Richard Fales, Jr.	1	Ben Derstine
3	Kristina Pettis	2	Jan Senecal
4	Gary Archer	4	Brenda Lear
6	Ashley McVeigh Somers	5	Marsha Johnson
11	Sharon Crosby	5	Katie Gauthier
20	Scott Kuiken	11	Arianna Allen
20	Brayden Moore	13	Sarah Gee
21	Gregory O'Connor	14	Linda Kuiken
24	Peter Villano	15	Cee Cee Hall
26	Brody Somers	17	Alan Betts & Karen James ♥
29	Ely & Susana Abuel ♥	21	Jackie Bartenstein
		21	Scott & Lori McVeigh ♥
		22	Bobbie Fillioe
		24	Lydia May Reynolds

Rutland United Methodist Church, Inc.

d/b/a Companions in Wholeness

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