

April, 2022



THE IN-SPIRE
The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

“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 2:00 pm: **Bible Study** via ZOOM, discussing the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday.

Tuesdays at 5:00 pm: **Joy Choir rehearsal**

Wednesday at 5:00 pm on April 27, May 4, May 11: **Bells of Joy rehearsal**

Thursday, April 7 at 5 pm via Zoom: **Finance Team**

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

Holy Week: See below

Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp

Dear Friends,

Spring is returning here in Vermont in fits and starts, with mud season intercepting every once in a while. For me, this is a reminder of how Lent and then Easter play out. There are ups and downs, glorious days and nights that bog down the most faithful among us – Jesus riding into Jerusalem to triumphant crowds shouting “Hosanna!” and then an intimate Passover shared with his closest friends, a solitary time of anguished prayer in Gethsemane interrupted by Judas’ kiss of betrayal, Jesus’s crucifixion and then, finally, his resurrection.

The beauty of our faith is that it is anchored in real life. It is not geared toward some “pie in the sky by and by” attitude, but rather it is focused on walking with Jesus, who lived this life and knows what it is to be human. In Jesus we have a faithful companion for our journey. He does not let us down, even in the most difficult of times. Often, when someone is going through a tough time due to health or work challenges, or worries about a child or loved one who is struggling, it helps to remind them that they are not alone.

You probably know the “Footprints in the Sand” poem by Margaret Fishback Powers which says when it looks like we are walking alone, these are actually the times God is carrying us. During tough times I find it helpful to imagine myself being carried in God’s loving arms, feeling safe and secure, being held next to God’s heart and encouraged to stay strong. As we see in Jesus’s life, faith gives a person the strength and courage to persevere even under the most challenging of circumstances.

As we approach Holy Week, I encourage you to take a little time out each day to read the events of Jesus’s life during that most difficult time. Notice his courage, his strength and his utter trust in God even when he did not understand what was happening. Even when Jesus was afraid, asking that God remove the cup of which he was about to partake, even then he trusted God’s wisdom and judgment saying “yet, not my will, but Thy will be done.” This is not an easy position to take. Most of us don’t have the same courage as Jesus. But what our faith asks of us is that we do our best, and in those times when we fear holds us hostage, that we trust God to carry us.

Blessings, *Pastor Shirley*

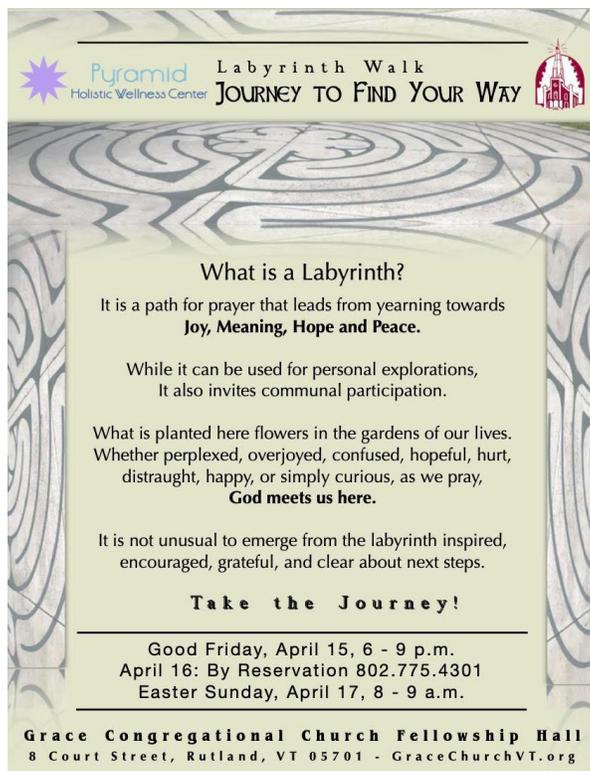
Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Palm Sunday – Worship at 9:30 am at RUMC and online, celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday – Worship at 6:00 pm at Church of the Wildwood. A service celebrating the fellowship of Holy Communion.

Good Friday – A Labyrinth has been set up at Grace Congregational Church for each of us to walk on our own. If you have never experienced a labyrinth, you may discover that this is a powerful form of worship that involves prayer while walking. The Labyrinth will be set up on Friday from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Please call 802-775-4301 to reserve your time. More info below.

Easter Celebration 9:30 am – Come and celebrate the risen Christ during worship at RUMC or online. The Labyrinth will also be available at Grace Church on Easter morning from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Call 802-775-4301 to reserve your time.



Companions in Wholeness

Companions in Wholeness (CIW) continues the great work of supporting people in need. Comfort Zone is preparing an average of 99 breakfasts and handing out 58 lunches per day. This is an increase from February. CIW is now working with a budget approved by the CIW committee. This is helping us to better track expenses and income. We continue to apply for grants, hold fundraisers, and explore ways to increase income. Some members of CIW recently met with Rutland Mental Health to inquire about training for volunteers so that we can better serve our visitors. Training will include 'mental health 101,' community resources, and crisis intervention. We also continue to work on obtaining our nonprofit status and met with an attorney to answer questions and guide the process.

Jennifer Yakunovich for CIW

Outreach

This month was a busy one, with lots of requests for clothing, food, and financial help.

The food shelf gave out approximately 302 items. Favorites are shelf stable milk, cereal, tuna, juice and crackers.

The clothes closet gave out 17 pair of socks, 5 jackets, 14 clothing items, and 9 hats or scarves. Two of our regular visitors found new apartments and needed all sorts of furnishing. We gave out a cot, a folding mattress, 5 towels, and 3 sets of sheets.

We had 4 requests for gas cards, three for people trying to get to Doctor's appointments in Dartmouth and one to get to a new job in Granville. We also had a request for fuel assistance because of the increase in oil prices. We were able to help with \$100.00. Our total for expenditures in March from the Emergency fund was \$290.09.

This month we have had at least one new person per week. The spotlight this month is on a person who had their car stolen, along with all clothing (except for items worn) and many personal belongings. This person was residing in the car so had to sleep outside on Monday. We referred the person to Economic Services, and gave out lots of warm items.

Thank you to all the volunteers that make meals, give them out, donate food and clothing. Thank you for all you have done to help the people who come to us in need.

Linda Allen, Outreach Coordinator

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.

Help for the People of Ukraine

Anyone wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute through RUMC (put Advance #982450, UMCOR in the memo portion of your check.) This fund, through the United Methodist Committee on Relief will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

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 March:

March 6	2,256
March 13	1,294
March 20	2,565
March 27	1,146
Facebook donations in March	431
TOTAL	\$ 7,692

Supplies Needed for Our Ministries

Crackers	Hormel "Completes" Meals
Chunky soups	Granola Bars
Shelf stable milk	Butter
Brownies or cookies	Muffins
Syrup	White potatoes
Ground sausage	Canned pears
Canned meats – corn beef hash, roast beef hash, chicken	
Men's and Women's gloves	Men's jeans (all sizes)
Men's shoes – size 10, 10.5, 11	Socks

APRIL AND MAY BIRTHDAYS

APRIL		MAY	
1	Ben Derstine	1	Zachary Gauthier
2	Jan Senecal	12	Cynthia Cahill
4	Brenda Lear	17	Ofelia Navarette
5	Marsha Johnson	18	Dianne Anderson
5	Katie Gauthier	24	Ruth Colburn
11	Arianna Allen	26	Gary & Cathy Archer ♥
13	Sarah Gee	26	Andrew & Stephanie McMahon ♥
14	Linda Kuiken	30	Tristan Dotson
15	Cee Cee Hall	31	Shirley Oskamp
15	Nancy Hodgson		
17	Alan Betts & Karen James ♥		
21	Jackie Bartenstein		
21	Scott & Lori McVeigh ♥		
22	Bobbie Fillioe		
22	Deborah Estey		
24	Lydia May Reynolds		

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