

March, 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 5:00 pm at 60 Strongs Ave.: **Joy Choir rehearsal**
Wednesdays in March at 5:15 pm at 60 Strongs Ave.: **Bells of Joy rehearsal**
Thursday, March 10 at 5 pm via Zoom: **Finance Team**
Monday, March 14 at 6 pm via Zoom: **Leadership Team**

Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp

Dear Friends,

Are you a “glass half full” or a “glass half empty” kind of person? I am usually a positive person, sometimes even annoyingly so. Most days there is something I can point to that lifts my spirits – hearing a bird sing his springtime song, seeing the sun glint on snow or talking to a friend. But sometimes the events happening in the world or in my own life are challenging, and it is easy to feel uncertain, sad, or even overwhelmed. There have been nights when I lay awake, held in the grip of fear or worry, and I am guessing I am not the only one.

In times like this, our faith can help lift us up and give us strength. I find wisdom and comfort in the cycle of seasons we celebrate as a church family. For instance, we have just entered into Lent, a forty-day period that reminds us to see life from a spiritual perspective rather than simply taking it physically at face value. I find this helpful, especially when reality is particularly painful.

Lent reminds us to go deeper with our relationship with God. It reminds us to apply our faith to current events rather than separating our lives into Sundays - when we focus on spiritual matters, and the rest of the week - when we focus on whatever else is vying for our attention.

With this in mind, I invite you to consider how you want to approach Lent this year. Maybe you could make it a practice to pray your way through the news each day. Maybe you would like to keep a journal of your everyday blessings, so you can turn to this if you have a sleepless night of worry. You could consider doing simple, kind things for friends or think of ways to be a blessing to strangers.

With God's help we can become “glass half full” people. We can turn to God first when we hear troubling news, perhaps imagining ourselves in God's loving arms. We can lean on our faith when life feels overwhelming, by offering a simple prayer. Our faith can grow through the experience of Lent if we set our minds and hearts to it. May God bless us as we grow in faith through this holy wilderness season.

Blessings,
Pastor Shirley

“Soup for Good” to Go!

Companions in Wholeness is happy to report that the Soup for Good to go fundraiser netted \$735.00. Many thanks to all who organized, publicized, helped out and particularly those who participated by purchasing soup! We hope you enjoyed the delicious chili, corn chowder or veggie soup!

Companions in Wholeness

There continues to be a lot of great activity within Companions in Wholeness. The Comfort Zone continues to provide a warm, nutritious breakfast. The number of people served is increasing with 1,509 breakfasts served in February compared to 1,346 breakfasts served in January. Breaking Bread provided 879 lunches in February through our continued partnership with the Everybody Eats program. These meal programs helped to support 94-104 Rutland County households. Faith on Foot is beginning to walk again and has a new volunteer. We continue to apply for grants and seek funding sources to help continue this important work.

Jennifer Yakunovich for CIW

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.

The Mentor Connector

Breanna Chase reached out on Facebook messenger and asked us to bring your attention to The Mentor Connector. She writes:

The Mentor Connector is a youth services organization located in Rutland, VT and serves all of Rutland County, ages 5-25. We are in high need of youth mentors! We have 60 youth on our waitlist who WANT a mentor. Mentors and youth meet 1 hour per week (in person and hybrid model available). We provide ongoing training and support the entire duration of the match! We match you with a youth in your service area, with similar interests and with match success in mind. All done through fun teachable moments. We need your help! Email:

Hello@mentorconnector.com for more information or call 802-775-3434. Website:

<https://www.mentorconnector.com>


Lenten Prayer Journey

Rolling Ridge invites you to join us for our Sunday evening Lenten Prayer Journey. Beginning this Sunday, March 6, through Easter Sunday, April 17, we will gather ONLINE during the Vesper Hour, from 6-7 pm, for a time of Taizé music and contemplative reflection. Richard Rohr's *Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent* will be our guide. Register here:

<https://www.rollingridge.org/event/lenten-prayer-journey-2022-15699882>

2022 Online Lenten Bible Study
 West Chelmsford UMC / Belmont-Watertown UMC
 First Community UMC

This Lent ponder
 the themes of
 justice, poverty,
 freedom, and
 love through the
 reading of the
 book "*The Grace
 of Les Miserables*"



Join on
**Wednesday or
 Thursdays**

☀️

Wednesdays
 7:30 P.M.
 March 9, 16, 23, 30 &
 April 6, 13

☀️

Thursdays
 7:30 P.M.
 March 10, 17, 24, 31, &
 April 7, 14

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/973851236742>
 pwd:QV5ZHB2QXhnWUTNVpUWnkwOVJYQT09

To register for this online bible study, go to this address:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScYws5TymTFM66-V9OpkPFZmmZWzAfvZ_Fc6WV5iAcLZeI3_A/viewform

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 to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. 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 February:

February 6	1,512
February 13	1,062
February 20	1,534
February 27	1,276
Facebook donations in February	991
TOTAL	\$ 6,375

Supplies Needed for Our Ministries

Juice boxes or pouches	Large bottles of juice
Socks	Applesauce
Chunky soups	Hormel "Completes" Meals
Shelf stable milk	Granola Bars
Cookies, brownies, muffins	Butter
Syrup	Cookies
Ground sausage	White potatoes
Canned pineapple	Canned pears
Canned meats – corn beef hash, roast beef hash, chicken	
Men's and Women's gloves	Men's jeans (all sizes)
Men's and Women's T-Shirts	
Men's shoes – particularly size 10, 10.5, 11	

MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS

MARCH		APRIL	
1	Richard Fales, Jr.	1	Ben Derstine
3	Kristina Pettis	2	Jan Senecal
4	Gary Archer	4	Brenda Lear
6	Ashley Somers	5	Marsha Johnson
11	Sharon Crosby	5	Katie Gauthier
14	Sue Smith	11	Arianna Allen
20	Scott Kuiken	13	Sarah Gee
20	Brayden Moore	14	Linda Kuiken
21	Gregory O'Connor	15	Cee Cee Hall
26	Brody Somers	15	Nancy Hodgson
29	Ely & Susana Abuel ♥	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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