

May, 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, May 4 and May 11: **Bells of Joy rehearsal**
Thursday, May 5 at 5 pm via Zoom: **Finance Team**
Monday, May 9 at 6 pm via Zoom: **Leadership Team**

Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp

Dear Friends.

May is here, and with it many signs of new life. Spring flowers are blooming, trees are budding and beginning to show leaves, people are cleaning out gardens, birds are building nests, frogs are peeping and streams are flowing.

In each season, it can be helpful to consider how our journey of faith is reflective of the world around us. So, in this season, what is happening within you? Can you point to any signs of new life? Do you recognize buds or blooms of possibility and beauty? Are there new possibilities that are yearning to be given some room, or new ideas teasing your mind?

Is there any old clutter that you need to clear out to make way for new growth? What does spring cleaning look like when you apply it to your mind, your heart and your spiritual life?

Are you working toward building something new and promising? Are there aspects of your life that are flowing with a renewed sense of purpose and hope? How can you feed these visions and nurture your dreams? Are there any simple steps you can take to begin making them real?

I encourage you to take a few minutes each day to reflect on some of these questions. See if you can coax the signs of new life that hide within you out into daylight. Breathe them into life, and experience God's abundant gifts growing in and through you just as they grow out in the world around us.

May the Blessings of Springtime be Yours,
Pastor Shirley

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.

Welcome Back to the Dismas House Dinner and Auction!!



Rutland Dismas House is pleased to announce that the 30th Rutland Dismas House Annual Dinner Auction will be held on Sunday, May 22nd, at the Spartan Arena in Rutland, Vermont. This year is the first dinner auction since the pandemic, so the theme this year is "Welcome Back!" This is also the first dinner auction since the opening of the Rutland Women's Dismas House. Doors will open at 3:00 PM, and the program will begin at 4:30 (auction at 5:00, dinner at 6:00).

During the past 32 years, Rutland Dismas House has been instrumental in the lives of over 750 residents by providing a safe and sober home in order to reconcile former prisoners with society and society with former prisoners.

Rutland Dismas House is pleased to have as its speaker Dr. Emily Salisbury. Dr. Salisbury, an alumna of Castleton University, is currently an Associate Professor and the Director of the Utah Criminal Justice Center. Rutland Dismas House will award its highest award, the Fr. Jack Hickey Award, to the VT Women's Fund for their valued support during the opening of the Women's Dismas House. Other dedicated volunteers will also receive awards.

There will be 30 items in our live auction this year, as well as over 200 items in the silent auction! Our emcee will be Rutland Dismas House Director Eric Maguire; auctioneer will be local radio host "Uncle" Dave Tibbs.

Tickets to the event are \$75 and must be purchased by May 14th; no tickets will be sold at the door. For tickets or information, call (802) 775-5539, email geraldine@dismasofvt.org, or go to <https://www.dismasofvt.org/houses/rutland-dismas-house/>.

New England Annual Conference 2022

The 2022 Annual Conference session will be held June 9 through June 11. Members have the option to attend in person in Manchester, NH or via Zoom. Information can be found at www.neumc.org/accessions.

Pastor Shirley and Bobbie Fillioe, our Lay Member to Conference, will be attending and will report back to the congregation. Please pray for our delegates, and for the entire conference as they make important decisions that impact the Church.

Links of interest:



New England Conference on Native American Ministries

Video Greeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2legJOsCdM>

The Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) is an organization that strives to hold the United Methodist Church accountable to social justice issues. This link to their current newsletter has many resources for your study and information:

<https://mfsaweb.salsalabs.org/maymfsavoices-may2022-a?wvpld=a187c5ad-78a4-4b99-b8cf-3e41afe54f29>.

Companions in Wholeness

Companions in Wholeness has made great progress! On April 7, CIW was officially registered with the Vermont Secretary of State, and we have opened a checking account.

The Comfort Zone has seen a substantial increase in the number of breakfasts and lunches served. The average number of breakfasts served in April was 138 and the average number of lunches was 98. Much of this increase can be attributed to the large concentration of people staying at the Cortina Inn where they lack the ability to prepare food fresh, nutritious food.

Comfort Zone is truly feeding the body and soul of those in need. Volunteers are managing as best they can but there is a need for cooks, both to prepare breakfast each morning and to prep in the afternoons. The "Sweet" Easter fundraiser raised \$1137.26. Thank you to all who ordered!

Jennifer Yakunovich for CIW

Outreach

In April, the Pastor's Emergency Fund was used to help with rent, purchase gas for a single mom, for a traveler from down south, and a phone card for one of our Comfort Zone guests.

We continue to give out items from our food shelf, almost 700 items this month, and have given out about 72 articles of clothing, 10 pr. socks, and miscellaneous outerwear. Please consider donating used jeans and t-shirts.

Grace Congregational Church has asked for help administering their 'Care Fund' because Beth Wolven who did a wonderful job taking care of that fund, has retired. Because we often work together with other churches to meet the needs of our visitors, this could streamline the process. Grace Church will be providing the funds to give out. Several hours of my pay will be covered by them as well.

Linda Allen, Outreach Coordinator

Sunday School

Sunday school children are finishing up Easter. For Easter Day, they received goodie bags which also had a gold heart pin that said "God" on it. Our two nursery children participated in Easter lessons. The children all enjoyed the Easter crafts that were included to reinforce their lesson.

Marsha Johnson, Outreach Coordinator

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 April:

April 3	1,433
April 10	2,177
April 17	1,614
April 24	535
Facebook donations April	273
TOTAL	\$ 6,032

Supplies Needed for Our Ministries

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

MAY and JUNE BIRTHDAYS

MAY		JUNE	
1	Zachary Gauthier	9	Paul Whitney
12	Cynthia Cahill	10	Peg Manney
17	Ofelia Navarette	10	Michaela O'Connor
18	Dianne Anderson	11	Chris O'Connor
24	Ruth Colburn	14	Susana Abuel
26	Gary & Cathy Archer ♥	15	Sam Groom, III
26	Andrew & Stephanie McMahon ♥	19	David Lafountain
30	Tristan Dotson	19	Cathy Archer
31	Shirley Oskamp	20	Erika Mead
		21	Judy Blair
	JUNE	21	Jack & Linda Mackin ♥
		21	Mike & Jackie Gauthier ♥
1	Sara Reynolds	21	Scott & Linda Kuiken ♥
3	Chris & Terry O'Connor ♥	22	Diane Fleur
4	Saylor Somers	22	Kayla Siliski
4	Gail Moore	23	Penny Ford
5	Shawn Abuel	29	Steve & Peg Manney ♥
6	John Anderson	30	Paul & Sharon Whitney ♥

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