

June, 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)

Thursday, June 9 at 5 pm via Zoom: **Finance Team**

Monday, June 13 at 6 pm via Zoom: **Leadership Team Sunday**

Warm Words from Pastor Shirley Oskamp

Dear Friends,

Goodbyes are strange and difficult for me, and this one is perhaps the hardest. When I came to Rutland three years ago, I was so excited about being a part of this church family and your ministry to the local community. Comfort Zone was just getting off the ground, and I enjoyed sitting down and talking with the folks who came in the door. It was good to hear about their lives, their hopes and challenges, and to offer support in terms of insights, prayer and practical information. I believe that this is the kind of ministry Jesus calls us to as people of faith, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of it with you.

When I was in seminary, I attended a church that worshiped in a house in an impoverished neighborhood where they served the local community by offering after school programs for kids, gatherings for seniors, advocated for fair housing and worked tirelessly against racism. It has been so good to be part of RUMC where you have made similar commitments of care and service, even moving into a neighborhood where you are needed. With the establishment of Companions in Wholeness, my hope is that these ministries will grow even stronger as other faith communities become involved. Being a part of your outreach ministries has brought me full circle from my seminary days when these seeds of social justice first took root in me, and for this I am grateful.

As I have said to several folks when they asked me what I am going to do next, I am waiting for God to show me where I am needed. It is difficult to leave what is known for the unknown, but I feel a calling on my life strong enough that I can't ignore it. It is a call to something new and different, but like a dream that recedes when you try to recall it, exactly *what* this is, I don't know yet. My intention is to hold my heart and mind open, praying and listening for guidance about where the Spirit is drawing me and how my skills might be used.

Covid and the restrictions it placed on us has overshadowed most of my time in Rutland, and so I have not gotten to know everyone as well as I hoped. Although there are some exceptions, to a large extent I missed out on visits to your homes, and conversations and prayer over a cup of tea. Although there were some, I missed out on more casual visitors coming to my office just to say hi and chat for a while. This makes me sad, and I wish it could have been different. But that being said, there were other opportunities that came as a result of the challenges, including offering worship online both in real time and whenever folks have a free moment. This has expanded RUMC's outreach and even brought in new members, which is wonderful! Many of our meetings have also migrated online, which has enabled wider participation even on those “dark and stormy nights” when a drive is out of the question.

You have helped my faith to grow, through Bible Study, responses to sermons and discussion groups, through meetings where we celebrated accomplishments or worked through challenges together. I hope your faith has grown as well, and that I have offered you the prayerful support you needed in addition to some helpful perspectives and insights for living a vital and meaningful life of faith.

I will miss all of this, and I will miss you.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Shirley

P.S. Reverends Susan and John Hardman-Zimmerman begin serving as your pastors as of July 1st. As an act of courtesy to them, I want to refrain from doing anything that might detract from their ability to fully be your pastors. I encourage you to reach out to them with your pastoral needs, to ask for prayer and support. I know it can be difficult to trust in a new relationship when the old one feels familiar, but you are in good hands. Please know that my stepping aside does not in any way diminish my deep fondness for you nor my gratitude for having been your pastor. I trust that God's hand is in this, and will continue to be in prayer for you and for the church.

Companions in Wholeness

Companions in Wholeness continues to meet the needs of those in our community. During the month of May, Comfort Zone served an average of 155 breakfasts and 134 lunches to 194 individual families. As demand increases, CIW could use more volunteers. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Ellie McGarry. We could also use another stand mixer if you have one you are willing to donate. On May 9, CIW volunteers visited Martha's Kitchen in St. Albans. This well-established organization does similar work and generously shared tips and tricks of the trade. A training with staff from Rutland Mental Health was held on May 24. We continue to work on raising funds via grants and fundraisers. The "Tacos for Good" fundraiser is set for Saturday, June 11, with pre-orders required by June 5 and there will be an online fundraiser going "live" on Friday, June 3 that gives us access to matching funds. We also just received word that Comfort Zone was chosen to be the recipient for Hannaford's "Bags for a Cause" for the month of June. More details to follow.

Jennifer Yakunovich

President of CIW

Outreach

In May, the Pastor's Emergency Fund worked in collaboration with Grace Congregational Church's "Care Fund" and we were able to help several folks with additional funds. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve those in need in the community.

We continue to give out items from our food shelf and "clothes closet." Please consider donating jeans, T-shirts, socks, and men's shoes – size 10, 10.5, 11.

Linda Allen, Outreach Coordinator

Christian Education (Sunday School)

It's hard to believe the Sunday School year is coming to an end, and we succeeded in doing it while dealing with another year of the pandemic.

The last day of Sunday School, Children's Day, will be Sunday, June 12th. We will be recognizing students and presenting awards during the service. Hopefully all of the children will be present for this service. Wishing everyone a long, enjoyable summer.

Marsha Johnson

Sunday School Co-Superintendent

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.

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 (802-438-9805) or Lori in the office (802-773-2460).

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. May donations:

May 1	1,661
May 8	1,727
May 15	1,026
May 22	772
May 29	562
Facebook donations May	995
TOTAL	6,743

Supplies Needed for Our Ministries

Crackers	Hormel "Completes" Meals
Chunky soups	Granola Bars
Shelf stable milk	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Brownies or cookies	Muffins
Syrup	White potatoes
Ground sausage	Canned pears
Canned meats – corn beef hash, roast beef hash, chicken	
Socks	Men's jeans (all sizes)
Men's shoes – size 10, 10.5, 11	Good working refrigerator
A good used Kitchen Aid countertop mixer	

JUNE and JULY BIRTHDAYS

JUNE			
1	Sara Reynolds	22	Kayla Siliski
3	Chris & Terry O'Connor ♥	23	Penny Ford
4	Saylor Somers	29	Steve & Peg Manney ♥
4	Gail Moore	30	Paul & Sharon Whitney ♥
5	Shawn Abuel	JULY	
6	John Anderson	2	Allyson Stoodley
9	Paul Whitney	7	Don & Lexi Moore
10	Peg Manney	8	Linda Allen
10	Michaela O'Connor	9	David & Dottie LaFountain ♥
11	Chris O'Connor	10	Christopher Whitney
14	Susana Abuel	11	Pam Allen
15	Sam Groom, III	11	Lorraine Dotson
19	David Lafountain	15	Vikki Colomb
19	Cathy Archer	16	Edward Hackett
20	Erika Mead	18	Katelyn O'Connor
21	Judy Blair	18	Jackie Gauthier
21	Jack & Linda Mackin ♥	22	Joan Cota
21	Mike & Jackie Gauthier ♥	26	Kevin & Debbie Stone ♥
21	Scott & Linda Kuiken ♥	27	Don Moore
22	Diane Fleur	27	Catherine Ricketts



On Sunday, July 3rd, we will welcome Sue Hardman-Zimmerman and John Hardman-Zimmerman as the new co-pastors of Rutland United Methodist Church. John and Sue moved from Pennsylvania to Vermont in 2019. John has served as a Hospice Chaplin, as well as a local pastor. Sue served local churches in Pennsylvania, and has been active in several churches in Vermont.

Our worship time will be moved to 11:00 am, with Zoom fellowship commencing at 10:30 am. We will still be live on Facebook. Please join in a warm welcome for our new Pastors!

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