



July/August 2024

THE IN-SPIRE

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

“Mark Your Calendar”

Sundays at 11:00 am: **Worship** (in person, by Zoom and live on Facebook)

Sunday, July 7: Welcome Pastor Tom with fellowship following worship

Monday, July 8 at 6 pm: **Leadership Team** Meeting

Saturday, July 20 at 1:30 pm: **Ice Cream Social** at The Maples

Sunday, August 18: **Outdoor Worship Service** at Kristen Jarvi's home in West Rutland

Saturday, October 12 at Grace Cong. UCC: Chocolate Fest and Silent Auction fundraiser for Companions in Wholeness. See Bobbie Fillioe or Ellie McGarry if you are willing to help



Welcome to Reverend Dr. Tom Atkins

We are pleased to welcome Reverend Dr. Tom Atkins ~ “Pastor Tom” ~ to Rutland UMC. He will also be pastoring Rupert UMC, where he was appointed in 2015.

Tom graduated from Virginia Tech with a BA in English, minoring in Drama, History and Communications. He holds a MA in Creative writing from Hollins University, and D. Div. From Christian Bible College and Seminary.

He is a bi-vocational pastor. He has been an integral part of three start up divisions and systems integration companies: The Whitlock Group, TGS (later bought by Ascent Media) and Diversified Systems, designing and project managing Television and other broadcast and A/V facilities throughout the U.S.

In 2011, Tom founded Quarry House, which works with businesses and individuals in business and personal development as a coach and consultant as part of the John Maxwell Team, as well as continuing his work in broadcast and AV design and project management.

Raised in the Methodist Church, and an ordained deacon in the Baptist Church since 1984, Atkins has preached and taught at churches in many denominations, with a particular focus on teaching and leading people to understand and develop their spiritual gifts.

As a bi-vocational pastor, Tom is also a Leadership and Life coach and consultant at Quarry House, a published poet, freelance writer of marketing copy, magazine articles, fiction, non-fiction and essays, as well as an artist and photographer. He and his wife, Cindy, live in West Pawlet.



Pastor Sue and Pastor John would like to thank everyone for the celebration on their last day at Rutland. They appreciate the great fellowship luncheon, generous gift, and all the love and good wishes. They will continue to pray for the congregation, Tom, and your ministry together.

Care and Connect Team

The Care and Connect committee continues to plan monthly fellowship events in order to foster congregational connectivity and interaction.

July 7 we will have finger foods and munchies after worship to welcome our new pastor, Tom Atkins.

July 20 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm we will have our second annual Ice Cream Social at the Maples senior living center off Stratton Road in Rutland. Entertainment will be provided by Paul Whitney. We will be in the Sugar House community room. Parking out front if space is available, or around back. Set up is at 1 pm, if you are willing to help. Stewart's is generously providing everything for ice cream sundaes.

August 18 we will worship outdoors at Kristin Jarvi's place followed by a pot luck lunch. Details forthcoming. We welcome your ideas and input! And prayers for good weather!

Irene Goebel
Care & Connect Team

Financial FYI

Our figures show that an **average income of \$1,800 per week** is necessary to balance the Budget. Income from tithes and offerings in 2024 to date totals **\$38,010**, which averages out to **\$1,462** per week. Thank you for your continuing support!



COMPANIONS IN WHOLENESS
Feeding our Neighbors

This month we have changed how we are serving the folks in our community. Our costs were continuing to rise significantly, and we wanted to be able to serve those who truly need our services. We are now serving breakfast from 8:30-10:30 buffet style. Our neighbors are now eating inside or outside in the parking lot. At 10:30 if we have any breakfast left over, they can come in and we will package whatever is leftovers for take-out. We serve lunch buffet style from 11:00-1:00 and then package up any leftovers for take-out at 1:00. This has helped us to cut down a bit on the number of meals we are making. A majority of our neighbors like it. Some of the comments have been: "the food is fresher, it doesn't sit in containers all morning", "we get to socialize with others more as we eat inside".

Those who have families tend to show up for the take-out, a few come inside with their children. In June we served 1,876 breakfasts for an average of 117 per day and 1,409 lunches for an average of 88 per day.

We served 734 different individuals throughout the month of June. As of April 1, we have served meals to 885 different individuals.

We received many requests in June for assistance with a variety of needs. We were able to help 38 individuals or families.

We provided: 5 phones and/or service, 9 gas cards, 4 Prescription co-pays, 4 assists w/ Green Mountain Power bills (three times with help from Troll House & the Jewish Center), 1 package of diapers for a new family in town, 1 Sleeping chair for a man with disabilities who is unable to lay down in a bed, 10 laundry cards with laundry soap (donated by Grace Congregation Church). We purchased 13 tents 10 sleeping bags and 20 blankets. The total we spent for June for our outreach items above was \$2,261.72

Our pantry continues to be very bare. All donations are appreciated. We especially need sweet cereal, shelf stable milk, family size juices, canned goods with pop up lids – ravioli, spaghetti, soups, fruit, canned meat, tuna fish, cookies and other snack items. We are also in need of peanut butter and jelly.

Summer clothing is also appreciated. T-shirts, underwear, jeans, and shirts. We are also in need of pillows, pillowcases, camp mats to sleep on, tarps to go over tents, tents and sleeping bags, sturdy back packs, duffle bags, bug spray, sunscreen, socks, small sewing kits and we are starting to see many requests for tents, sleeping bags, tarps and camping gear as the motel program changes, and people are out on the streets again.

We gave out 3,287 pantry items during June.

For essentials we gave out 571 items of clothing and 10 hygiene bags.

We need more volunteers Monday through Thursday: we need folks to help serve the buffet style meals and serve coffee. We are also looking for volunteers to assist in signing folks in, we use an excel spreadsheet. Someone needs to sit by the door and ask folks their name to check them in. We are looking for shifts of 6:30-8:30, 8:30-10:30 and 10:30-12:30. If you like to serve folks, we need help serving the buffet. The times for this are 8:00-10:00, 10:00-12:00 and 12:00-2:00.

We need additional volunteers, especially during the weeks of July 22 and July 29. Some staff are on vacation. If you can assist, please let me know.

We continue to work on our Chocolate Fest for October 12. We still are in need of some folks to solicit another 40 businesses for our silent auction. If you can assist with this please let me know.

We the support and assistance we receive each day to help us "feed our neighbors". We cannot thank you enough.

Ellie McGarry, Director, CIW
companionsinwholeness@gmail.com or 802-236-3136

MUSIC NOTES AND WORSHIP TEAM

The Joy Choir's last Sunday to sing was June 16. Thank you to the Joy Choir for your hard work and dedication. We will resume choir practice in the first or second week of September. Stay tuned! Please let Ann Reed know if you are interested in offering your talents for special music this summer.

On June 2, The Bells of Joy concluded their year with a wonderful concert with the Tintinnabula handbell choir from Grace Church. This concert benefitted Companion in Wholeness and featured several musicians including our own talented Karen James as director and handbell soloist. It was so much fun to hear the individual choirs and both choirs together. A big thank you to Alistar Stout for inviting us and for helping to organize this awesome event!

The opening congregational songs for July and August will be *How Majestic Is Your Name* and *He Has Made Me Glad*. Our closing songs will be *This Is My Story* and *May You Run and Not Be Weary*.

The worship team warmly welcomes Reverend Dr. Tom Atkins and looks forward to working with him.

Ann Reed, Music Director

July & August Birthdays & Anniversaries

JULY			
2	Allyson Stoodley	2	Isabella O'Connor
7	Don & Lexi Moore ♥	2	Porter Stoneman
8	Linda Allen	7	Ed & Daphne Hemmer ♥
10	Christopher Whitney	7	Trudy Billings
11	Pam Allen	18	Hannah Sheldon
11	Lorraine Dotson	18	Blanche Kelley
15	Vikki Colomb	18	Peter Colomb, Sr.
18	Katelyn O'Connor	22	John & Dianne Anderson ♥
18	Jackie Gauthier	26	Danielle Wakker Yango
22	Joan Cota	28	Kristen Jarvi
27	Don Moore	30	Peter and Stacy Colomb ♥
27	Catherine Ricketts		



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