



**January, 2023**

## **THE IN-SPIRE**

The Rutland United Methodist Church Newsletter

---

### **In-person Worship at 60 Strongs Avenue at 11 am**

*Services will also be livestreamed on RUMC's Facebook page*

### **Zoom Fellowship at 10:30 am**

*Link will be emailed to you with the bulletin*

---

### **"Mark Your Calendar"**

Sundays at 9:15 am: **Joy Choir** rehearsal

Sundays at 10:30 am: **Zoom fellowship** prior to and including worship

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

Monday, January 9 at 6 pm: **Leadership Team Meeting** via Zoom

### **Message from Pastor John**

2023. The year of my birth, 1955, now sounds so long ago, that I could be reading it on a tombstone! And thoughts of my youth feel so remote that they could just as well be someone else's life. As a young adult I remember thinking that the year 2000 was so far in the future that I need not be concerned about it. Next thing I knew, we were unnerved by the possibility of a Y2K fallout when the clock struck 12 on New Millenia's Eve. And all that is now 23 years ago. Auld Lang Syne!

At this point in the time of my life, my body has clearly aged. Yet, internally, I still feel young. Here's my explanation: Spirit is eternal. It cannot age. But it is supposed to mature. That is the business of life.

We are told that Jesus grew in "wisdom and stature." The stature part is automatic. Wisdom takes time and experience and guidance and nurture and willingness and effort and suffering and failures and perseverance and (here add your wisdom on wisdom) and the grace of the Spirit.

2023. The journey toward the maturity of wisdom continues for us, time-bound in a physical sense, timeless in a spiritual sense. With all good gifts within us and the Gospel as a guide, we continue our journey toward an ever-growing realization of the wisdom that is Love, drawing us into the fullness of Life.

**Pastor John**

## **Companions in Wholeness**

December continued to be another busy month. An average of 157 breakfasts and 136 lunches per day were served during the month of December. There were also 106 individuals that accessed the food pantry for a total of 1,036 items were given out.

Guests received a holiday gift of a stocking filled with treats and personal care items. Guests are appreciating the ability to spend time indoors and out of the cold each morning. The doors open at about 7:00 a.m. Visitors sign in, grab a cup of coffee, and enjoy fellowship with each other and our volunteers until serving begins at 9 a.m. This gets back to the heart of what Companions In Wholeness intended – making connection with those in our community.

While it seems so long ago, we want to give many thanks to all involved with Holiday Fair & Silent Auction. Thanks to all of you, we netted \$6,127.89. We look forward to making this an annual event. We recently received a generous \$7,000 gift from Carris Reels.

CIW is ready for 2023. At the December board meeting, the 2023 budget was approved, and we created a fundraising plan to help guide us.

We've got a great team of volunteers yet can always use more. If you or someone you know, would like to volunteer, please contact Ellie McGarry at 802-236-3136.

**Jennifer Yakunovich**  
CIW President

## **Supplies Needed for Companions in Wholeness**

Large family-size juices	Individual juices
Sweet cereal	Sugar
Chunky soup	Crackers
Pancake mix – only add water	Canned meats
Shelf-stable dinners	Granola bars
Baked goods	Peanut butter crackers
Microwaveable individual servings	Cheese crackers

## **Outreach**

December was another month with a lot of need from the community.

We took on four families to provide Christmas gifts to so that they could enjoy a pleasant day. Some of these were purchased with Kelley Fund monies and others were paid for by generous donations. We received thanks from all of the grateful families.

We referred many families to the Rutland County Parent Child Center and the Salvation Army for Christmas gifts.

We have seen an increase in the number of guests coming into the Comfort Zone as word gets out, and the weather drives people inside. Opening up so that people can come in to escape the weather has really worked out well. It has given us an opportunity to get to know our guests better and to hear their stories, and help out more.

Grace Congregational United Church of Christ still refers folks to us, as they provide us with funds that they collect for their "Care Fund" and are appreciative that we have taken over this outreach ministry.

**Linda Allen**  
Outreach Coordinator

## **Items Needed for Outreach**

### **Wants and needs for outreach:**

Jackets for both men and women,  
Shoes and boots in good condition  
Thermal underwear  
Hats and scarves  
Emergency blankets and handwarmers  
Snack food and juice, both large and small

Thank you for all of the support that the church has provided to help out people in very difficult situations.

## **Sunday School**

The children enjoyed their Christmas party the Sunday before Christmas. They each received a gift from Sunday School. The children also gave Christmas bookmarks with scriptures to everyone in the congregation.

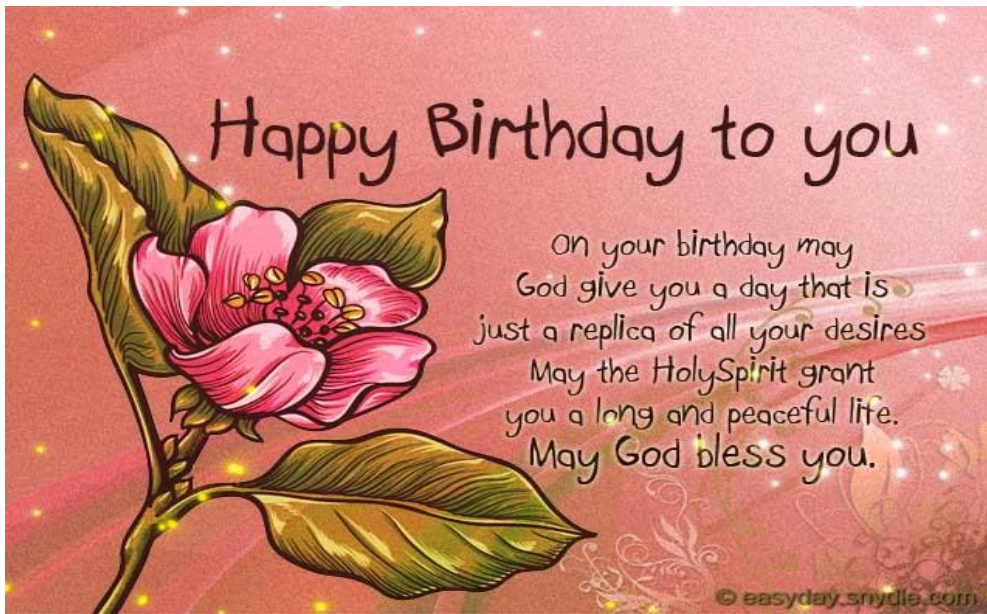
Pastors Sue and John enjoyed receiving a special treat from the children (their favorite fudge!)

We will be completing the unit on Christmas in the next couple of weeks, and then we will go back to Noah's ark to finish that unit before Lent begins. Happy New Year!

**Marsha Johnson**  
Page | 3

**January & February Birthdays & Anniversaries**

JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
3	Steve Dotson	1	Craig Cota
9	Dottie LaFountain	3	Linda Mackin
9	Joyce Robarge	5	Tanya Derstine
13	Roberta Hemmer	8	Judy Pidgeon
16	Natalia Mendoza Betts	9	Paul Whitney
18	Amy Mackin Mills	9	Russell Perry
28	Stephanie McMahon	10	Arlene O'Connor
		11	Norman Desjardins
		13	Emily Pettus
		14	Karen Cartier
		17	Linda & Mark Allen ♥
		18	Toban Crosby
		19	Alison Gauthier
		26	Bonnie Partridge
		28	Jane Jepson
		28	Matt Fillioe



**Rutland United Methodist Church**  
**Co-Pastors: Sue Hardman-Zimmerman**  
**and John Hardman-Zimmerman**

**Pastor Sue: 570.267.8611 ~ Pastor John: 802.282.7532**

**60 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, Vermont 05701**

**802.773.2460 - Fax: 802.773-8491 ~ Email: rutlandumc@aol.com**