

**We are happy to have you here!**

We are glad you chose to come to Rutland United Methodist Church to worship this morning. Please join us after the service for a time of fellowship.

The Lectionary is a group of four verses that Christians all over the world read each week. Here are this week's Lectionary readings: Isaiah 7:10-16 ~ Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 ~ Matthew 1:18-25

**TODAY:** Our **Christmas Cookie Exchange** will take place after worship. We will be packing cookie tins then. Please stay if you are willing to pack or deliver a tin of cookies.

**Christmas Eve** candlelight service will be held at RUMC at 6 pm.

**Donations to Rutland Neighbors** are greatly appreciated, and can be put in the collection plate. Volunteers are always welcome.

**Bible Study.** Bible Study is held on Wednesdays at 7 pm via Zoom. Contact the office or Pastor Tom for the link.

Tithes and offerings on December 14, 2025: **\$1,367**

**To donate to RUMC online, scan this code with your phone:**



## RUTLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 21, 2025  
The Fourth Sunday in Advent



**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tom Atkins**

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Pastor Atkins ~ 802.645.0499 ~ [tom@quarryhouse.us](mailto:tom@quarryhouse.us)

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**                      *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*

**OPENING MUSIC**                      *Light the Advent Candle*  
TFWS 2090 (Verse 4)

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (Call to Worship)

Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

**We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical and yet too real to ignore.

**We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

**We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, as we light the fourth Advent candle, the candle of love.

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

**HYMN**    *Angels We Have Heard on High*                      UMH 238

**SCRIPTURE**    Luke 2:13-20

**SERMON**    The Advent Journey: Bethlehem

**HYMN**                      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                      UMH 230

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Faithful God of unfolding plans, when our certainty falters and our expectations collapse, you are still at work, inviting us into grace that redefines and redeems. Let these gifts and our lives be signs of obedience, humility, and hope. May they help carry Christ into a world still longing for peace, hungry for love, and needing redemption. We pray in the name of the one who is Emmanuel—God with us. Amen.

**OFFERTORY**    *What Child is This?*

### DOXOLOGY

### PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

**HYMN**                      *Star Child*    TFWS 2095

**BENEDICTION**    *Until Jesus Comes*                      W&S 3050  
(Form a Circle of Love)

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

Duets: **Ann Reed and Sharon Teer**

Music Director: **Ann Reed**

Joy Choir Accompanist: **Ellen Wener**

Sunday School Coordinator: **Judy Blair**

Bells of Joy Director: **Karen James**

Videographer: **Carol Wright**

Ushers: **Craig Cota, Carl Wener,**  
**Jim Flint, Paul Dunbar**