



September/October 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)
Monday, September 9 and Monday, October 14 8 at 6 pm: **Leadership Team** Meeting
Sunday, September 15: **Outdoor Worship and Potluck** at Kristen Jarvi's home
Saturday, October 12 at Grace Cong. UCC: **Chocolate Fest and Silent Auction** fundraiser for
Companions in Wholeness. Contact Bobbie Fillioe or Ellie McGarry if you are willing to help. See
separate article.



Message from Pastor Tom

Recently in our Wednesday night bible study we looked at the Fruits of the Spirit that Paul speaks of in his letter to the Galatians. In Galatians 5:22 he writes: “²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.” Take a good look at that list. Every one of them are positive. Every one of them is uplifting.

We are right in the middle of campaign season. You can't avoid it. It is on TV, Radio, the internet. Everywhere you look there are campaign ads. They are loud, intrusive, and way too often, rude and angry. That has become a hallmark of elections in the past decade or two – the anger.

It is easy to get caught up in that anger. It's human. But we as Christians are called to live differently. We are called to live in the spirit, and bear those good fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

The problem of course, is that in the midst of all the anger, all the lies, all the tearing down, it is hard to live up to those fruit. It is very human of us to follow what everyone else is doing.

That is why we need the Holy Spirit, God in us to bear those fruit. God has the strength to be all those things no matter what the world does. And if we call on God, and we live in his spirit, we too will have the strength and self-control to live in love while the world around us is angry. And THAT will make us stand out as ambassadors for God.

So, between now and November take some extra time to pray for the spirit to fill you, strengthen you. You, and the world will be better for it.

Pastor Tom

The Chocolate Fest is Back

The Chocolate Fest and Silent Auction has been an annual fundraiser for RUMC for over 10 years. All proceeds were distributed to local missions. This year, the event is sponsored by Companions in Wholeness as a fundraiser for RUMC's outreach mission. For more information about CIW, see the separate article in this In-Spire.

Bobbie Fillioe will be at Grace Congregational UCC on Wednesdays until September 11 from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm in order to sign in donations for the Chocolate Fest. They will be stored until the event which will take place at Grace Church on October 12. The deadline for donations is September 15.

Volunteers are still needed to help set up and folks to clean up at the end of the day on the 12th. If you can help, please let Ellie McGarry know.

If you signed up to do any solicitation of businesses know that the deadline for this is September 1 so the businesses can be listed in the brochure.

Care and Connect Team



Two ladies after Bobbie's heart at the Ice Cream Social. A fun time was had by all!

The Care and Connect Committee plans on continuing our monthly pot luck dinners after worship with the exception of October, when our efforts will be used to help produce the Chocolate Fest and Silent Auction at Grace Congregational Church. See Bobbie Fillioe to sign up to help. This will be a fun fellowship activity!

On September 15th we hope to worship outdoors at Kristen Jarvi's place, followed by an apple-themed potluck. Bring a main dish, dessert or beverage and a chair. If you need a ride, contact one of our committee members.

If you have ideas for other fellowship activities or wish to join our committee, contact Irene.

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 \$51,994, which averages out to \$1,559 per week. Thank you for your continuing support!



We have continued to be very busy throughout the summer. During June and July combined, we served 4,256 breakfasts for an average 122 per day and 3,639 lunches for an average of 104 per day. We served meals to 731 different individuals throughout the month of June, and meals to 614 different individuals during July. We currently have 1,161 different individuals on our list who have been fed since April 1. New folks continue to show up each day. We currently have 2 babies, ages 2 months and 6 months, visiting us regularly with their parents. If anyone has baby clothes or baby items – play pens, walkers, clothes, etc. and formula that would be super!

For some of our families this fall we were able to provide school supplies and backpacks. Thank you to those of you who donated these items. We continue to be need items for our clothing section for both men and women and children. During June we gave out 571 items of clothing and hygiene items and during July we gave out 1,297 items of clothing and hygiene items. We also gave out 30 tents and 21 sleeping bags. As the hotels let more and more individuals out, we will be in need of blankets, sleeping bags, tents, tarps and big backpacks. If anyone would like to donate small carts, we could use those also so folks have something to put their belongings in. Between September 15 and October 1, we are anticipating quite a few folks becoming homeless.

Our pantry is extremely bare right now. During June we gave out 3,287 items from our food pantry and in July we gave out 3,976 items. We need chunky soups, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, canned meat of any kind, shelf stable milk, family size juices, cans of ravioli, SpaghettiOs, and any type of shelf stable dinners. Pop up lids are the best, so folks don't need a can opener.

We are beginning to share healthy activities to do with our neighbors during the day. Our schedule will be Mondays at 11:30 a drumming class; Tuesdays at 11:30 knitting or cooking, Wednesdays at 11:30 rock painting or a clay activity and Thursdays at 11:30 structured games. We would love to see folks come and join us to do the activities and get to know our neighbors.

We are gearing up for our **Chocolate Fest and Silent Auction to be held at Grace Church on October 12 from 10 am to 3 pm**. We could use some baskets for our silent auction and chocolate desserts if anyone can assist us, please contact Ellie at 802-236-3136.

As always, we truly appreciate your support of this ministry of "Feeding and Caring for our Neighbors". If you unable to come in to help out you can always bake something that we can share during our breakfast time.

Feel free to join the book group that meets every Friday to discuss a book that we are reading. We are currently reading the book, "Unstitched". This is a true story that takes place in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, and is about understanding addiction and helping a community to heal from the effects of addiction. For more information, please call or email me.

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

Outreach for August 2024

It's that time of year again. Kids getting ready for school and parents scrambling to get what's needed for their children. We received donations of school supplies from some former teachers, and also from one of our church members. We have helped 9 families with supplies so far, and the children have been so happy to receive them. We also helped with clothing for 6 children, using the Kelly fund for gift cards for each family.

We received 10 requests for gas help, one request from Rutland Mental health to help a man get to a doctor's appointment, several to get to work, and one to help grandparents who have taken custody of their 3 grandkids to get children to appointments and to school.

We also received 3 requests for help with utility bills, two prescription co-pay requests, 3 phone service and/or phone. Other purchases included tents, sleeping bags, miscellaneous items such as a post office box for 6 months for a man who is in the hospital for several months, a car insurance bill for a woman who has been out of work for a month and is only working part time after an illness, an Xfinity internet bill so that a woman can continue training for a new job, and other items.

The total amount spent on outreach in August was \$2,234.

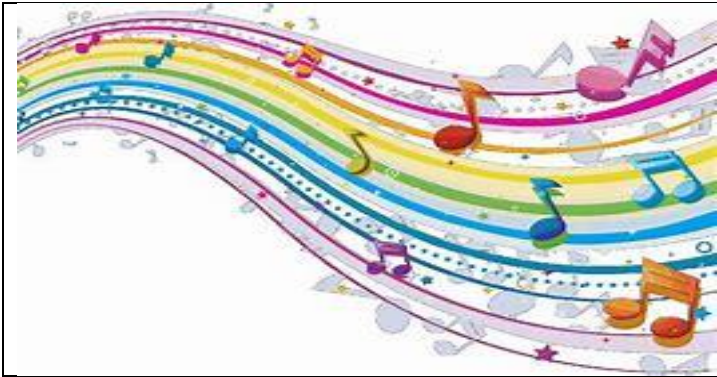
It was a blessing to receive 19 laundry cards (donated by Grace Congregation Church) with detergent and fabric softener sheets.

We're starting to see many requests for tents, sleeping bags and tarps as the motel program changes and people are out on the streets again.

Linda Allen, Outreach Coordinator, CIW

Items Needed for CIW

Tarps, tents, large, sturdy back packs and duffle bags, blankets, sleeping bags, bug spray, deodorant, women's socks, food for our food shelf, including shelf stable milk, juices, tuna fish, canned meats, cookies, other snack food, cleaning supplies, towels, hand towels, tooth paste, and shampoo.



Music Notes and Worship Team Update

Well, it is that time of year again. First, we would like to thank all of the musicians who offered their talents for special music over the summer. Secondly, the Joy Choir will start back on Sunday, September 8. We will meet for choir practice at 9:15 am and may have several evening practices towards the end of Fall as we approach Advent. Please let Ann Reed know if you are interested in joining the choir.

The Bells of Joy will start practice on Thursday, September 5 at 3:30 pm. Please let Karen James know if you are interested in participating. We look forward to ringing this season, and are excited to start some new music! We plan to play in worship on the following Sundays: September 22, October 20, November 17, and December 15.

The Worship Team met on Thursday, August 15. We discussed the order of worship, and decided to continue with the same format that we have been using for September, October, and November. Opening and closing songs for September, October, and November were chosen. The opening congregational songs will be *Holy Ground*, *Jesus We Are Here*, and *Be Still and Know*. The closing songs will be *As We Go*, *Song of Hope*, and *Bless Be the Tie That Binds*.

Ann Reed, Music Director

Your Photos of God Sightings

God appears to us every day, but we don't see it because we don't look for God. By looking for God every day, we learn to see through new eyes of faith. Take time to look and watch how God works in your life. Feel free to share a photo and tell us about your experience!

Jim and Barbara Flint brought an Easter lily home from Church and transplanted it this Spring. See how miraculously the Lord works! It is flourishing and beautiful, and reminds Jim and Barb of the Lord's love for us. (Flip the page to see the pic!)



September & October Birthdays & Anniversaries

	September		October
1	Karen & Chris Cartier ♥	2	Sam Groom
3	Dahne Hemmer	3	Lorraine & Steve Dotson ♥
3	Joan & Craig Cota ♥	16	Heather Betts
10	Alan Betts	21	John Anderson
17	Karen James		
24	Edith Partridge		
27	Scott McVeigh		
28	Malia Madison Allen		
28	Andrew McMahan		

Did we forget anyone? Please email the office if you wish to add someone to the list!

Rutland United Methodist Church

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tom Atkins ~ 802.645.0499 ~ tom@quarryhouse.us

Companions in Wholeness – “CIW”

“Companions in Wholeness shares meals and provides safe space, assistance, and companionship for people in need.”

Companions in Wholeness Director: Eloise McGarry

Outreach Coordinator: Linda Allen