

Rutherford Congregational Church, UCC

Virtual & In-Person Sunday Gathering

September 5, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

251 Union Ave, Rutherford,
NJ 07070 (201) 438-6324

ZOOM ID 896 848 7730

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8968487730>

www.rccucc.com

Rev. Annie Allen, Interim Pastor

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Music included in this morning's service is produced under CCLI #65015.

WELCOME

Welcome to Rutherford Congregational Church. May the wind and fire of the spirit blow into your hearts and into this service today. On this Labor Day weekend, we honor all the men and women who by the sweat of their brow helped build this great nation. We also recognize that God is and continues to be ever-present in our lives and our vocations. It is our God-given gifts and talents which allow us to work, and it is God's command to us, to stop and rest from our labors.

Our worship team hopes to provide a worship experience that is EPIC. That is, Experiential, Participatory, Image Rich, and Connective. So, everyone is encourage to participate in whatever way is most comfortable for you. And a reminder, Worship is not a spectator sport, so if outward expression is not your style, we invite you to open your heart wide, pray to Lord and feel God's presence during our time together.

For those of us here in-person the State of NJ has lifted the COVID-19 restrictions for communal worship. Therefore, if you are vaccinated you are not required to wear a mask or social distance from others. However, we encourage everyone to do whatever feels safest and most comfortable to you.

For a copy of today's order of worship or to view a YouTube video recording of this morning's service go to our home webpage www.rccucc.com.

And a reminder to you, that here in this local congregation of the United Church of Christ, *"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*

Now, let us begin service with our Call to Worship.

Prelude

16 Tons

Tennessee Ernie Ford

Phil Reynolds (instrumental and vocal)

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Spoken by Leader & People)



L: Today we join with workers around the country for a weekend of celebration, rest and relaxation.

P: Is God on vacation too Pastor?

L. Of course not, God pulses through everybody and everything. Even while we slumber, God is moving.

P. Thanks be to God for always being present.

L. Let us rejoice this morning for God's goodness, care and protection of all essential workers.

P. Let us rejoice that God makes all things possible. Amen.

INVOCATION / OPENING PRAYER

Lord of mercy and compassion, be with us this day as we hear words of wisdom and teachings of Jesus. Help us to discern our needs from our wants. Help us this day, to know the value of our labors and the gift of generosity. Help us to have generous spirits and giving natures. And always know that you are guiding our steps and watching over us all. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN

NCH 85

I Woke Up This Morning

Readings of Sacred Scriptures



Proverbs 11:24-28

²⁴ Some people spend their money freely and still grow richer. Others are cautious, and yet grow poorer.

²⁵ Be generous, and you will be prosperous. Help others, and you will be helped.

²⁶ People curse someone who hoards grain, waiting for a higher price, but they praise the one who puts it up for sale.

²⁷ If your goals are good, you will be respected, but if you are looking for trouble, that is what you will get.

²⁸ Those who depend on their wealth will fall like the leaves of autumn, but the righteous will prosper like the leaves of summer.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

Luke 12:13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ A man in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide with me the property our father left us.”

¹⁴ Jesus answered him, “Friend, who gave me the right to judge or to divide the property between you two?” ¹⁵ And he went on to say to them all, “Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your true life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be.”

¹⁶ Then Jesus told them this parable: “There was once a rich man who had land which bore good crops. ¹⁷ He began to think to himself, ‘I don't have a place to keep all my crops. What can I do? ¹⁸ This is what I will do,’ he told himself; ‘I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store the grain and all my other goods. ¹⁹ Then I will say to myself, Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?’”

²¹ And Jesus concluded, “This is how it is with those who pile up riches for themselves but are not rich in God's sight.”

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen



SERMON

Honoring Labor not Riches

Pastor Annie Allen



Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation

Prayer of our Savior

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

TIME OF OFFERING

We who have been richly blessed are called to share that blessing with the world. Give freely in the joy of serving your neighbor and your God.



For those in the sanctuary, there is a collection plate at the rear of the center aisle. For those on Zoom or watching on YouTube, please take time now to log onto our website www.rccucc.com and click on the donate link to make your offering. Or mail your check to RCC 251 Union Ave, Rutherford, NJ 07070 Attention: Financial Secretary.

OFFERTORY/SPECIAL MUSIC

Bernard Jackson

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (All)

All that we do is in your holy name, O God. Even as we share the riches of our labors, may we continue to honor your name in all that we do. Bless these gifts given freely, that your justice and mercy may prevail in a weak and weary world. Amen.



Invitation to Communion

L. This table is open to all who seek Jesus Christ as healer and redeemer. This table is open to all who work to bring God's Kingdom here on earth. No one is turned away because of life circumstances. No one is barred from this table. No one seeking God's abundant grace and mercy is turned aside. We see before us the abundance that a life of faith offers as we respond to God's everlasting mercy in prayer and deed.

P. We come, ready to partake of bread and cup; to receive this spiritual gift from our savior. Not to fill our stomachs but to fill our souls.

L. Communion is a gift of God open and available to everyone.

P. Everyone is welcome. Young and Old, Sinners and Saints, God pours out his love on us all.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L. Holy One, we give thanks that through Christ, we live in your favor. We give thanks that in his final week, he celebrated the Passover Supper with his dear friends, and instructed them and us to remember him every time we partake in this meal.

P. We give thanks that through Christ, we come to the Table of Grace, partaking heavenly food and the gift of salvation.

L. Like the Disciples of old, who were sent into the world, to heal and to Bless, we are filled with your Spirit.

P. We come before You in praise and thanksgiving, as we commit ourselves again as members of the living body of Christ.

The Blessing of the Bread and Cup

L. See Oh, Lord our humble offerings of Bread and Grape Juice. We see God's hand at work, in the life of Jesus, bringing new life out of the old. We see the same God yearning to bring new life today. We see God's hand moving us to peace and service. Bless these elements of common use and make them into Holy elements for Sacred use.

P. By your Spirit, Oh God, sanctify these gifts to be for us the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Sharing of the Cup

Communion of the People

L. On the night that Jesus dined the Passover meal with his friends, on the same night that he was betrayed; he took the Bread, said a Blessing and broke it. He handed it to his disciples saying

P. "Take and eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me," *(Eat your bread now)*

L. After the supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and said:

P. "Drink this all of you. This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is given for you and the worlds, as a sign of God's Blessings. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." *(Drink your cup now)*

The Prayer after Communion

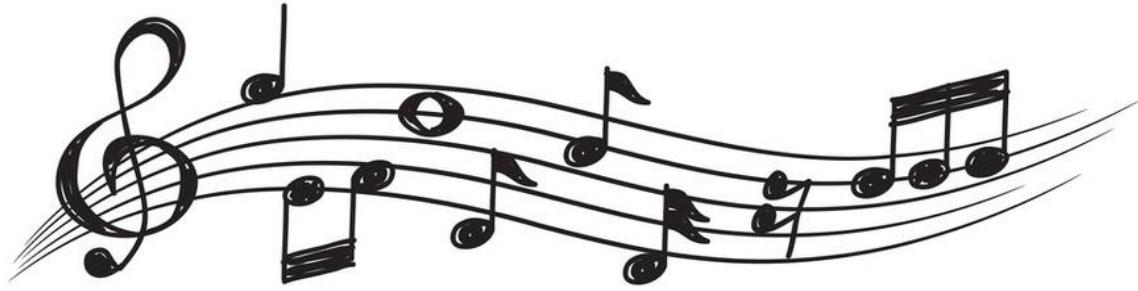
(Unison)

Ever Present God, thank you for the spiritual nourishment we have received at your table. We now celebrate the memory and the promise within the life of Jesus Christ. By means of the bread and cup, we proclaim victory of life over death and the power of the resurrection. May the Spirit, alive throughout all the ages, fill us and all of creation today. Amen

Liturgy Written by Reverend Annie Allen, 2021

CLOSING HYMN

Make me a Channel of your Peace *(All sing - next page)*



Make Me A Channel of Your Peace
By Sebastian Temple

Make me a channel of your peace, where there is hatred let me bring your
love,

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt true faith
in you,

Make me a channel of your peace, where there's despair in life let me bring
hope,

Where there is darkness only light, and where there's sadness ever joy.

Oh master grant that I may never seek, so much to be consoled as to
console,

To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

In giving to all men that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal
life.



SENDING FORTH – CLOSING BLESSING

As you leave this place, know that God is with you. Praise the Lord for the gifts you have received, and always be generous to those who have less. Go now, to spread God's good news and be a blessing to everyone you meet. AMEN.

POSTLUDE

Join us for refreshments and fellowship after service.



Pastor's Bible Study, Each Tuesday, 7:00pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9735570611>

Women's Bible Study, Each Monday, 7:30pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8968487730>

Women's Book Club, Fourth Monday, 7:30pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8968487730>

Administrative Council, Contact Carol Marshall, carolmarshall1047@gmail.com

Future Search Team, Contact Pastor Annie Allen, annie.shalom1@gmail.com

Marketing Team, Contact Meredith Mullane, meredithmullane@gmail.com

Mission Team, Contact Derek Mullane derek.correa.dc@gmail.com

or Carol Anderson careertutor@gmail.com



Joys & Concerns

August 29, 2021

Prayer Concerns

- Carol Marshall spent the past week with Nora and Joe and asks for continued prayers for them; Nora's Huntington's is advanced. Daily prayers for all suffering from Huntington's disease.
- Carol also asks for prayers for former member Joan Lyles, who's asked for the stained glass windows for her church, which is in the path of Hurricane Ida.
- Bernard Jackson sang at the memorial service yesterday for Aunt Joan Davis, who raised him, and asks for prayers for her family.
- Aliya Rodriguez asks for prayers for her grandpa, who is hurt, and for her sisters Tahara and Noelia.
- Cat and Alycia Desmond ask for prayers for all those in Louisiana and surrounding areas threatened by Hurricane Ida. They also ask for prayers for their friends Maidie and Jess who have Covid-19, and for Carol and Geoff as Geoff is suffering from cancer.
- Carol Anderson asks for continued prayers for Monica and Rae Fisher as Monica continues to recuperate from her fractured elbow and Rae is being treated for illnesses contracted on her recent trip to the Dominican Republic. Carol also asks for prayers for those in Haiti, Louisiana, and Afghanistan suffering from natural disasters and political turmoil.

Joys

- Carol Marshall relayed an email from Beth Turano, who has just returned from celebrating her parents' 62nd wedding anniversary in Delaware. Rev. Bob Cassels and his wife Sheila served our church as interim pastor with spouse. They received many cards from RCC members to honor this occasion and Beth thanks us for them. Also, Beth's sister-in-law Aunt Ida is now home.
- We are grateful to Violet Desmond who made a name badge for Pastor Annie as only a three-year-old can, and to six year old Peri for decorating the lectern.
- Alycia and Cat Desmond are grateful for a wonderful vacation at Lake George made possible by Alycia's parents, Ellen and Fred Dammers.
- Carol Anderson is joyful for the celebration of life held last Sunday in Raymond, Maine for her partner Martin Krauter. She is also grateful for Susan's music ministry at RCC, and the performances on the organ this morning. She is also appreciative for childhood friends, who've known us so long and have shared history: she had lunch with one this Friday.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.



Donations are being accepted to help with the earthquake & hurricane victims in Haiti.

Volunteers Needed: 150 Hot Meals to Homeless Families on October 15th

The Mission team will be leading the preparation and delivery of 150 hot meals to Family Promise on Oct 15, and we need help from the congregation to get that accomplished: bakers of frozen lasagna, salad tray assemblers, frozen vegetables cookers, all the morning of the 15th. Come participate in helping hungry people in our area. Please email Carol Anderson careertutor@gmail.com or call Carol at 201-686-9100 if you can help.

Food Pantry Help

Mission Team consulted with the Rutherford Food Pantry on how we can help in addition to donating groceries (which continues; the municipal building is now open and you can deliver groceries by ringing the doorbell for SOCIAL SERVICES at the side door). The director of social services is eager to have volunteers do non-client facing work, to preserve confidentiality, such as stocking shelves. Please consider volunteering your time. M-F, no remote opportunity known, but I can ask.

Telephone Bank to reach the elderly and shut-ins

Mission team is working with the Kip Center to provide volunteers for its phone bank to elderly shut-ins, whose isolation increased during the Covid-19 quarantine but is persistent. Making brief calls to the elderly is a wonderful way of sharing God's love and making new friends in the process.

If you will volunteer, or have a friend or family member who wants to serve, contact **Carol Anderson at: careertutor@gmail.com or call or text 201-686-9100**

Church Finance & Attendance Sunday, August 29, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Giving Revenues (Pledged Income, Member Gifts, Non-Member/Misc Gifts, and Open Plate):			
For Sunday, 08/29/21:	\$ 888	\$ 429	\$ (459)
YTD Giving Revenues as of 08/29/21:	31,080	46,556	15,476
YTD All Other Revenues as of 08/29/21:	30,625	14,950	(15,675)
	<u>61,705</u>	<u>61,506</u>	<u>(199)</u>
Anticipated annual deficit per approved budget:			<u>(199)</u>
\$ Gifts In Kind This Week:		0.00	
\$ YTD Gifts In Kind, as of 08/29/21:		1,285.43	
Zoom Attendance 08/29/21	5	<u>AVG Zoom</u>	26
Zoom Worship 08/29/21	2	<u>AVG Zoom W</u>	13
Zoom Church School 08/29/21	3	<u>AVG Zoom CS</u>	5
Worship Attendance	17	<u>AVG W</u>	15
YouTube Views 08/29/21	6	<u>AVG YT</u>	18
Total Exposure 08/29/21	33	<u>AVG EX</u>	44

