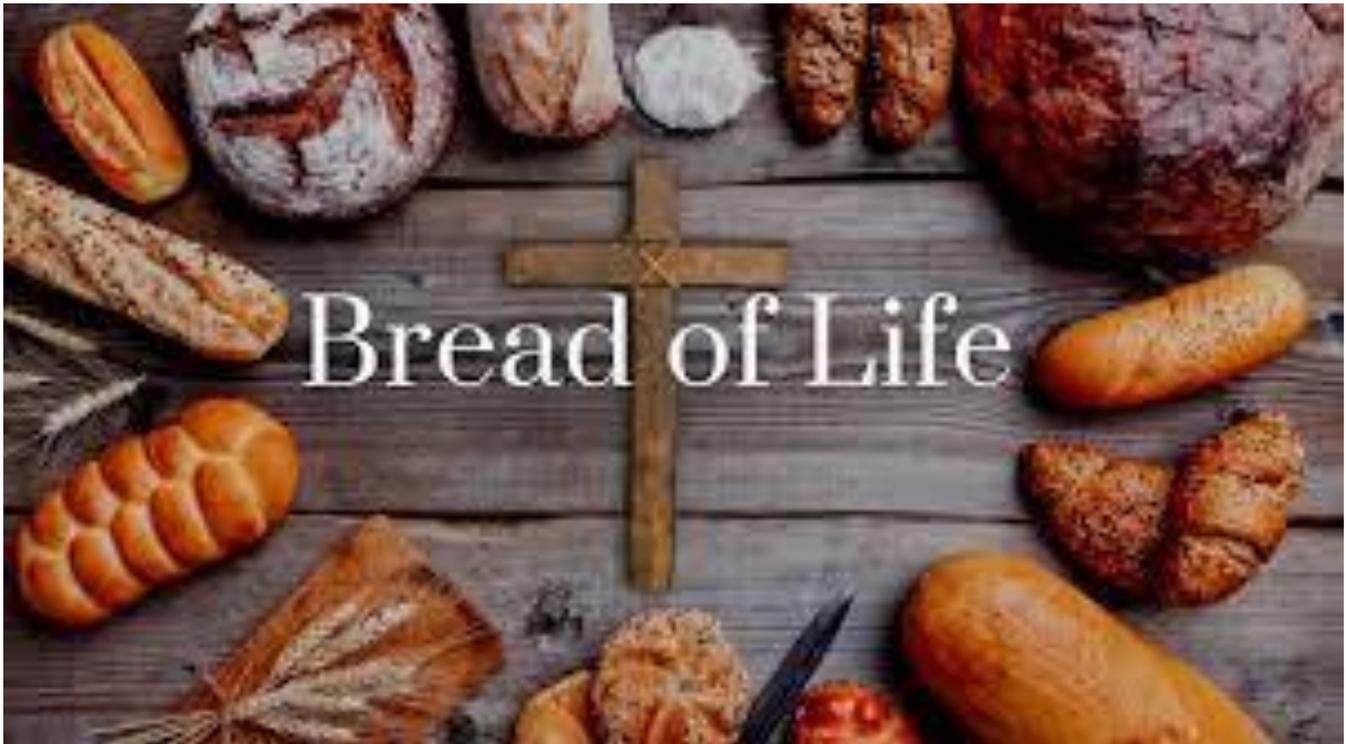


Rutherford Congregational Church, UCC

Virtual & In-Person Sunday Gathering

August 1, 2021

Tenth 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

www.rccucc.com

Rev. Annie Allen, Interim Pastor

annie.shalomn1@gmail.com

(973) 557-0611

Susan La Fever, Director of Music

susanlaf@optonline.net

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

CENTERING MUSIC

Prepare Ye, The Way of the Lord from Godspell Stephen Schwartz
Fred & Ellen Dammers, Alycia Desmond, Carol Marshall, vocals and guitars

WELCOME

Welcome to Rutherford Congregational Church. May the wind and fire of the spirit blow into your hearts and into this service today. **Today is Communion Sunday. At RCC we believe that Communion is a gift from God and everyone has access to God's grace. Therefore, Everyone is welcomed at the table of the lord. It is not the job of the church to decide who is worthy or unworthy to partake in the Lord's Supper.**

Our worship team hopes to provide a worship experience that is EPIC. That is, Experiential, Participatory, Image Rich, and Connective. For those of you worshipping at home on Zoom, we encourage you to sing aloud, clap your hands, or do whatever is comfortable for you.

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 your benefit, a link to the PDF of this morning's order of worship is posted on the church's home page, www.rccucc.com.

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Spoken by Pastor and Congregation)



P: We come today hungry for spiritual nourishment.

C: We come hungry and thirsty for God's Word and God's Presence.

L: The Bread of Life has come among us.

P: What is this Bread of Life?

L: It is none other than Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son!

P: We hunger for the true bread that will nourish our souls.

L: Come, then, to Christ who feeds us with his very life!

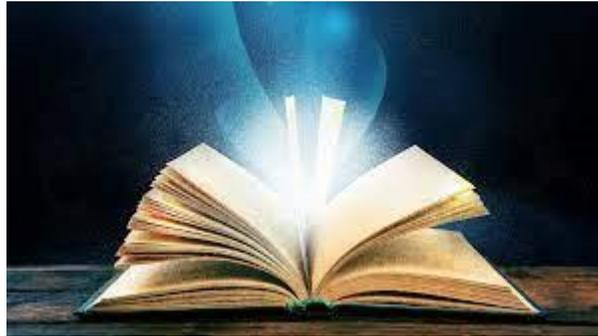
P: We come, needing sustenance and nurturing. AMEN

INVOCATION / OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, all our lives we search for signs and symbols to point us in the right direction. Christ has given us a sign which points us to healing and hope: that is the sign of the Bread of Life. No more shall we hunger and thirst after the things which cannot sustain us. Now we have been fed and nourished by Christ himself! Open our hearts in gratitude, Lord, for all the wondrous things you have done for us. Open our Spirits to hear your words of hope for us today. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN NCH 84 This is the Day Fijian folk tune arr. Les Garret
Bernard Jackson, Song Leader

Readings of Sacred Scriptures



Exodus 16: 1-18, 31 (GNT) The Manna and the Quails

16 The whole Israelite community set out from Elim, and on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left Egypt, they came to the desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai. ² There in the desert they all complained to Moses and Aaron ³ and said to them, “We wish that the LORD had killed us in Egypt. There we could at least sit down and eat meat and as much other food as we wanted. But you have brought us out into this desert to starve us all to death.”

⁴ The LORD said to Moses, “Now I am going to cause food to rain down from the sky for all of you. The people must go out every day and gather enough for that day. In this way I can test them to find out if they will follow my instructions. ⁵ On the sixth day they are to bring in twice as much as usual and prepare it.”

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “This evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt. ⁷ In the morning you will see the dazzling light of the LORD's presence. He has heard your complaints against him—yes, against him, because we are only carrying out his instructions.” ⁸ Then Moses said, “It is the LORD who will give you meat to eat in the evening and as much bread as you want in the morning, because he has heard how much you have complained against him. When you complain against us, you are really complaining against the LORD.”

⁹ Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the whole community to come and stand before the LORD, because he has heard their complaints.” ¹⁰ As Aaron spoke to the whole community,

they turned toward the desert, and suddenly the dazzling light of the LORD appeared in a cloud. ¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them that at twilight they will have meat to eat, and in the morning they will have all the bread they want. Then they will know that I, the LORD, am their God.”

¹³ In the evening a large flock of quails flew in, enough to cover the camp, and in the morning there was dew all around the camp. ¹⁴ When the dew evaporated, there was something thin and flaky on the surface of the desert. It was as delicate as frost. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they didn't know what it was and asked each other, “What is it?”

Moses said to them, “This is the food that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶ The LORD has commanded that each of you is to gather as much of it as he needs, two quarts for each member of his household.”

¹⁷ The Israelites did this, some gathering more, others less. ¹⁸ When they measured it, those who gathered much did not have too much, and those who gathered less did not have too little. Each had gathered just what he needed.

³¹ The people of Israel called the food manna.^[a] It was like a small white seed, and tasted like thin cakes made with honey.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC Through it All Andrae Crouch
Bernard Jackson, soloist; Alycia Desmond, guitar

Gospel Lesson

John 6:24-35 (GNT)

²⁴ When the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they got into those boats and went to Capernaum, looking for him.



Jesus the Bread of Life

²⁵ When the people found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said to him, “Teacher, when did you get here?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “I am telling you the truth: you are looking for me because you ate the bread and had all you wanted, not because you understood my miracles. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils; instead, work for the food that lasts for eternal life. This is the food which the Son of Man will give you, because God, the Father, has put his mark of approval on him.”

²⁸ So they asked him, “What can we do in order to do what God wants us to do?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “What God wants you to do is to believe in the one he sent.”

³⁰ They replied, “What miracle will you perform so that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, just as the scripture says, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³² “I am telling you the truth,” Jesus said. “What Moses gave you was not^[a] the bread from heaven; it is my Father who gives you the real bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread that God gives is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Sir,” they asked him, “give us this bread always.”

³⁵ **“I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “Those who come to me will never be hungry; those who believe in me will never be thirsty.”**

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

SERMON

Eat and Be Full

Pastor Annie Allen

Hymn

I know a man who can

Bernard Jackson, song leader



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Invitation (**Liturgist**)

Now is time to give back a small portion of all that God has given to you. 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 www.rccucc.com our website 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.

Our *Donation Jar* is on the table with the collection plate. Each month, donations will go to a specific cause. For July, it is Family Promise, to provide 150 hot dinners to Bergen County homeless families on Oct 20.

Pennies for Charisse donations continue to support this young girl and her family in the Philippines; please place your change in this receptacle, also on the back table.

OFFERTORY Come Before the Lord Mike Troxel
Fred & Ellen Dammers, Alycia & Cat Desmond, vocals and guitars

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (All)

Generous God, You have blessed each of us abundantly. Receive the gifts that we offer today, for the relief of the poor, the healing of the world, and the spreading of your good news. So that those who have much may be generous to those who have little. And may we be good stewards of all you provide. Increase these gifts that they be a blessing to your church and to all who are in need. In Jesus name, Amen.



Invitation to Communion

L. Filled with God's Spirit, we come to the table of God's heavenly feast, let us prepare our hearts anew to be in communion with one another and with Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has risen and lives in our hearts and in the world today.

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)*

Hymn after Communion NCH 393 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds John Fawcett

(Everyone Sing)

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

Jays and Concerns

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Prayer Concerns

- Elizabeth Jimenez asked for prayers for her daughter, Ashley, who had a kidney stent implanted, and may need another one in the future.
- Carol Marshall asked that we keep Monica Fisher in our prayers as she works to rehabilitate at West Caldwell Rehab after a fall, a fracture and surgery on her elbow.

Thanksgivings

- Elizabeth Jimenez is grateful that she could babysit her granddaughters for her daughter.
- Carol Marshall gives thanks that Carol Anderson and Nola Woehrle have been visiting Monica Fisher at West Caldwell Rehab.
- Carol Marshall acknowledged Merry Burke's birthday & led us in birthday song!
- Pastor Annie is grateful that Carol M (President) & Carol A (Mission) have approved a new ministry that allows us to participate in putting together the Bethlehem Summer Camp in Palestine.
- Pastor Annie is grateful to start teaching a new class at Northwind Seminary next week and she has also been approved to teach a certificate program at the Memphis Theological Seminary in the fall.
- Pastor Annie is grateful for the hard work of the Congregation in creating the picnic and activities for today on the church lawn. The sun is cooperating by peeking out thru the clouds!

May we remember and pray for the health and concerns of

Bill Reenstra & Karen Klimas, Nora Esposito, Ellen Dammers, Merry Burke, Catherine (Cat) Desmond, The DiNapoli Family, Carin Fougner, Chuck & Eileen Eastham, Tammy Jackson, Monika Fisher, Tyler Syphrett.

All service men & women, victims of violence, all effected by COVID19.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.



Mission Team has been working on community service projects, and here's your opportunity to volunteer. Neither project can go forward without the participation of our church family.

1. 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.

2. TELEPHONE BANK

Mission team met with the director of the Kip Center to offer to work with its phone back to elderly shut-ins, whose isolation increased during the Covid-19 quarantine but is persistent. She is putting together a list of those who would welcome friendly chats on a regular basis, and RCC would have its own bloc of persons to call (the Center already has a robust calling bank). These calls would all be made from your home and reported on a log.

For each of these, we need at least several people who can commit to x hours per week on a regular basis. By announcing this need in church, we have two volunteers outside of our small Mission Team and we need more to go forward. 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

Bethlehem Children's Camp 2021



St. Joseph's Center, Dominican Sisters

Bethlehem, Occupied Palestinian Territories

"Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world, They're all precious in his sight."

Join us in creating a summer camp in the Holy City of Bethlehem for children who have been abused during the COVID pandemic.

Half of the budget has been donated by citizens of Bethlehem.

100 children are enrolled for this free camp that begins

Monday, July 26, 2021

Your support is needed now.

\$40 donation covers the cost for one child.

Donations go to RUTHERFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Jersey

Donations are tax deductible

The church will transfer all funds to St. Joseph's Center, Palestine

Donate by

- [Clicking Here](#) to go to Paypal page for *Rutherford Congregational Church*
- Mailing a check to *Rutherford Congregational Church, 251 Union Ave, Rutherford NJ 07070 Attn: Financial Secretary for Bethlehem Children's Camp*
- Using the *Paypal* donation button on the website for Rutherford Congregational Church
<http://rccucc.com/>

*Please add a note on the check or on the Paypal screen designating your donation for the **Bethlehem Children's Camp**.*



Financial & Attendance

For the week of Sunday, July 25, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Giving Revenues (Pledged Income, Member Gifts, Non-Member/Misc Gifts, and Open Plate):			
	\$	\$	\$
For Sunday, 07/25/21:	888	775	(113)
YTD Giving Revenues as of 07/25/21:	26,640	43,606	16,966
YTD All Other Revenues as of 07/25/21:	24,500	14,950	(9,550)
	51,140	58,556	7,416
Anticipated annual deficit per approved budget:			7,416
\$ Gifts In Kind This Week:		116.80	
\$ YTD Gifts In Kind, as of 07/25/21:		1,202.86	
Zoom Attendance 07/25/21	8	AVG Zoom	26
Zoom Worship 07/25/21	3	AVG Zoom W	14
Zoom Church School 07/25/21	5	AVG Zoom CS	5
Worship Attendance	14	AVG W	15
YouTube Views 07/25/21	7	AVG YT	19
Total Exposure 07/25/21	37	AVG EX	45