



# Rotterdam United Methodist Church

## February 2021 Newsletter

Volume 294 - Number 2  
February 2021



1915 Helderberg Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12306  
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
Pastor: Rev. Caroline Simmons

### ***From Pastor Caroline. . .***

Dear Friends,

Once the season of Epiphany ends, a new season begins in the Christian year. It is the season of Lent, followed by Easter. I know while we are seeing landscapes of cold, blustery days, it may seem a bit absurd to realize that Lent is just around the corner.

Yes, it's true, Lent will begin during the month of February. It starts on February 17<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday and continues through April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the day before we celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Sunday. Recently, I was searching/discerning what to do for a Lenten study. You may wonder why Lent is so important and what I chose for this year's Lenten study. The title is "Who Is This Man?" written by John Ortberg.

During the season of Lent, we usually travel with Jesus on his last days of his ministry here on earth, working tirelessly with his disciples to heal the sick, feed the hungry, provide instruction about God and how to treat one another, and reach out with love, compassion, and forgiveness to those who seek him.

"Like Advent, Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer. Lent is also an opportunity for spiritual reflection and to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross. But ultimately, the purpose of Lent does not stop at sadness and despair - it points us to the hope of the Resurrection."

For me, Lent is a time to grow closer and learn more about who Jesus is, journey with him and be thankful for his tremendous love – giving his life so that we may be forgiven and reconnect with God. Every time I travelled to the Holy Land, I was moved when we would go to Jerusalem, because we would walk down the Mount of Olives to the garden of Gethsemane. We would go to one of the places where Jesus was tortured, walk the way of sorrows (the Via Dolorosa) and to Golgotha – the place of his crucifixion.

In this study, we will learn about the impact Jesus had and continues to have on our world. John Ortberg wrote that "Jesus' life and teaching simply drew people to follow him. He made history by starting in a humble place, in a spirit of love and acceptance, and allowing each person space to respond." Come, let us journey together and grow deeper in our understanding of Jesus and his influence on our daily lives.

Blessings,  
Rev. Caroline

## Transitions

Shirley Cooper, age 88, passed on to the Church Triumphant on Thursday, January 7th.



## Condolences

We'd like to wish our sincerest condolences to:

~ The Heise Family on the loss of Rev. David's son, Jeff.

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### **Special Thanks:**

to Gary Spawn and Melissa Klindtworth for putting the Christmas decorations away.

to everyone who continues to drop off food for the RUMC Food Pantry in the brown delivery box under the mailbox. It is greatly appreciated

to Gary Spawn for meeting with the elevator repairman and for the additional snow-plowing and clean-up between snowstorms .

to all essential workers who continue to go in to work everyday, putting their lives at risk so that we may continue to try to live a normal life.

to all of the folks who continue to reach out to others in our church family and keep in touch during this difficult time, especially around the holidays.

to all those who continue to support our church through your financial contributions and/or by volunteering and performing the various daily tasks required to keep our church running. Without such a dedicated family, RUMC wouldn't be the church it is today. Thank you for your commitment.

Thank you all for helping keep our Church looking beautiful and running smoothly.



**Join us on Wednesday,  
February 17th at 6:00 PM  
for our Ash Wednesday Service.**

jesus  
loves  
you

## A copy of the January Letter with Church Pause Extended

January 12, 2021

Dear Church Family,

Due to the current upsurge in the COVID -19 virus in our community, Rotterdam UMC's pause of in-person worship attendance and building activities will continue through at least February 13th. The infection rate (9.1%) and hospitalization ICU rates (81% full) continue to rise in our area, and we continue to see more and more prayer requests for family members of our church family. We know everyone really wants to get back to in-person services and "normal" life, but we continue to hold onto an abundance of caution to try to keep everyone in our church community safe, and in addition, help with the burden that our frontline healthcare workers are being challenged to meet. We will reassess what the environment is in our area again in early February and based on the conditions found at that time, make another decision regarding the pause of in-service worship and building use.

Pastor Caroline, Charito and some key volunteers have agreed to continue to live stream at <https://www.facebook.com/RotterdamUMC/> and record a full church service, not only on Sundays, but for Ash Wednesday on February 17th as well. We realize this does not reach everyone, but hopefully, it will reach most of our church family who wish to view the service. (And remember, you don't need a Facebook account to watch the service after it's been live streamed. Just type in the link above on your computer.) We want to thank these individuals for stepping up to reach out and continue the mission of our church.

In addition, we will be continuing the pause on all building activities, including in-person meetings, and all Scout meetings through at least February 13th. Wonderland Preschool runs on the Mohonasen schedule and their own NYS Health guidelines as a preschool and is currently holding in-person classes.

We realize the pandemic has been a difficult time for all and we pray everyone stays safe and well.

God Bless,  
Rev. Caroline Simmons

### **Save the Dates:**

**Saturday, January 16th – Brooks BBQ CANCELLED**

Sunday, January 17th, 24th, 31st at 10:00 a.m. – Live Stream of our regular Sunday Service

**Saturday, February 6th – Brooks BBQ CANCELLED**

Sunday, February 7th, 14th at 10:00 a.m. – Live Stream of our regular Sunday Service

Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. – Live Stream of our Ash Wednesday Service

**Note:** Our church website will be under maintenance from January 18th through January 25th and will not be available to the public during this time frame. Church information will be available on Facebook, e-mail and via regular mail during that week.

## Our Celebrations

### Rotterdam UMC Benevolences - Your generosity at work

Throughout the year, RUMC collects donations for specific missions that are both local and global in nature. Through these contributions, we continue to reach out and express our commitment to others. Following is a list of these programs and the contributions that have been made in 2020 by RUMC. Thank you for your gifts and your continued generosity.

Peace with Justice:	\$ 70.00
Human Relations:	\$ 70.00
SICM:	\$1,156.40
One Great Hour:	\$ 100.00
Native Awareness:	\$ 70.00
World Communion:	\$ 91.00
Student Day:	\$ 25.00
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday mission:	\$ 70.00
	<b>\$1,652.40</b>

<b><u>ROTTERDAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2021 BUDGET &amp; 2020 Actual</u></b>					
			<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	Contributions and Donations		\$ 112,000	\$ 110,982	\$ 112,000
	Building Use Rentals - Wonderland, Hall/Lounge Rental		\$ 8,000	\$ 5,960	\$ 8,000
	Income Projects - Brooks, Fall Festival, Rummage Sale		\$ 27,000	\$ 13,725	\$ 27,000
	Festival Offerings - Advent, Lent, Special Services		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,065	\$ 1,500
	<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$ 148,500</b>	<b>\$ 131,732</b>	<b>\$ 148,500</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>					
	<b>Cost to have a Full Time Pastor and Organist</b>		<b>\$ 96,083</b>	<b>\$ 89,307</b>	<b>\$ 95,603</b>
	(i.e. payroll, health insurance, retirement, parsonage expenses, etc.)				
	<b>Building Expenses, Maintenance &amp; Insurance</b>		<b>\$ 41,469</b>	<b>\$ 24,793</b>	<b>\$ 39,162</b>
	(i.e. custodial, lawn care, snow plow, waste & sewer, office, etc.)				
	<b>Church Programs</b>		<b>\$ 3,300</b>	<b>\$ 877</b>	<b>\$ 3,300</b>
	(i.e. education, outreach, nurture, stephen ministry, worship etc.)				
	<b>Conference</b>		<b>\$ 24,554</b>	<b>\$ 14,420</b>	<b>\$ 24,985</b>
	(i.e. cost billed by Conference to be a United Methodist Church)				
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b>\$ 165,406</b>	<b>\$ 129,397</b>	<b>\$ 163,050</b>
	<b>Shortage / Overage:</b>		<b>\$ (16,906)</b>	<b>\$ 2,335</b>	<b>\$ (14,550)</b>

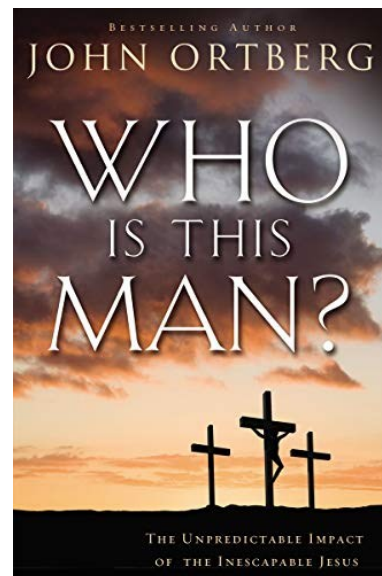
## Lenten Bible Study - "Who is this Man?"

Jesus' impact on our world is highly unlikely, widely inescapable, largely unknown, and decidedly double-edged. It is unlikely in light of the severe limitations of his earthly life; it is inescapable because of the range of impact; it is unknown because history doesn't connect dots; and it is doubled-edged because his followers have wreaked so much havoc, often in his name.

He is history's most familiar figure, yet he is the man no one knows. His impact on the world is immense and non-accidental. From the Dark Ages to Post-Modernity he is the Man who won't go away. And yet . . . you can miss him in historical lists for many reasons, maybe the most obvious being the way he lived his life. He did not loudly and demonstrably defend his movement in the spirit of a rising political or military leader. He did not lay out a case that history would judge his brand of belief superior in all future books.

His life and teaching simply drew people to follow him. He made history by starting in a humble place, in a spirit of love and acceptance, and allowing each person space to respond. His vision of life continues to haunt and challenge humanity. His influence has swept over history bringing inspiration to what has happened in art, science, government, medicine, and education; he has taught humans about dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope.

Join us as we learn more about Jesus . The Book study will start the week after Ash Wednesday (week of February 22nd) and the day of the week, time and method (via Zoom or in-person), will be decided later . Once we know the details we will make an announcement. In the mean time, if you are interested, please contact Rev. Caroline.



### Easter / Holy Week Dates:

**Palm Sunday - March 28**

**Maundy Thursday - April 1**



**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**



**Good Friday - April 2**

**Easter - April 4**







**Happy Birthday**  
to the following people in February

- 4 Emilio Vernon
- 8 Leeann Warren  
Timothy Abbott
- 9 Herb March  
Steve Zemgulis
- 11 Tom Tompkins
- 13 Amelia Drezek
- 16 Linda Reilly
- 17 Gabrielle Walling
- 19 Travis Berschwinger
- 20 Terri Anderson
- 21 Lauren Soulia
- 22 Karen Lancto
- 23 Amber DeMatteo
- 24 Dylan VanNostrand
- 26 Karen Leighton
- 27 Judy Bleser
- 28 Richard Knapp  
Jonathan Savoy



**Happy Anniversary**  
to the following couples  
in the month of February

- 7 Patti & Edward Gradwell, Jr.
- 12 Shaunna & Randy Starr



### Lectionary Readings

February 7 – *5th Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 14 – *6th Sunday after the Epiphany*  
2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6;  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 17 – *Ash Wednesday*  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21 – *1st Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25: 1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

February 28 – *2nd Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

### Looking Ahead

March 7 – *3rd Sunday in Lent*  
Exodus 20:1-7; Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

### Ministry Moment

**“My religion is very simple.  
My religion is kindness.”**

~ The Dalai Lama ~

### February Security

#### Date

- 7 Fred Anderson
- 14 Jason Klindtworth
- 21 Gary Spawn
- 28 Roberto Aulet

## February Calendar:



- February 1 - 5: No Activities - Church Building Closed
- February 6 - 7: **Brooks BBQ - February 6 (CANCELLED)**  
Worship Service Online Only - February 7 at 10:00 a.m.
- February 8 - 12: No Activities - Church Building Closed  
Church Opening Committee Virtual Meeting
- February 13 - 14: Worship Service - February 14 at 10:00 a.m. (in-person or online TBD)  
Happy Valentine's Day
- February 15 - 19: Ash Wednesday Service - February 17 at 6:00 p.m. (in-person or online TBD)  
Deadline for March Newsletter - February 19
- February 20 - 21: Worship Service - February 21 at 10:00 a.m. (in-person or online TBD)
- February 22 - 26: Lenten Book Study starts this week - Day and Time TBD  
Boy Scouts - February 22 - 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall (TBD)  
Trustee Meeting - February 23 at 7:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall (TBD)
- February 27 - 28: Worship Service - February 28 at 10:00 a.m. (in-person or online TBD)



Brooks BBQ

Saturday, February 6

**CANCELLED**



### February Ushers

#### Date

7	Online Worship
14	TBD
21	Fred Anderson
28	Fred Anderson

### Brooks BBQ Dates for 2021

(All dates are Saturday unless otherwise noted)

- January 16 - Cancelled
- February 6 - Cancelled
- April 17
- June 5
- Friday, July 9
- September 11
- October 16
- December 4



# UP A TREE

BASED ON LUKE 19:1-10

Scripture for Today

TODAY SALVATION HAS COME TO THIS HOUSE.

Luke 19:9b

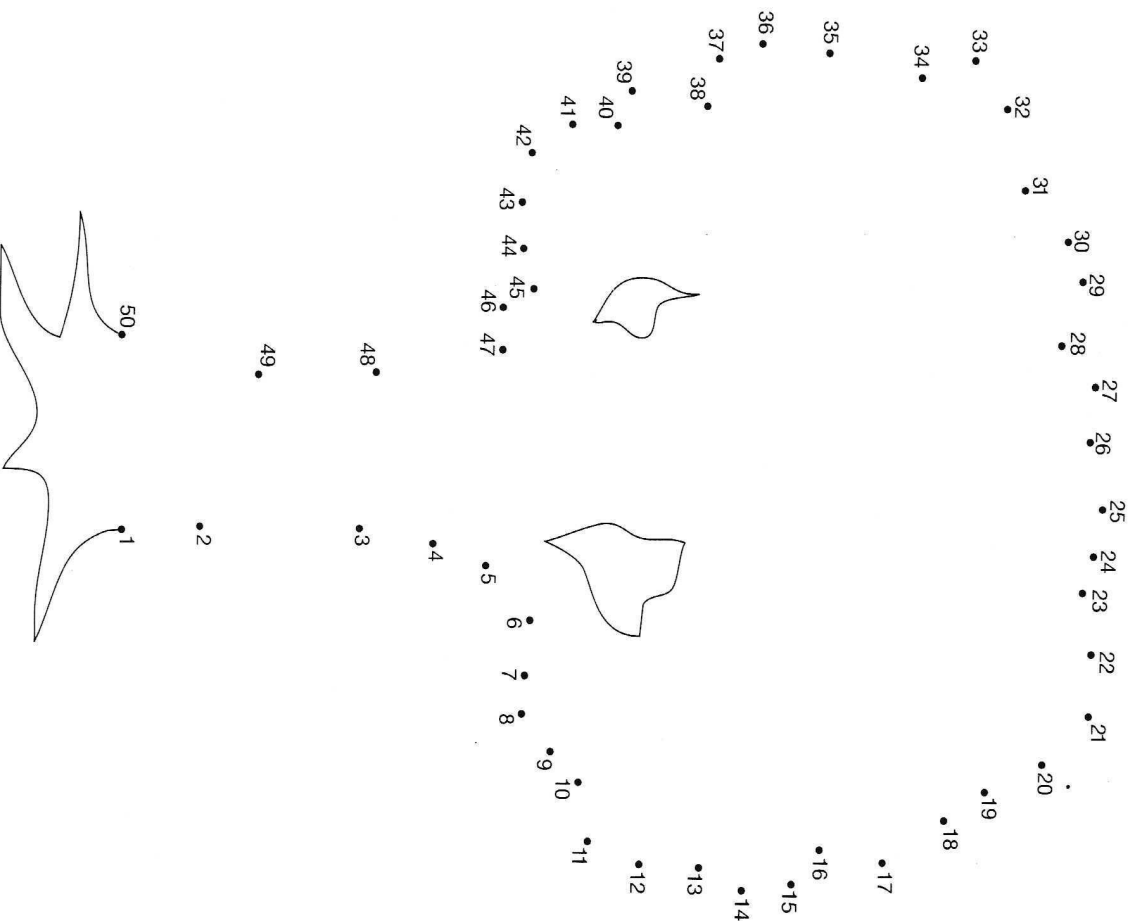
LESSON—Zacchaeus was not a well-liked man because he was the chief tax collector. He took money from the people who needed it badly. When Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to Jericho he wanted to see him. Because he was small, Zacchaeus climbed a tree so he could see Jesus. When Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the crowd he called to him and told him that he wanted to go home with him. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus for treating the people wrong. Zacchaeus changed the way he lived and began treating others better.

MATCH THE WORDS

tax	climbed
tree	people
cheated	collector

# CONNECT THE DOTS

Where did Zacchaeus go so he could see Jesus?





# WORD SEARCH

N H A G U E S T H S  
 O D R G S T V J U N  
 I B V D X G S E E H  
 T C H L R U A V A C  
 A J W Y S H I G O O  
 V B D E C G M L C E N  
 L G J C O C R A W R F  
 S Z F C C E I T E T  
 O Z G T E E D O V I  
 G I O J H V H A K K  
 J R C C Y S O X C R

## WORD LIST

CHEATED  
 FORGIVEN  
 JERICHO  
 SALVATION  
 ZACCHAEUS  
 COLLECTOR  
 GUEST  
 JESUS  
 SHORT

## ANSWERS

CLIMBED  
 PEOPLE  
 COLLECTOR  
 CHEATED  
 TREE  
 TAX

## WORD MATCH

## WORD SEARCH

N H A G U E S T H S  
 O D R G S T V J U N  
 I B V D X G S E E H  
 T C H L R U A V A C  
 A J W Y S H I G O O  
 V B D E C G M L C E N  
 L G J C R M L C E N  
 S Z F C C R A W R F  
 O Z G T E E D O V I  
 G I O J H V H A K K  
 J R C C Y S O X C R

# COLOR THIS PICTURE



## **Prayer Requests:**

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please submit that request at anytime via e-mail to [Prayers@RotterdamUMC.org](mailto:Prayers@RotterdamUMC.org)

Telephone requests can be made by calling the church office at 518-355-3401 during office hours or by calling either Donna Spawn at 518-355-9649 or Dawn March at 518-356-2833.

## **RUMC Digital Sign:**

If you have any suggestions for messages or announcements for upcoming events, please see Dawn March or email her at [Office@RotterdamUMC.org](mailto:Office@RotterdamUMC.org). She is always looking for short, inspirational messages.



## **Electronic Giving**

Rotterdam UMC accepts credit cards for donations via our website. Powered by PayPal, we accept electronic donations for weekly giving and memorials. Donations can even be setup to be given on a recurring basis. There is a cost associated with providing this benefit to our congregation and we would ask that you consider giving a little bit extra when donating on line so Rotterdam UMC can benefit from your full donation. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Scott at [sahutch2326@gmail.com](mailto:sahutch2326@gmail.com)

**Look for us on Facebook at  
"Rotterdam United Methodist Church"  
and click on "Like" at the top of the page.  
Join us for our Live Streamed  
Worship Services.**

## **Important web sites and e-mail:**

Rotterdam UMC web site:

**[RotterdamUMC.org](http://RotterdamUMC.org)**

### **RUMC E-mails:**

Office: [Office@RotterdamUMC.org](mailto:Office@RotterdamUMC.org)

Prayer Request: [Prayers@RotterdamUMC.org](mailto:Prayers@RotterdamUMC.org)

Upper NY UMC Web Site:

[www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)

Albany District Web Site:

[www.unyumc.org/district/albany](http://www.unyumc.org/district/albany)

District Superintendent E- mail:

[AlbanyDistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:AlbanyDistrict@unyumc.org)



"I DON'T CARE IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE  
THE SERMON—YOU SHOULDN'T  
HAVE ASKED FOR YOUR MONEY  
BACK."