



Rotterdam United Methodist Church

February 2025 Newsletter

Volume 342 - Number 2
February 2025



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

From Pastor Caroline. . .

A Pastoral Reflection on 1 Corinthians 13

Dear Friends,

As we approach the month of February, our hearts naturally turn towards the theme of love, especially with the celebration of Valentine's Day. This time of year, prompts us to reflect on the essence of love and its significance in our lives. In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul eloquently speaks of faith, hope, and love, and he declares that "the greatest of these is love."

Paul's words remind us that faith, hope, and love are enduring virtues that underpin our Christian life. Faith is our trust in God, the foundation of our relationship with the Divine. Hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised, a light that guides us through life's trials. Yet, above all, Paul exalts love as the supreme virtue, the one that binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Why does Paul consider love to be the greatest? Love, in its truest form, reflects the very nature of God, who is love (1 John 4:8). It is the selfless, sacrificial love that Christ demonstrated on the cross. It is a love that transcends mere emotions and gestures; it is an active, living force that seeks the good of others above oneself.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us remember that love is more than a sentiment expressed through cards and gifts. It is a call to action. Love manifests in the way we treat one another, in our daily acts of kindness, and in our willingness to serve and uplift those around us. As Paul writes, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)

In this month dedicated to love, let us challenge ourselves to embody these qualities in our interactions. Reach out to someone who may feel lonely or overlooked. Offer a helping hand to those in need. Forgive those who have wronged you and seek reconciliation. Let our love be a testament to the transformative power of Christ's love within us.

As we dwell on the beauty of love this February, let us hold fast to the words of 1 Corinthians 13. Let our faith be steadfast, our hope unwavering, and our love boundless. For in love, we reflect the heart of God and bring God's light into the world. May this month be a celebration of love that extends beyond Valentine's Day, nurturing a spirit of compassion and unity in our community and the world.

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Caroline

Special Thanks:

- ♦ to the Krugs for running the January Brooks BBQ and to everyone who worked it.
- to Rev. Caroline, Jean Schoonbeck and Pam and Duane Dodds for putting the Christmas decorations away.
- to Pam and Duane for sewing the fabric and reupholstering the bench in the Narthex.
- to Dawn March for updating all of the name tags.
- to the Trustees for taking down the Christmas Trees, Advent Wreath and Nativity outside.
- to Tim Reilly for agreeing to be the new RUMC treasurer and Cathy Krug for agreeing to be the new Trustee treasurer.
- to everyone who continues to volunteer to help at worship services.
- to all of the folks who continue to reach out to others in our church family and keep in touch with those who are unable to attend worship service.
- to all those who continue to support our church 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.



February Coffee Hour is February 9th.



“Souper” Bowl

We will be selling Chili during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, **February 9th**. Please purchase a bowl and join us in supporting our Food Pantry on Souper Bowl Sunday. 100% of the monies raised from this drive will be for the RUMC Food Pantry .

**SOUP
KITCHEN**



**Next Brooks BBQ
Saturday, February 1st
3:00 until Sold Out**

**New in 2025:
Half Chicken only is \$10.00
and sauces are \$5.00.**

Funeral Help Needed:

We are always in need of help during funerals. i.e. - Hand out bulletins, direct visitors, clean up afterwards, etc. If we can add you to the list of regular funeral helpers, please let the office know.

RUMC - 2024 Year-end Financials

		2024 Actual	2024 Budget
Income			
	Contributions and Donations	\$ 115,950	\$ 113,000
	Building Use Rentals - Wonderland, Hall/Lounge Rental	\$ 27,657	\$ 26,000
	Income Projects - Brooks, Fall Festival, Rummage Sale	\$ 24,410	\$ 25,000
	Online Fees	\$ (392)	\$ -
	Festival Offerings - Advent, Lent, Special Services	\$ 3,055	\$ 1,500
	Total Income:	\$ 170,680	\$ 165,500
Expenses			
Payroll, Benefits & Parsonage			
	Pastor Salary	\$52,599	\$52,599
	Organist/Choir Director Salary	\$15,544	\$15,545
	Pastor's Benefits, Retirement, Insurance & Parsonage Expenses	\$35,740	\$37,685
	Cost to have a Full Time Pastor and Organist	\$ 103,883	\$ 105,829
	(i.e. payroll, health insurance, retirement, parsonage expenses, etc.)		
	Building Expenses, Maintenance & Insurance	\$ 47,528	\$ 55,128
	(i.e. custodial, lawn care, snow plow, waste & sewer, office, etc.)		
	Church Programs	\$ 876	\$ 2,400
	(i.e. education, outreach, nurture, stephen ministry, worship etc.)		
	Ministry Shares Apportioned	\$ 10,500	\$ 22,380
	Retiree Premium	\$ 1,995	\$ 1,995
	Moving Fund	\$ -	\$ -
	Conference	\$ 12,495	\$ 24,375
	(i.e. cost billed by Conference to be a United Methodist Church, ministry shares, moving, retiree)		
	Total Expenses:	\$ 164,782	\$ 187,732
	Shortage / Overage:	\$ 5,898	\$ (22,232)

2024 Rotterdam UMC Benevolences - Your generosity at work

Throughout the year, RUMC collects donations for specific missions that are both local and global in nature. Following is a list of these programs and the financial contributions that were made in 2024 by our RUMC family. **Thank you for your gifts and your continued generosity.**

Peace with Justice:	\$ 47	Native American Ministries:	\$ 70
Human Relations:	\$ 90	World Communion:	\$ 45
SICM:	\$ 1,685	Student Day:	\$ 345
RUMC Food Pantry:	\$ 767	5 th Sunday mission:	\$ 735
UMCOR:	\$ 50	Heifer Project:	\$ 258
UMCOR Sunday:	\$ 134	Other designated RUMC Events:	\$ 1,238
Blanket Sunday:	\$ 355	i.e. Fall Festival, Dinners, Backpack	
Crop Walk:	\$ 232	Total Designated Giving:	\$ 6,051



Hearts Helping Hunger Food Donation Drive-thru February 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



When we think of February, Valentine’s Day often comes to mind. To many, Valentine’s Day means sharing love and kindness.

A great way to do some Valentine’s Day giving would be to share some food by donating to our Food Pantry Cupboard. The pantry sees a lot of use every day, but it is harder to keep the pantry full during school breaks since students aren’t getting meals at school and the need for food is higher. So, in preparation for winter school break, the Stephen Ministry Team is sponsoring a drive-thru, non-perishable food drop off on February 8, called “Hearts Helping Hunger Donation Drive-thru”.

Here’s how you can help.....**#1.** Come drop your donation off on February 8 between 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the church parking lot. A Stephen Ministry Team member will be available to collect them.

#2. Spread the word!

Thank you,

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19



Thank You



I want to thank everyone for the cards and the visits I received during the holidays. Thank you for the poinsettia and small breads that were delivered to me. I especially enjoyed the invitation to join our church family members at the annual Christmas party at Glenville Queen. It was a fun and wonderful time. God Bless you all.

~ Eileen Gaudio

Thank You

Thank you!

"Thank you all so much for your ongoing support and compassion to Christina Urys. Your cards, visits, gifts, and loving gestures bring a sense of serenity and joy to Chris and our family. RUMC is a true blessing and Chris deeply misses you all."

~Christina Urys and Miranda family



Save the Date:

Soup Sale

Saturday, March 8th

10:30 AM - SOLD OUT

Homemade Soups

Take out ONLY.



To all soup makers for March 8:

Containers and labels will be provided.

Anyone who can make soup for this soup sale, please contact Donna Jahnel or sign up online.

All of the money from the soup sale will go to our trustees for church improvements.

5th Sunday Mission to UMCOR CA Fires

It was decided at the January Ad Board to send our 5th Sunday Mission collections to UMCOR designated for the California Fires.



Sock & Underwear Drive

RUMC is holding its annual Sock, Underwear and Feminine Product drive during the months of February and March. Please help others in need during these winter months. We are collecting NEW packages of warm socks, underwear and feminine hygiene products. All sizes of men's, women's and children's products are needed. There will be hampers located in the back of the Church and in the foyer for your donations. If you have any questions, please see Donna Quivey. Thank you.

Save the Date: Book Sale on March 8 from 10 AM to 3 PM in Fellowship Hall

Books needed for the RUMC Book Sale

We are still in need of books to be donated for our book sale in March.



All books should be in good condition.

NO:

Readers Digest, Text Books (over 2 years old), AAA Travel Books (over 2 years old), Old Home Repair Books, Computer Books (over 2 years old), Encyclopedias, Car Manuals (over 2 years old), DVD's or Cassettes Mildew or Musty smelling books, Books with Broken Bindings.

If your books are in good condition, especially novels, we would love to have them for our Book Sale. Please drop them in the back of the sanctuary one Sunday or anytime the church is open, or in our Book Dropbox by the church mailbox.

Brooks BBQ Dates for 2025

(All dates are Saturday)

- February 1
- March 22
- May 31
- July 12
- September 6
- October 11
- December 6



Year End Audit

Now is the time to organize your committee's financial records to be audited. Please drop off the following financial records to the office by **February 15th**.



- Records supporting your incoming and outgoing funds. (including cancelled checks and receipts)
- Bank Statements where applicable.
- A list of, and support for, all your accounts.
- Any other records important or related to your committees 2024 financial activities.

Sunday School Help

The Sunday school is always looking for a few volunteer teachers. If you can help out one Sunday and teach a class, please let Clark Cooper know. The kids just love when they have guest teachers. Or if you would be willing to provide snacks for a Sunday, please let Clark Cooper know.



Happy Birthday
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
- 14 Kathleen Galvin-Davis
- 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
- 28 Richard Knapp
Jonathan Savoy



happy anniversary

Happy Anniversary
to the following couples
in the month of February

- 12 Shaunna & Randy Starr



Lectionary Readings

- February 2 – *4th Sunday after Epiphany*
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
- February 9 – *5th Sunday after Epiphany*
Isaiah 6:1-8, 9-13; Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
- February 16 – *6th Sunday after Epiphany*
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1;
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
- February 23 – *7th Sunday after Epiphany*
Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

Looking Ahead

- March 2 – *8th Sunday after Epiphany*
Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Ministry Moment

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

~ The Dalai Lama ~

♥ **HAPPY**
Valentine's
DAY ♥

February Ushers

- | <u>Date</u> | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 2 | Gail Andrews |
| 9 | Duane Dodds |
| 16 | Fred Anderson |
| 23 | Fred Anderson |

February Security

- | <u>Date</u> | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 2 | Jim Gabree |
| 9 | Mike Krug |
| 16 | Donna Quivey |
| 23 | Mike Quivey |

February Cashiers

- | <u>Date</u> | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 2 | Duane Dodds & Sandy Gregory |
| 9 | Barb Paul & Gary Spawn |
| 16 | Celine Aulet & Cathy Krug |
| 23 | Dawn March & Linda Blanchard |

JESUS GOES TO JERUSALEM

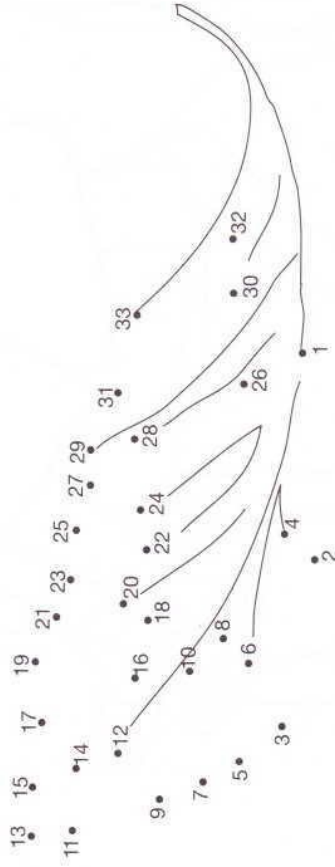
BASED ON JOHN 12:12-14

Scripture for Today
**BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!**

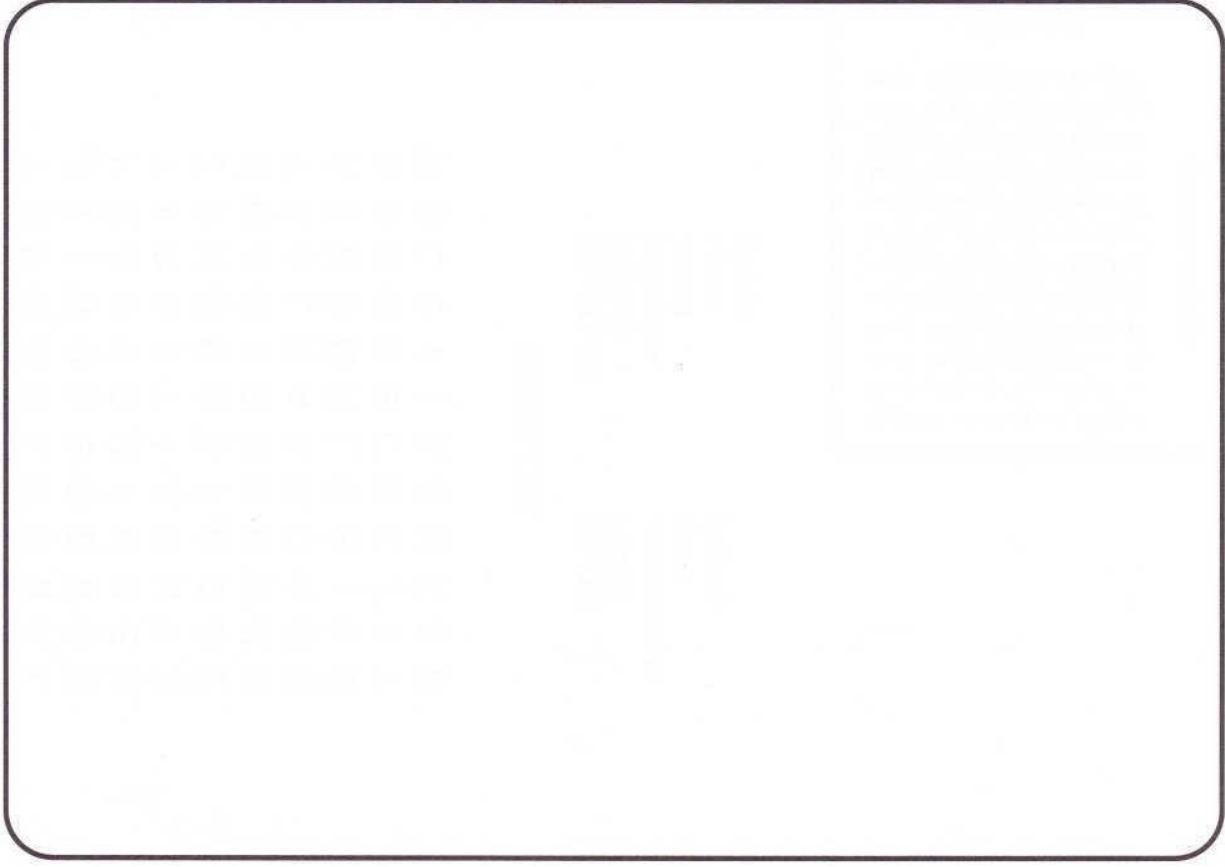
John 12:13c

LESSON—On the day that Jesus went to Jerusalem the people were very happy. They believed that he was the one sent from God to save them from their troubled lives. Jesus entered the village riding a young donkey. The people shouted words of praise and laid their coats and palm leaves on the ground before him to show him how happy they were he had come.

CONNECT THE DOTS



DRAW A PICTURE



WORD SEARCH

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

WORD LIST

- BRANCHES
- CROWD
- HOSANNA
- JESUS
- LORD
- SHOUT
- COATS
- FEAST
- JERUSALEM
- KING
- PALMS

ANSWERS

WORD SEARCH

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

COLOR THIS PICTURE



FEBRUARY

February 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						 † Brooks BBQ 3:00 until Sold Out
2 4th Sunday; after Epiphany; † 10:00 AM Worship & Communion Service † 10:15 AM Sunday School † 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary 	3	4	5 † 12:30 PM Book Study, Fireplace Room 	6	7	8 † "Hearts Helping Hunger" Food Donation Drive 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM 
† Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn						
9 5th Sunday; after Epiphany; † 10:00 AM Worship Service w/PANTRY † 10:15 AM Sunday School † 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary † 11:30 AM Youth Group Chili Sale 	10	11	12 † 12:30 PM Book Study, Fireplace Room 	13	14 	15 
† Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn						
† Deadline for Mar Rotterdam UMC Newsletter input!						
16 6th Sunday; after Epiphany; † 10:00 AM Worship Service † 10:15 AM Sunday School † 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary † 11:30 AM Administrative Council, Fellowship Hall 	17 Presidents Day	18 † 12:30 PM Lunch Bunch meet at Blake 925 Deli	19 † 12:30 PM Book Study, Lounge 	20	21	22
† Capital Kids Care Break Week Camp - 7:30 am - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall						
23 7th Sunday; after Epiphany; † 10:00 AM Worship Service w/PANTRY † 10:15 AM Sunday School † 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary † 11:30 AM Board of Trustees Meeting, Lounge 	24	25	26	27	28	
† Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn						

RUMC Food Pantry

Stephen Ministry is still filling our RUMC Food Pantry daily. We are always in need of canned and boxed non-perishable goods. Please consider picking up something for our Pantry next time you are out shopping. Donation bins are located under the food pantry, near the outside mailbox and in the lobby.



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

Important web sites and e-mail:

Rotterdam UMC web site:
RotterdamUMC.org

RUMC E-mails:
Office: Office@RotterdamUMC.org
Treasurers: Finance@RotterdamUMC.org
Prayer Request: Prayers@RotterdamUMC.org

Upper NY UMC Web Site:
www.unyumc.org
Albany District Web Site:
www.unyumc.org/district/albany
District Office E- mail:
carrieboyer@unyumc.org

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 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 contact Dawn March or email her at Office@RotterdamUMC.org. She is always looking for short, inspirational messages.

Food Pantry Collection

We collect for our Food Pantry on the **second** and **fourth** Sunday of every month. The shopping cart and the pantry donation boxes are always available for donations.

5th Sunday Mission Collection

Every month that includes a 5th Sunday, we collect for a local mission. If you have a local mission that is dear to your heart, please let Melissa know.

Look for us on Facebook at "Rotterdam United Methodist Church" and click on "Like" at the top of the page. If you cannot attend in person, please join us for our Live Streamed Worship Services.

Attendance at Worship

Please remember to put a check mark next to your name on the attendance sheet at the bottom of the stairs each Sunday before Worship. It is needed for statistical reports for conference and helps the Visitation Committee keep track of our friends who are not present and may need a visit.