

Rotterdam United Methodist Church

August 2025 Newsletter

Volume 348 - Number 8
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1915 Helderberg Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12306
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
Pastor: Rev. Caroline Simmons

From Pastor Caroline. . .

Praise in the Park: A Celebration of Laity and Community at a Spirit-Filled Gathering

Dear Friends,

As the days grow long and the sun warms our hearts and our parks, we are invited into a sacred rhythm of worship beyond the familiar walls of our sanctuaries. This summer, our United Methodist churches are uniting on August 10th at 11:00 AM for “Praise in the Park,” a laity-led worship service at the River Road Park Pavilion in Niskayuna, followed by a joyful picnic. As your pastor, I am filled with gratitude and awe at the ways God’s Spirit can move among us during this special gathering. I invite you to join our siblings in Christ and receive the blessings that we can experience at this event. Following the Worship service, we will hold a fellowship picnic. Activities will include access to a playground and crafts designed for children.

There is something profoundly moving about worshipping outdoors, surrounded by the beauty of creation. As we set up around the picnic tables in the pavilion, we will find ourselves in good company: songbirds echoing our hymns, trees lifting their branches in silent praise, and sunlight dappling the faces of friends and neighbors. Worship in the park reminds us that God’s presence is not confined to buildings or traditions, but pulses in every breath of wind and every ray of light.

On this Sunday on August 10th, our voices will rise in praise not just as individuals, but as a collective body representing multiple United Methodist congregations. This coming together reflects the very heart of our connectional tradition—a reminder that we are part of a family much larger than any single church.

One of the most powerful aspects of “Praise in the Park” will be its leadership by the laity—the gifted, dedicated members of our churches who answered the call to serve. Their willingness to step forward, plan, and lead our worship reflects the biblical truth that all believers are ministers in Christ’s body.

You are cordially invited to join me as the Rotterdam UMC community gathers with other area United Methodist churches to commemorate this occasion. Let us come together in fellowship and unity to celebrate our connectionalism and reinforce the bonds within our community.

Blessings and peace,
Rev. Caroline



Transitions

Matthew George, age 79, passed on to the Church Triumphant on June 3, 2025.

Condolences

We'd like to wish our sincerest condolences to:

~ The Aulet Family on the loss of Roberto's brother, William.



Fall Festival News : October 4th

Our Annual Fall Festival will be held on October 4, 2025.

The Vendor spots are almost full. Our ponies and bounce house are already booked. This event is for our entire community. All children's activities are free.



Our next two planning meetings will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, August 13th for all Fall Festival Chairpersons and Monday, September 15th for all workers.

We need people to sign up early, so we will be assured of enough help.

If you have any questions, please contact any of these chairpersons;

- Bake sale - Pam Dodds
- Posters, maps, welcome booklets - Melissa Klindtworth
- Kitchen and soup sales - Terri Anderson and Betty Curnow
- Vintage jewelry - Gail Andrews
- Vendor goody bags - Donna Quivey
- Cotton candy - Charito Drezek
- Blind auction - Donna Jahnel & Melissa Klindtworth
- Vendor Booths - Sarah Scott
- Parking - Mike Quivey
- Walking tacos - Donna and Mike Quivey
- Children's table - Debbie Stutzman
- Set up and clean up - Donna Jahnel

Brooks BBQ Dates for 2025

(All dates are Saturday)

- September 6
- October 11
- December 6



There will be multiple sign up sheets, online and at church during the months of August and September. Donation forms for the blind auction were emailed and are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

Fall Bible Study



The Fall Bible study will meet from September 10th to October 29th. We will meet each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the fireplace room. We will be doing the 4th season of "The Chosen."

Sunday School Update



Summer is flying by at an amazing rate. The new Sunday School year will be here before we know it. Please mark your calendar and join us at the Sunday School Opening Breakfast on September 7th, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

As always, we will need volunteers to help teach the classes. The curriculum doesn't require much planning ahead of time. So if you have a creative mind and can help us out, please let us know. We can be very flexible with your time. You can give as much or as little as you are able. Please contact Clark Cooper if you can help.

Children ages 4, 5 & 6 can sign up to help with the Food Pantry collection every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month and the mission collection on 5th Sunday. Children in 2nd grade and older can sign up to be an acolyte. Training is provided. Children/guardians can see Caryn March at the Welcome Back Breakfast. Guardians, please bring a list of dates that your child will NOT be available at church so we can make a calendar for the year. Please know that we know things come up and can make changes to the schedule but the more we know at the start, the better.

Lastly, we are teaming up with the Outreach Committee to provide backpacks filled with school supplies for families in need. We are asking each Sunday School family and anyone else, who is able, to provide one new regular-sized backpack for a school-aged child. (See article below.)



Project Backpack

The Outreach Committee and the Education Committee are teaming up with the Schenectady Community Action Program to help provide backpacks and school supplies for families in need. We are in need of new backpacks for all ages, and we are asking everyone in the congregation, who is able, to help us by donating one or more of the items from the list below. (Be sure to check the sales flyers around back-to-school time.) There will be a box in the Narthex (labeled "Backpack Project") in which you can place your donations. Or, you can place a monetary donation in a pew envelope labeled "Project Backpack", and Melissa will shop for the items listed below. We are hoping to collect enough supplies to donate at least 10 backpacks. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Klindtworth or Clark Cooper. Thank you.

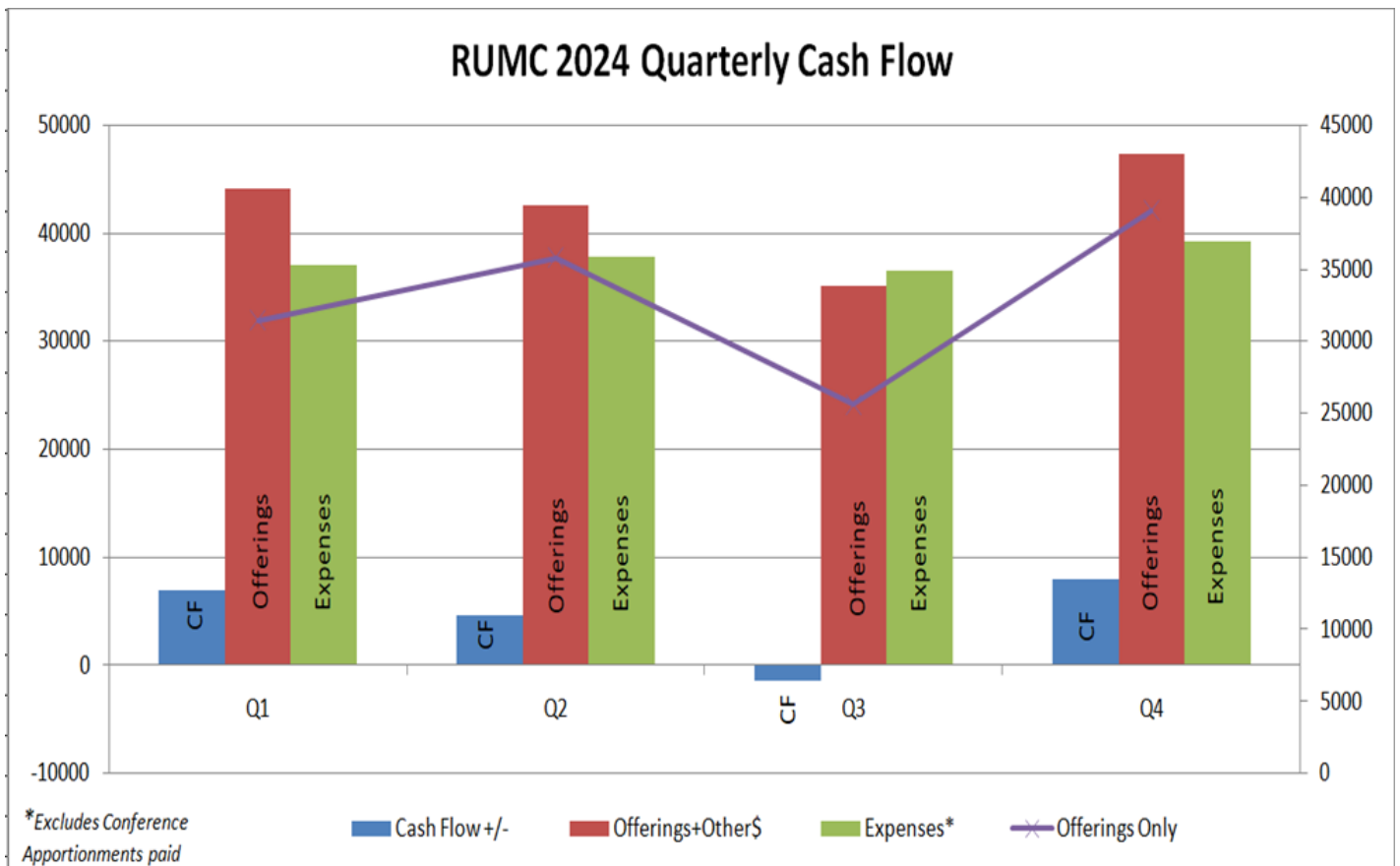
- Backpack
- #2 Pencils
- Pink Erasers
- Pens
- 2-pocket Folders
- Wide Ruled Loose-leaf Paper
- Composition Notebooks
- 1-subject notebooks
- Fine Tip Markers
- Fat Tip Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons



RUMC Finance Corner

This month, we're sharing a snapshot of 2024 cash flow. The chart illustrates RUMC's Income, Expenses and Net Cash Flow for each Quarter of 2024.

As illustrated, Income from Pledges and Fundraisers drop off in Q3, summer months. Without Brooks or Wonderland income during these months, cash flow can be low, making our pledges all the more needed to cover expenses.



Green Bottle Redemption Fundraiser

Rotterdam UMC has registered at the Green Bottle redemption Center on Altamont Avenue in Rotterdam. Anyone can drop off depositable bottles at the center and say they are for Rotterdam United Methodist Church and we will receive the money for the bottle returns. Have bottles cluttering up your garage? Drop them off and give the church the credit.



Books needed for the RUMC Book Sale

Don't forget that we are always in need of books for our next book sale. All books should be in good condition.



If your books are in good condition, especially novels, we would love to have them for our Book Sale. Please drop them on the bench by the front door one Sunday or anytime the church is open. Someone will move them downstairs to the art room.



Special Thanks:

- to the Krug Family for running the July Brooks BBQ and to everyone who worked it or bought dinners. We sent 20 dinners & halves down to City Mission
- to Gary Spawn for dropping off the Brooks BBQ leftovers to City Mission.
- to everyone who continues to drop off food for the RUMC Food Pantry. It is greatly appreciated.
- 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.



Capital Kids Care Summer Program

Starting June 30 and running through August 31, Capital Kids Care is running their Summer Program. During the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, Capital Kids Care will be in the Fellowship Hall, as well as an outside area by the garage.

The Fellowship Hall will be off limits during the day until 6:30 p.m. at night and children of all ages will be in the building Monday thru Friday during those hours, so please plan accordingly if you need to be in the building and please be careful in the parking lot.

Electronic Giving

Rotterdam UMC accepts credit cards for donations via our website at RotterdamUMC.org (under the Contact Us section). Powered by PayPal, we accept electronic donations for weekly giving and memorials. Donations can even be set up 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 Melissa Klindtworth at mklindtworth@yahoo.com.



August Security

Date

3	Donna Quivey
10	Mike Quivey
17	Gail Andrews
24	Fred Anderson
31	Jim Gabree

August Cashiers

Date

3	Duane Dodds & Sandy Gregory
10	Barb Paul & Gary Spawn
17	Celine Aulet & Cathy Krug
24	Dawn March & Linda Blanchard
31	Dawn March & Linda Blanchard

August Ushers

Date

3	Duane Dodds
10	Fred Anderson
17	Debbie Stutzman
24	Gail Andrews
31	Mike Quivey



*Happy Birthday
to the following people in August*

- 3 Jean Schoonbeck
- 4 Gregory Cooper
- 6 Jerry Gregory, Jr.
- 8 Dakota Cartier
Piper Cartier
- 10 Lainey Aulet
- 11 Amber Leonard
Samantha Dodds
- 13 Kevin Reilly
- 14 Alex Meringolo
Frank Molen
David Mullen
Rachel Nadareski
- 15 Carol Cummings
Christine Phillips
- 16 Janet Palmer
Tim Reilly
- 20 Frances Brown
- 21 Konnor Angie
- 22 Tanya Dean
- 25 Jennifer Langlais
- 28 Isley VanSiver
- 29 Jason Klindtworth
- 30 Teresa Zarelli
- 31 Janet Thompson
Thomas Kozlowski



happy anniversary

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

- 2 Virginia and Patrick McCarthy
- 4 Terri and Fred Anderson
- 17 Donna and Bill Jahnel
- 18 Celine and Roberto Aulet
Melissa and Jason Klindtworth
- 19 Sandy and Jerry Gregory
- 20 Donna and Mike Quivey
- 24 Jerry Wanapun and Steven Dodds



Lectionary Readings

- August 3 – *8th Sunday after Pentecost*
Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
- August 10 – *9th Sunday after Pentecost*
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
- August 17 – *10th Sunday after Pentecost*
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
- August 24 – *11th Sunday after Pentecost*
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
- August 31 – *12th Sunday after Pentecost*
Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16;
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Looking Ahead

- September 7 – *13th Sunday after Pentecost*
Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
Philemon 1:17-27; Luke 14:25-33



TWO FOLLOW JESUS

BASED ON MATTHEW 4:18-22

Scripture for Today
COME, FOLLOW ME.

Matthew 4:19

LESSON—One day when Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers named Peter and Andrew. He watched as the men threw their fishing nets into the water and dragged in the fish in their nets. He walked up to the two men and said, “Come, follow me. I will make you fishers of men.” Going on from there, he saw two more brothers, James and John, also fishing. Jesus invited them to go with him and they did. The men understood that Jesus was asking them to join him and be an important part of his earthly ministry. The men followed Jesus and became disciples of Christ.

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

LGAILEE
REPET
IFSHMEREN
ROBTERHS
TOBA

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The crossword puzzle grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The grid is 13 squares wide and 13 squares high. The clues are as follows:

ACROSS CLUES

1. THROWING NETS INTO THE WATER
5. TO GO BEHIND ANOTHER
7. SEA OF _____
9. PETER AND ANDREW'S JOB
10. BROTHER OF ANDREW
12. WET STUFF TO DRINK
13. PETER'S BROTHER

DOWN CLUES

2. ANOTHER NAME FOR PETER
3. YOU RIDE IN IT ON THE WATER
4. USED TO CATCH FISH
6. A BODY OF WATER
8. FATHER OF JAMES AND JOHN
11. STROLLING ALONG

WORD SEARCH

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

WORD LIST

ANDREW BOAT
FISHERMAN FOLLOW
NETS PETER

ANSWERS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

WORD SCRAMBLE

GALILEE
PETER
FISHERMEN
BROTHERS
BOAT

WORD SEARCH

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

COLOR THIS PICTURE



August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 31 12th Sunday; after Pentecost ✦ 10:00 AM Worship Service w/ MISSION ➤ Capital Kids Care Summer Camp - 7:30 am - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn					1	2
3 5th Sunday; after Pentecost ✦ 10:00 AM Worship & Communion Service ➤ Capital Kids Care Summer Camp - 7:30 am - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9th Sunday; after Pentecost ✦ 10:00 AM Worship Service w/PANTRY  ➤ Wonderland K-Readiness Program - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - In their Area ➤ Capital Kids Care Summer Camp - 7:30 am - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn ✦ 6:30 PM Fall Festival Fall Festival Mtg., Fellowship Hall	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10th Sunday; after Pentecost ✦ 10:00 AM Worship Service ✦ 11:30 AM Administrative Council, Fellowship Hall  ➤ Capital Kids Care Summer Camp - 7:30 am - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn ✦ Deadline for Sep Rotterdam UMC Newsletter input!	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 11th Sunday; after Pentecost ✦ 10:00 AM Worship Service w/PANTRY ➤ Capital Kids Care Summer Camp - 7:30 am - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	25 ➤ 5:00 - 8:00 PM Wonderland Cleaning & Board Meeting, In their area	26 ➤ 5:00-7:00 PM Wonderland Popsicle Party, Playground	27	28	29	30
						

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.

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.

A Stephen Ministry Moment

"You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have truly lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love."

Henry Drummond

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

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.