



Rotterdam United Methodist Church

September 2025 Newsletter

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September 2025



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

From Pastor Caroline. . .

Autumn Reflections: Embracing the Season of Change

Dear Friends,

It is difficult to realize that our summer has come to an end as September marks the beginning of a new season. During this time, students return to school, vacations conclude, and new schedules or routines begin.

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures begin to drop, we find ourselves entering the gentle embrace of autumn. The changing leaves, adorned in fiery reds, warm golds, and deep oranges, flutter to the ground—a gentle testimony to the beauty of transition. It is in this season of transformation that we are reminded, both by the rhythms of nature and the teachings of Scripture, that change is not only inevitable but sacred.

When we pause and observe the world around us, we cannot help but marvel at the lessons embedded in creation itself. Fall is a time when the earth prepares for rest. The trees, once bursting with green vitality, now let go of their leaves, surrendering to a process that is necessary for their continued growth. The fields, having yielded their harvest, offer up their abundance and settle into quietude.

How often, in our own lives, do we resist change? How often do we cling to what is familiar, fearing what may come next? And yet, autumn invites us to trust in the cycles established by our Creator. Just as the earth does not resist its own transformation, so too are we called to embrace the seasons of our hearts—times of blossoming, times of flourishing, times of letting go, and times of rest.

Autumn is traditionally a season of harvest—a time to gather the fruits of our labors with gratitude. The Bible is filled with images of harvest, reminding us that what we sow, we will also reap (Galatians 6:7-9). In these months, as we see fields and gardens gathered in, we are invited to reflect on what we have been cultivating in our lives.

Have we sown seeds of kindness, compassion, and faith? Have we nurtured relationships, tended our own spiritual lives, and cared for those in need? Now is a sacred time to pause, give thanks, and rejoice in the spiritual harvests—those moments of growth, reconciliation, and blessing that God has brought forth in our congregation and our community.

Let us also remember that the harvest is not ours alone. God calls us to share our abundance, to provide for those who hunger and thirst, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually. As part of our commitment to addressing physical hunger, we will be hosting another Drive-thru Food Drive on Saturday, September 13 from 10am–2pm—our Harvest for Hunger Food Drive. We kindly request your support in helping us restock the Food Pantry, ensuring this ministry can continue to serve those in need.

As we journey through this autumn together, may we open our hearts to the lessons of the season. May we give thanks for the harvest, let go with trust, rest in stillness, gather in community, and look ahead with hope. For the God who paints the trees with glory and ushers in each new season is the same God who walks with us—day by day, step by step—into the future.

May the peace of Christ be with you this autumn, and may you find blessings abundant in every falling leaf and every golden sunset.

Blessings and peace,
Rev. Caroline

Special Thanks:

- to Duane Dodds for painting the kitchenette downstairs.
- to Gary Spawn for delivering hymnals to our shut in family members.
- to Claudia Rolfe for a bookcase donation.
- 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.

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 ."

Children's Sunday School



Sunday School Welcome Back Breakfast and Fall Kickoff Meeting

The Sunday School is hosting it's annual "Welcome Back " breakfast on Sunday, September 7th at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. During the breakfast, there will be a Sunday School information meeting. Parents can turn in their registration forms and get an update of what the Sunday School year will look like.

A Sunday School registration form will be emailed out or can be found in the back of the church.

God Bless! We look forward to seeing all of you in September!
Clark Cooper

Fall Festival News : October 4th

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



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

You will be seeing many sign up sheets during the month of September. In order to make the festival a successful event, we need everyone to participate. Please consider signing up for food items and being a helper. The blind auction is one of the most popular booths at the festival. If each church member could donate an item, it would be helpful. If you have something that is in the original box, folks will bid on it. Please consider donating to the auction. The most popular items are store gift cards. (grocery stores, bakeries, delis, hair salons, barber shops, etc.)

The fishbowl reappears!! During the month of September you will see a donation bowl labeled "kids activities." Our church has become well known for our Children's area at the festival. Kids can do fun activities without any cost to their parents. The pony rides and petting zoo are extremely popular. However, the cost to secure these activities is very expensive. If each person could throw some extra change in the fishbowl, it will help cover these expenditures.

The festival is the perfect opportunity for all of us to work together as a team. In addition, it is a well known community outreach.

Our next planning meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 9th 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
- Pretzels - 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



There will be multiple sign up sheets, online and at church during the month of September.

This is an "All Hands on Deck" event and requires help from everyone.

Please sign up to work the day of the event and to donate food and auction items.

Ushers Needed

Want to get more involved with church? Volunteer to be an usher on Sundays. If you are interested in becoming an usher on Sundays, or just have some questions about it, please see Fred Anderson or Pastor Caroline.



Green Bottle Redemption Fundraiser

The Green Bottle redemption center is moving to 651 Consalus Ave. It is no longer right around the corner. Stay tuned for more information



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 on Sunday or anytime the church is open.

Meet the Committees Coffee Hour Sep 14 - New Committee Members Needed

The Nominations Committee will be meeting in the next month or so to find 3 new members for every church committee. If you are interested in serving on a particular committee, please let Pastor or the office know.

Come and meet all of the committees at coffee hour on September 14th. Each committee will have a table set up so you can learn more about the committee before our Nominations committee contacts you to serve.

The committees are as follows and can also be found in the recent directory, including a list of who is on each committee.

Nurture and Welcoming, Worship, Youth and Family Ministries, Outreach and Social Justice, Visitation, Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations, Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations), Finance, Memorials and Legacies, and Members at Large for the Administrative Council.

Thank you to everyone who continues to serve on the various committees and show their support for the daily operations and ministries of the church. Without you, nothing would be possible.



Capital Kids Care After School Program

Capital Kids Care will again host their after school program at RUMC in the Fellowship Hall starting September 3, 2025. During the hours of 2:00 p.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. During school break weeks and some other school holidays, Capital Kids will run an all day program from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the Hall will be off limits during the day.

All Capital Kids Care hall uses will be listed on the church calendar, so please plan accordingly if you need to be in the building and please be careful in the parking lot.

All church meetings will need to be scheduled for 6:30 p.m. or later if held in the Fellowship Hall or they can be held in the lounge downstairs at any time during the day.

We will not be renting the Fellowship Hall to any outside parties. If a church member wishes to use the Hall or Lounge downstairs, please see Melissa.

Brooks BBQ Dates for 2025 (All dates are Saturday)

- September 6
- October 11
- December 6



Save the Date:

Blessing of the Animals

October 5 at 4:00 pm

(Outside Only - Weather Permitting)



September Security

Date

7 Mike Krug
14 Donna Quivey
21 Mike Quivey
28 Fred Anderson

September Cashiers

Date

7 Duane Dodds & Sandy Gregory
14 Barb Paul & Gary Spawn
21 Celine Aulet & Cathy Krug
28 Dawn March & Linda Blanchard

September Ushers

Date

7 Duane Dodds
14 Gail Andrews
21 Fred Anderson
28 Fred Anderson



Happy Birthday
to the following people in September

- 5 Joan Kapelle
- 6 Kimberly Mazzone
- 8 Gabrielle Klindtworth
- 9 Bridget Engel
- 11 Drew Walling
- 12 Janice Brownell
Holly Relyea
Kayla March
- 13 Ronon Zyniecki
- 15 Hudson VanSkiver
Faye Zemgulis
- 16 Jaxon Engel
- 17 Ryan Mance
Tucker Wilsey
- 19 Nicholas Marano
Nathan Sprenger
- 20 Emma Klindtworth
Thomas Meringolo
- 21 Carol Leiby
- 22 Gerald Orsini
- 23 Sandy Gregory
Carol Keefe
Sue Soulia
- 30 Rose Butler
Charito Haines Drezek
Douglas Soulia
Barbara White



happy anniversary

Happy Anniversary
to the following couples
in the month of September

- 2 Laurel and Richard Straight
- 12 Ellen and Wade Abbott
- 17 Sue and Douglas Soulia
- 26 Faye and Steve Zemgulis
- 27 Pam and Duane Dodds



Lectionary Readings

September 7 – *13th Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
Philemon 1:17-27; Luke 14:25-33

September 14 – *14th Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14;
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 21 – *15th Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 8:8-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4;
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

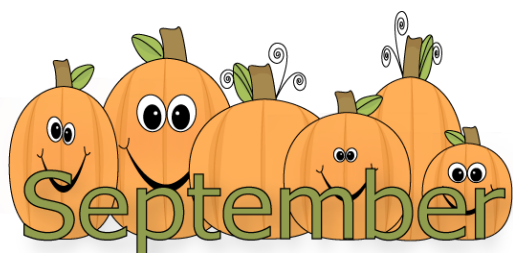
September 28 – *16th Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15;
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19;
Luke 16:19-31

Looking Ahead

October 3 – *17th Sunday after Pentecost*

Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137;
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10



A
**Stephen Ministry
Moment**

**"Whatever affects
one directly, affects
all indirectly."**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

A NET FULL OF FISH

BASED ON LUKE 5:4-8

Scripture for Today

PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER, AND
LET DOWN THE NETS FOR A CATCH.

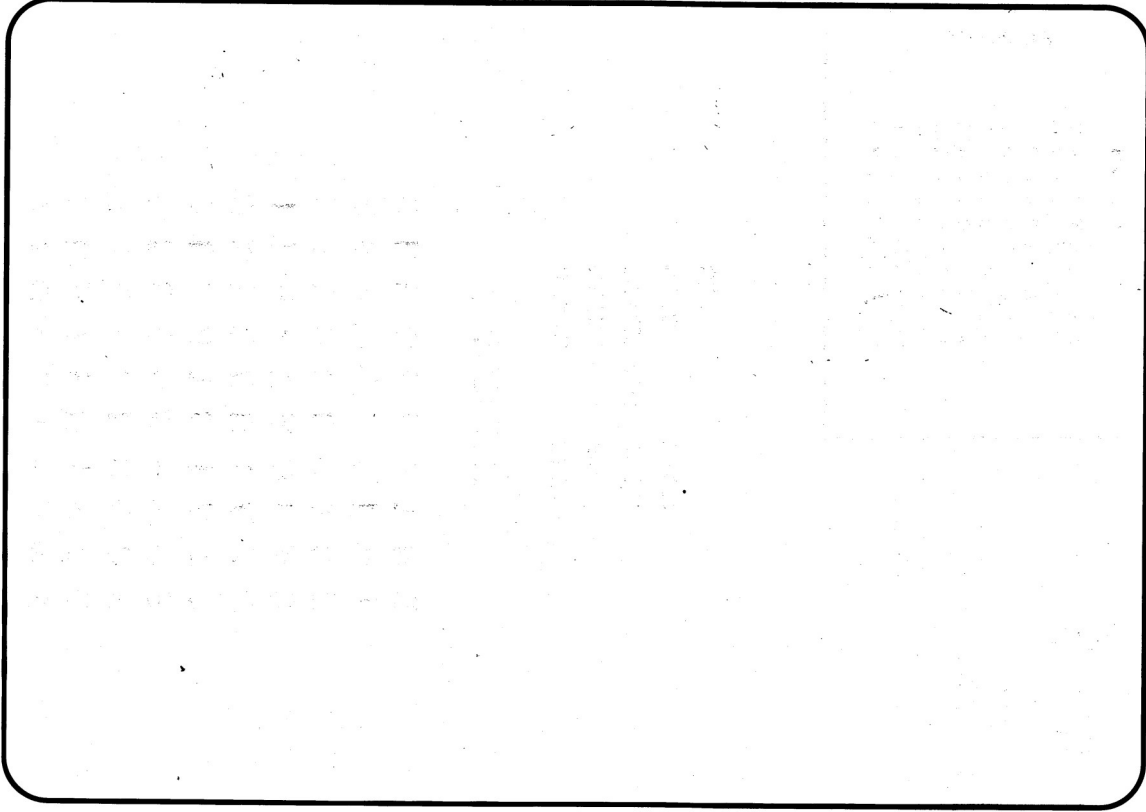
Luke 5:4

LESSON—Simon had been fishing all night long. He had no fish in his nets and was discouraged. Jesus told Simon to go back out onto the lake and let the nets back down and he would catch fish. Simon believed Jesus and obeyed his command. When he pulled up the nets they began to break because there were so many fish.

CONNECT THE DOTS



DRAW A PICTURE OF SIMON CATCHING FISH



WORD SEARCH

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

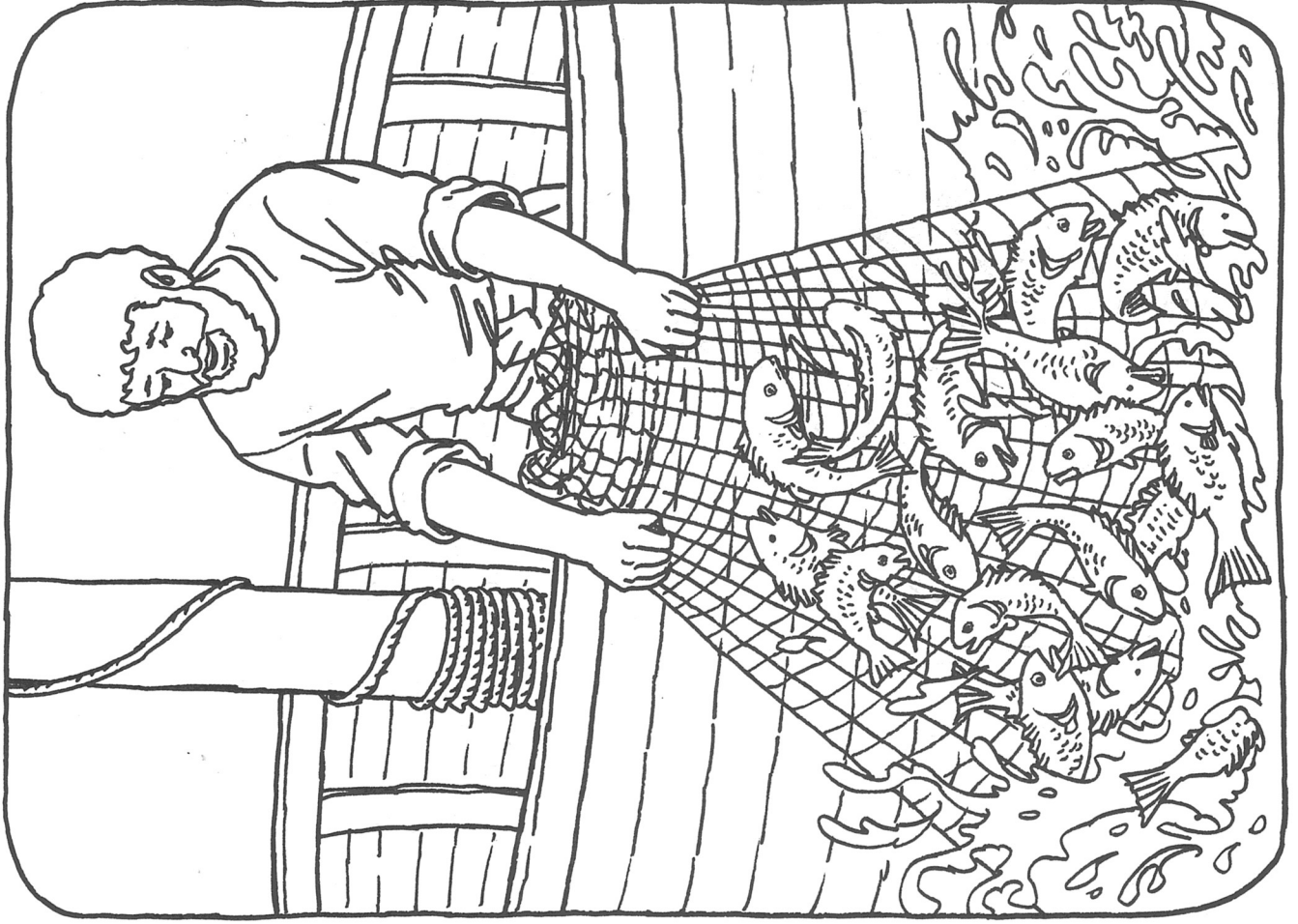
WORD LIST

BOATS BREAK
CATCH FISH
FISHERMEN JESUS
NETS SIMON
SINK

WORD SEARCH

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

COLOR THIS PICTURE



September 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
		> 5:30 - 6:30 PM Wonderland Classroom Tours 6:30 - 7:30 PM Wonderland Parent Meeting, Fellowship	> Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn			 + Brooks BBQ 3:00 until Sold Out
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13th Sunday; after Pentecost + 9:30 AM Sunday School Meeting & Welcome Back Breakfast + 10:00 AM Worship Service w/ Pantry + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary	> Wonderland First day of school		> 9:00 - 3:00 PM Wonderland Coffee Hour, Lounge  + 12:30 PM Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	> 9:00 - 3:00 PM Wonderland Coffee Hour, Lounge		+ "Fall Harvest for Hunger" Food Donation & Bottle Drive 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM 
	> Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn					
		 + 7:00 PM Fall Festival Mtg., Fellowship Hall				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
14th Sunday; after Pentecost + 10:00 AM Worship Service + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:00 AM Coffee Hour and Meet the RUMC Committees + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary		+ 12:30 PM Lunch Bunch meet at Blake 925 Deli	 + 12:30 PM Bible Study, Fellowship Hall		+ Deadline for Oct Rotterdam UMC Newsletter input!	
	> Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
15th Sunday; after Pentecost + 10:00 AM Worship Service w/ Pantry + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary + 11:30 AM Administrative Council, F. Hall 			 + 12:30 PM Bible Study, Fellowship Hall			
	> Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn					
28	29	30				
16th Sunday; after Pentecost + 10:00 AM Worship Service w/ MISSION + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary						
	> 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.

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.

Poster found in a Church in France.... (translated):

“When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear “the call of God.”

However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.”

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:

**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.