

Rotterdam United Methodist Church

November 2025 Newsletter

Volume 351 - Number 11
November 2025

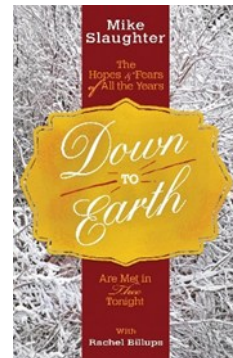


1915 Helderberg Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12306
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
Pastor: Rev. Caroline Simmons

From Pastor Caroline. . .

Dear Friends,

As November unfolds, I am especially mindful of the importance of gratitude. In November, the transition to cooler weather and falling leaves coincides with a time set aside to acknowledge those who came before us and to reflect on the blessings that have contributed to our lives. "All Saints Sunday," observed on the first Sunday in November, is dedicated to this remembrance of them during our worship service.



This month gives us a special opportunity to pause and recognize the countless ways God has blessed our lives, both in moments of joy and in seasons of challenge. Giving thanks allows us to see with fresh eyes the goodness present in our families, our friendships, and our community. It is through gratitude that our hearts are opened to deeper faith and a greater sense of peace. This period is typically marked by harvest celebrations and gatherings with family and friends for a Thanksgiving meal. Recognizing that not everyone can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal, I am deeply appreciative of our church congregation for organizing a complimentary turkey dinner with all the traditional trimmings prior to the holiday for our community.

Because of Thanksgiving's later date, the weekend also ends with the first Sunday of Advent. As we prepare for the beginning of Advent, I am reminded of how this season invites us to reflect, to give thanks, and to anticipate the coming of Christ with renewed hope. As Advent approaches, let us open our hearts to God's promise and make space for quiet expectation in our daily lives.

May this be a time where we not only look forward to the joy of Christmas, but also embrace opportunities for prayer, service, and generosity as we journey together. Let us encourage one another to seek Christ's presence in the everyday moments and share His light with those around us.

This year, we will enjoy an Advent study coauthored by Pastors Mike Slaughter and Rachel Billups, entitled "Down to Earth." Here we will explore God who "walks, talks, lives and loves. We will explore what Jesus' love and transforming power can mean in our lives and the lives of others, as we act on Jesus' directives to love our neighbors as ourselves, welcome the stranger, reach the lost, and set the oppressed free. We will explore together what it means to comprehend and embrace the down-to-earth God we serve." Come join us!

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving!
Rev. Caroline



Special Thanks:

- to the Krugs for running the September Brooks BBQ and to everyone who helped.
- to Donna Jahnel and everyone who helped make the Fall Festival such a wonderful day.
- to Emma Mullen everyone who helped with the Blessing of the Animals.
- to everyone who signed up for the Trunk-or-Treat and the Meet & Treat.
- to all of the folks who continue to reach out to others in our church family and keep in touch.
- 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.

Celebrating our Saints on November 2nd



On Sunday, November 2, we will celebrate "All Saints Day." All Saints Day is a time to gather and pay tribute to "all the saints who from their labors rest." During our 10:00 a.m. worship service on that day, Rotterdam United Methodist Church will remember those from our church family who have gone to be with our Lord this past year.

We invite you and your family to share in this special service of remembrance by lighting a commemorative candle for your saint. Following the service, you are welcome to take the candle with you. We hope the service will be helpful to you and we look forward to seeing you.



RUMC Church Conference Saturday, November 8 Noon at Eastern Parkway UMC

The annual RUMC church conference will be held Saturday, November 8 at Eastern Parkway UMC at noon to vote in the new trustee members and ratify the other committee members.

**RUMC is no longer
collecting Pill
Bottles. Please just
recycle them**



November 2

FALL BACK

**End of Daylight
Saving Time**

Turn clocks
back one hour
at 2 a.m.



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

Free Community Dinner Saturday, November 22nd



6:00 to 7:30 PM

RSVP Required



Church-wide/Community Thanksgiving Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

Come and join your church family and some new friends for a wonderful Turkey Dinner with great company and excellent conversation! RSVP required to 518-355-3401.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we will be collecting non-perishable boxed or canned food items or non-perishable hygiene items such as tooth brushes, toilet paper, women's products, etc. Love offerings will also be accepted.

Church Family, please sign up to help that evening and/or donate specific food items. Sign up in the Narthex.

To Our Church family:



Thank you to the planning team and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly for weeks to prepare for this event. Everyone served important roles in making the Fall Festival a huge success.

We are also thankful to the many businesses that provided gift cards and food items. Letters of appreciation will be mailed in the next few days.

Important goals continue to be accomplished through the festival and other ministries, by showing the community that we are a friendly, family-oriented church where all are welcome.

Sincerely and gratefully,
Donna, Melissa, and Sarah



****Looking Forward ~ SAVE THE DATE.** RUMC's 2026 festival will be on **Saturday, October 3, 2026.**

Stewardship

It's stewardship time once again. During this period, you will have the opportunity to make your personal commitment for 2026 Church-giving by completing the estimate of giving form included in this newsletter and depositing it in the commitment box located in the back of the sanctuary, or by mailing it in to RUMC.

It is important that we receive an estimate of giving from you to help us plan our budget for the coming year. Last year, many of you returned an estimate of giving as your witness of giving to God and as a way to plan your giving for our ministry. This year, we encourage everyone to prayerfully consider your commitment to our church family and our financial needs.

We recognize and understand that for many of you this is a deeply private and sensitive subject, and we feel strongly about honoring this part of your worship. For this reason, it is *only* RUMC's Financial Secretary, Melissa Klindtworth, who will have access to your 2026 pledged offerings. To that end, if you are unable to personally return your estimate of giving before December 21, we encourage you to mail it directly to Melissa at the following address:



Attn: Melissa Klindtworth
Rotterdam United Methodist Church
1915 Helderberg Ave.
Schenectady, New York 12306

~With Gratitude,
The Finance Committee.

Stewardship

Generosity is a matter of action, intentions, and heart. One way to describe it is the grateful outpouring of gifts to others, out of our love for God.

Estimate of Giving/Commitment 2026

It is important that we receive an estimate of giving from you to help us plan our budget for the coming year.

We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical part of how we can make a difference in our church, community, and beyond.

Please complete this estimate of giving by December 21 and return it to the commitment box in the back of the Sanctuary , mail it to the church office before the end of the year, or email your pledge amount to Melissa Klindtworth at mklindtworth@yahoo.com. You may change your commitment at any time by notifying the financial secretary, Melissa Klindtworth. If you have questions regarding this form, please call Melissa at 518-280-2935.

Name (Please Print):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

____ Yes! I/We will support Rotterdam United Methodist Church financially in 2026.

Please Choose One & fill in the amount:

\$_____ a week for 52 weeks

\$_____ twice a month for 24 periods

\$_____ every month for 12 months

\$_____ as follows _____

Angel Tree

Each year we are given the opportunity to help those in need have a Merry Christmas. Again this year, we are holding our Angel Tree. We have been given the names of families who, without us, would probably have no Christmas presents at all. This year, starting mid November, the angel tree will be both online and on paper angels in the back of church. (1/2 of the angels online and 1/2 in paper) An email will be sent out to everyone with a link to a signup form with descriptions of the individual online angels. Paper angels will be on the board in the narthex. Please sign your name up next to the angel(s) online that you would like to provide for, or grab a paper angel off the board at church, and fill in the attached "taken by" info card and put it in the box. Or, you can call Melissa at 518-280-2935 and she will get you signed up for an online angel.

As always, the angels have a name and a wish for a present. The requests on the angels are suggestions only. You may use your own judgment except for the food requests. Please take one or more angels and help provide these people with a Merry Christmas.

If you like to order online, you can have the angel gift shipped directly to Dawn March at 185 Butler Street, Schenectady, NY 12303. (Please include the angel number and name somewhere on the shipped package (packing slip) or send Caryn an email with the description and angel name) and Caryn will wrap it, label it and deliver it to church. **Do NOT ship gifts to RUMC.**

All Angel gifts are due back by December 14.

You can drop your angel gift in the back of church during service on Sunday, or Monday thru Friday when Wonderland is downstairs. (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) When you return your gift, please wrap it and attach a gift tag that says only "Merry Christmas + (Name of Angel) i.e. Merry Christmas Laura. The Food Gift Cards should only be dropped off to Melissa on Sundays during service or to the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Thank you for your continuing help.

~Caryn March



Capital Kids Care After School Program

Just a reminder that Capital Kids Care are still hosting their after school program at RUMC in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

Christmas Fest

Christmas Fest is Sunday, November 23th after the 10:00 service. Please come join us to decorate the Church for the upcoming Holidays. A soup and bread lunch will follow the hanging of all the greens.

Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary to bring something.



Save the Date: Lunch Bunch/Bible Study/
Women in Faith Annual Christmas Dinner at
Glenville Queen Diner is Thursday, December 11th
at 5:30 p.m. Order off the menu. Separate
checks. If you are interested in attending; contact
Betty Curnow or Donna Jahnel by December 1 or
sign up in the narthex. All are welcome to attend.



Happy Birthday
to the following people in November

- 1 Sandra Hutchins
- 2 Brian Dean, Jr.
- 5 Ian Dodds
- 7 Fred Adamec
- 9 Anna Brown
- 11 Kari Ross
- 12 Brent Coon
- 15 Bill Jahnel
- 18 Debbie Stutzman
- 20 Isabella Kozlowski
- 21 Troy Berschwinger
- 22 Felicia Lashway
Robert Wade
- 24 Larissa Dean
Sharon Korunkiewich
- 25 Kathleen Sprenger
- 26 Sarah Scott
- 27 Craig Meringolo
- 28 Scarlett Chaires
- 29 Eileen Gaudio
- 30 Launa Garrett



happy anniversary

Happy Anniversary
to the following couples
in the month of November

- 8 Lynn and Josh Vincent
- 9 Holly and James Relyea
- 12 Sue and Clark Cooper



Lectionary Readings

November 2 – *All Saints Sunday*

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144;
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

All Saints Lections: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18;
Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

November 9 – *22th Sunday after Pentecost*

Habakkuk 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21;
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 16 – *23rd Sunday after Pentecost*

Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12;
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 23 – *24th Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79;
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

November 30 – *1st Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122;
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Looking Ahead

December 7 – *2nd Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

November Security

Date

- 2 Mike Quivey
- 9 Fred Anderson
- 16 Gail Andrews
- 23 Jim Gabree
- 30 Mike Krug

November Cashiers

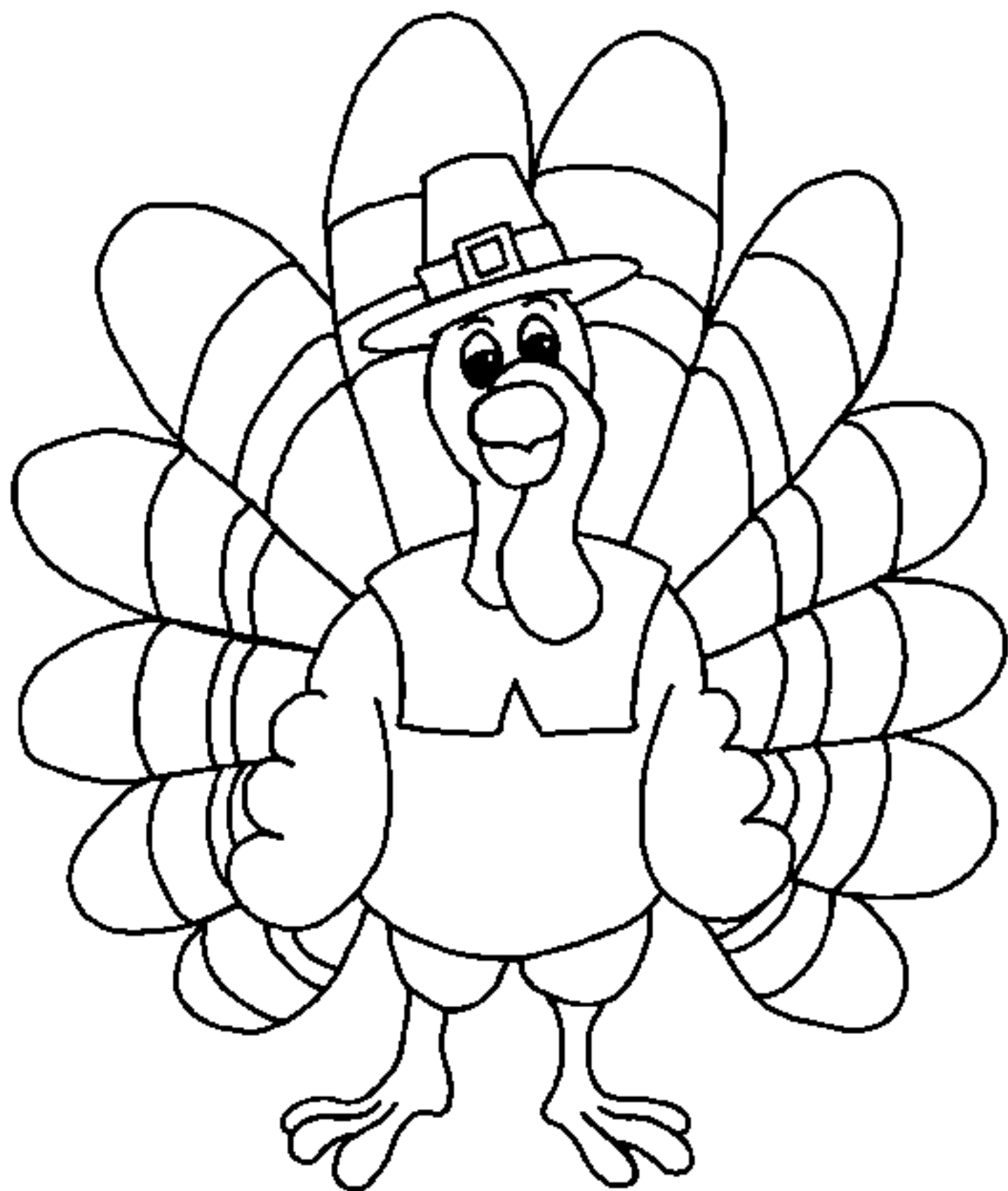
Date

- 2 Duane Dodds & Sandy Gregory
- 9 Barb Paul & Gary Spawn
- 16 Celine Aulet & Cathy Krug
- 23 Dawn March & Linda Blanchard
- 30 Dawn March & Linda Blanchard

November Ushers

Date

- 2 Duane Dodds
- 9 Mike Quivey
- 16 Gail Andrews
- 23 Fred Anderson
- 30 Debbie Stutzman





Thanksgiving Word Search

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

1. Carve
2. Celebrate
3. Colonist
4. Cornucopia
5. Cranberry
6. Dessert
7. Farmer
8. Feast
9. Gather
10. Harvest

11. Holiday
12. November
13. Pilgrim
14. Platter
15. Pumpkin
16. Thanksgiving
17. Tradition
18. Turkey
19. Vegetable
20. Worship



NOVEMBER



November 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30 1st Sunday of Advent + 10:00 AM Worship Service w/ Mission + 10:15 AM Sunday School Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn						1
2 All Saints Sunday + 10:00 AM Worship & Communion Service + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary + 11:30 AM Coffee Hour Daylight Savings Ends	3 Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm	4 CapKids Full Day - 7:30 am - 6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn + 7:00 PM Reserved for Church Meeting, Fellowship Hall	5 + 12:30 PM Bible Study, Fellowship Hall Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	6	7	8 + Noon at Eastern parkway UMC - RUMC Charge Conference
9 22nd Sunday after Pentecost + 10:00 AM Worship Service w/ Pantry + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary	10 Veteran's Day CapKids Full Day - 7:30 am - 6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	11 + 9:00 - 3:00 PM Wonderland School CLOSED Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	12	13	14 + Deadline for Dec Rotterdam UMC Newsletter Input!	15
16 23rd Sunday after Pentecost + 10:00 AM Worship Service + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary + 11:30 PM Administrative Council, F. Hall	17 + 6:00 - 9:00 PM Wonderland Board Meeting, Classroom Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	18 + 12:30 PM Lunch Bunch meet at Blake 925 Deli	19 + 6:30 PM Advent Study, Fellowship Hall	20	21	22  + Turkey Dinner 6:00 to 7:30 PM
23 24th Sunday after Pentecost + 10:00 AM Worship Service w/ PANTRY + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary + 11:45 Hang Greens & Soup Fest + 175th Celebration + 11:30 AM Board of Trustees Meeting	24 Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	25	26 CapKids Full Day - 7:30 am - 6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	27 Thanksgiving 	28  Capital Kids Care CLOSED	29

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 outside 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.

Brooks BBQ Dates for 2026

(All dates are Saturday)

- December 6, 2025
- January 10
- January 31
- March 21
- May 30
- July 11
- September 5
- October 10
- December 5



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.