

Rotterdam United Methodist Church

October 2025 Newsletter

Volume 350 - Number 10
October 2025



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

From Pastor Caroline. . .

Dear Friends,

Ecclesiastes reminds us that life is a series of seasons, each with its purpose and its own way of drawing us closer to God. October, in particular, teaches us to trust in the divine rhythm, knowing that change is both natural and necessary. It is a month steeped in transition. The lush green of summer slowly gives way to the warm tapestry of autumn—gold, amber, russet, and brown. The air is tinged with the scent of fallen leaves and woodsmoke, and daylight gently wanes, encouraging us to gather close and reflect, both in spirit and in community.

With the cooler temperatures and earlier evenings, we find ourselves seeking warmth and fellowship. Let us cherish these times together, and embrace it as a wonderful time to reach out to neighbors, rekindle friendships, and nurture new relationships. Our church is a place of gathering—of sharing stories, offering support, and celebrating milestones together. We come together in worship, Sunday school, Adult studies, outreach projects, and special events. October is a time to celebrate with our Fall Festival, World Communion Sunday, Blessing of the animals, and Brooks BBQ, to name just a few of our ministries.

October is often associated with harvest—a time to gather the fruits of our labor and to give thanks. Whether our harvest is literal, from gardens and fields, or figurative, found in relationships healed, goals achieved, or lessons learned, it is a season to celebrate abundance.

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 He holds.

As we close this month's newsletter, let us carry the spirit of October with us—a spirit of reflection, gratitude, and renewal. Let us be mindful of the ways God is moving in our lives and our church, gently guiding us into the future. May we walk together, supporting one another, and sharing in the joy and sorrows of the changing seasons.

May God bless you and your families abundantly this October, and may your hearts be warmed by the gifts of faith and fellowship. 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



Condolences

We'd like to wish our sincerest condolences to:

- ~ Launa Garret and Family on the loss of her sister, Sandy.
- ~ to the Draiss & Bonitatibus families on the loss of their brother/son, Bob.



Special Thanks:

- to Duane Dodds for painting the narthex
- to the Krugs for running the September Brooks BBQ and to everyone who helped.
- to the Browns for donating cornstalks, pumpkins, mums and bales of straw for our church yard.
- to everyone who worked or dropped off food for the RUMC Food Pantry Harvest for Hunger Food Collection. It is greatly appreciated
- to Melissa for ordering and installing the 2 new office computers.
- to everyone who donated to the school supply collection. We received so many backpacks and supplies. Thank you.
- 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.



9th Annual Trunk or Treat

October 25th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon



This is a community outreach event that families can enjoy with their little ones. We need volunteers who are willing to come and decorate their car trunks for the kids to trick or treat to. Any ideas or help that can be provided will be very welcome. Please sign up in the back, electronically or reach out to Sunday School with questions.

Again this year, we are asking for a donation of a non-perishable good for our food pantry from all trick-or-treaters.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5 at 4:00 pm

(Outside Only - Weather Permitting)

The Blessing of the Animals to be held on Sunday, October 5th at 4:00 p.m., follows the Christian tradition of the close relationship between St. Francis of Assisi and the animals he loved. When people bring their beloved animals to be blessed at our church, they find for themselves the blessing of fellowship with other animal lovers.



Thank You

Thank you to the family of Bob Draiss who donated money to the Fall Festival Children's area in honor & memory of Bob.



Next Brooks BBQ
Saturday, October 11th
3:00 until Sold Out



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 to vote in the new trustee members and ratify the other committee members.

If you are interested in serving on a particular committee, please let Pastor or the office know. 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.

Brooks BBQ Dates for 2025

(All dates are Saturday)

- October 11
- December 6



Fall Bible Study:

The Fall Bible Study is meeting on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the fireplace room for the Fourth season of "The Chosen."

There are eight sessions and will end on October 29th. Hope to see you there. Please see Betty Curnow with any questions.



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.



RUMC



Fall Festival

Rotterdam United Methodist Church

1915 Helderberg Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12306

Saturday, October 4, 2025

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

***** Hall Accessible via Lift *****



**Blind Auction * Vendors * Breakfast and
Books * Jewelry * Pumpkins, Lunch Available!**
**Mums & Cornstalks for Sale! (Homemade Soups, Pizza,
Hotdogs, Walking Tacos)**

Free Kids Area:

Bounce House * Crafts

(10:00 – 3:00 pm)

Pony Rides * Petting Zoo

(11:00 – 2:00 pm)



Bake Sale * Cider Doughnuts * Popcorn



Fall Festival Recap Meeting

There will be a Fall Festival Recap Meeting on Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30 p.m. to talk about what worked well and any suggestions for changes for next year.

Fall Festival Info:

All Food donations (except Bake Sale and Soups) and Auction items for the Fall Festival are **due into church by Sunday, September 28.**

Auction items can be given to Donna Jahnel or the office. Food/packaging items can be put in the office or refrigerator (if necessary).

Please label everything "Fall Festival." See Donna Jahnel or Betty Curnow for help or if you cannot get your donation in by that Sunday.

Like in previous years, we are asking Church workers to park at the Eddy Senior Care Center (formerly Mallozzi's) just past Gabriel's on Curry. Parking is always tight, so please save the spots in the church parking lot for customers.



Green Bottle Redemption Fundraiser

The Green Bottle redemption center is moving to 651 Consaulus 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.



Sunday School Meet & Treat

On October 26, we will hold our annual Sunday School "Meet & Treat" at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come in costume and bring a treat for our Sunday School children. Sign ups are in the back of the church.



Food Drive "Thank You"

A huge "Thank You" to our student helpers and to everyone who worked or dropped off food for the RUMC Food Pantry Harvest for Hunger Food Collection. It is greatly appreciated.



Safe Sanctuary Training

Anyone working with children, youth or vulnerable adults (ie. Sunday school or visitation, etc) is required by conference to have Safe Sanctuary training.

The next training session is Saturday, November 1, 2025. A link to register was sent via email. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Caroline.



Capital Kids Care After School Program

Just a reminder that Capital Kids Care are again 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.

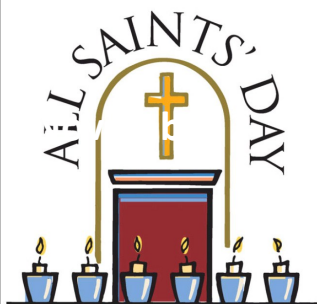
All Capital Kids Care hall uses will be listed on the church calendar, so please plan accordingly if you need to be in the building and please be careful in the parking lot.

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.



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.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday

to the following people in October

- 1 Dawn Towne
- 3 Dick Bloomer
- 7 Richard Cummings
- 9 Carmine Vintimilla
- 12 Cathy Krug
Karen Marchesani
Keith Warren
Isabelle Wederman
- 13 Sam Tompkins
- 14 Jill Molen
Scherry Starr
- 18 Luca Mance
- 21 Amanda Wilsey
Evelyn Travis
- 24 Karen Phillips
- 28 Patricia Fishbough
- 29 Landon Aulet
Josephine Cooper
Robert Cooper Jr.
Nicholas DeMatteo
- 31 Aubree Marano



happy anniversary

Happy Anniversary
to the following couples
in the month of October

- 4 Civanna and Oliver Chaires
- 7 Gail and David Kitchen
Lori and Joseph Giattino
- 9 Amber and Nicholas DeMatteo
- 14 Diane and William Paul
- 20 Alexandra and James Paige
Cierra and James Troutman
- 21 Carol and Michael Keefe
Kristi and Ryan Mance
- 22 Sarah and Joseph Scott
- 26 Donna and Gary Spawn



Lectionary Readings

October 5 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137;
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 12 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12;
2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 19 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104;
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 26 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65;
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

Looking Ahead

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



October Security

Date

- 5 Gail Andrews
- 12 Jim Gabree
- 19 Mike Krug
- 26 Donna Quivey

October Cashiers

Date

- 5 Duane Dodds & Sandy Gregory
- 12 Barb Paul & Gary Spawn
- 19 Celine Aulet & Cathy Krug
- 26 Dawn March & Linda Blanchard

October Ushers

Date

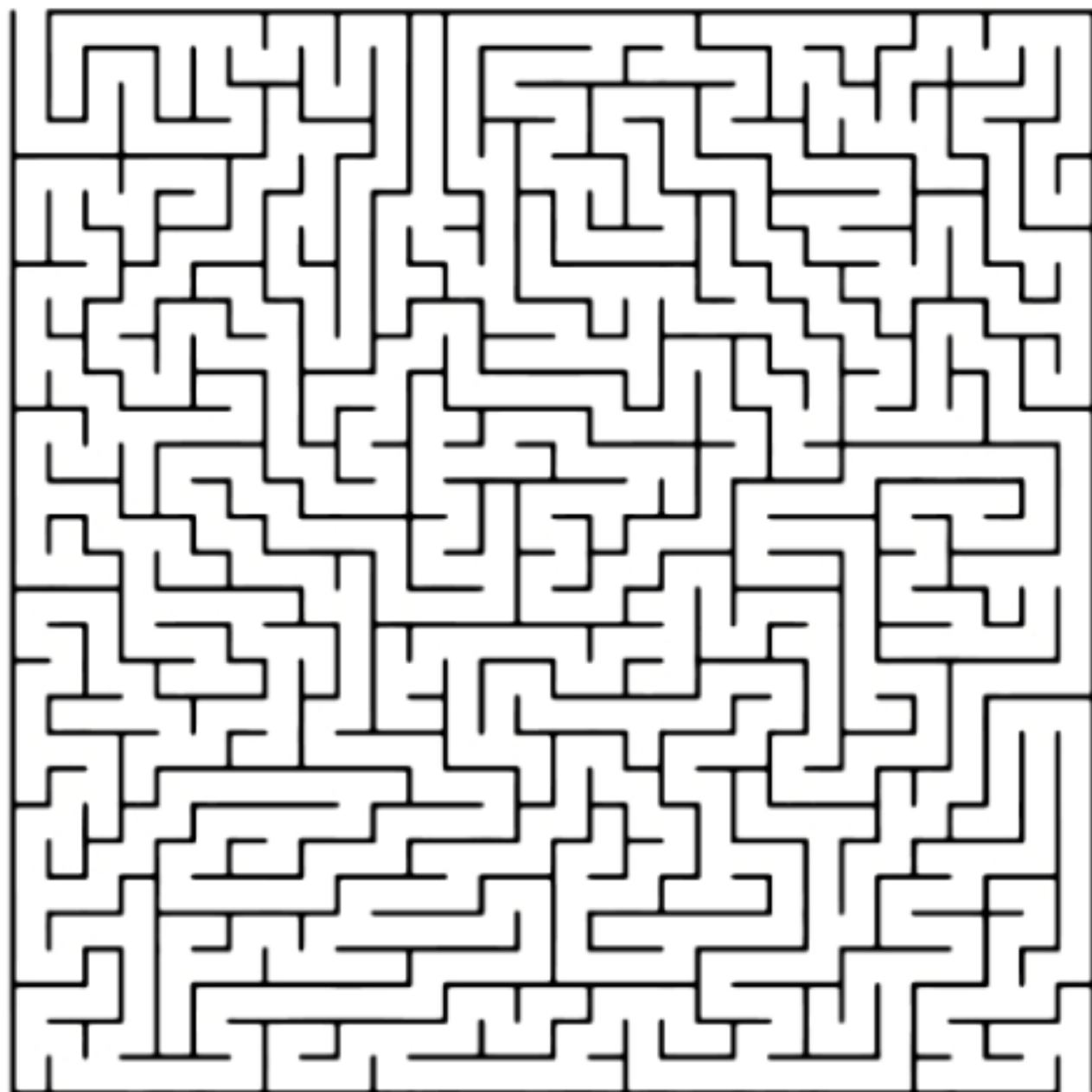
- 5 Duane Dodds
- 12 Gail Andrews
- 19 Jean Schoonbeck
- 26 Fred Anderson



HALLOWEEN MAZE



START



FINISH



October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ➤ 9:00 - 3:00 PM Wonderland School Picture, Lounge  + 12:30 PM Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	2 ➤ 9:00 - 3:00 PM Wonderland School Picture, Lounge	3 ✦ Fall Festival Setup 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	4  Fall Festival ✦ Fall Festival 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
➤ Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn						
5 17th Sunday; after Pentecost + 10:00 AM Worship & Communion Service + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:30 AM Coffee Hour + 4:00 PM Blessing of the Animals 	6	7	8  + 12:30 PM Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	9	10 ➤ 9:00 - 3:00 PM Wonderland School CLOSED	11  ✦ Brooks BBQ 3:00 until Sold Out
➤ Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn						
		+ 6:30 Fall Festival Recap Meeting, Fellowship Hall 				
12 18th Sunday; after Pentecost + 10:00 AM Worship Service w/ Pantry + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary	13 Indigenous People Day ➤ CapKids Full Day - 7:30 am - 6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	14	15  + 12:30 PM Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	16	17 ✦ Deadline for Nov Rotterdam UMC Newsletter input!	18
➤ Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn						
					➤ 5:30 PM Wonderland Trunk-or-Treat, Parking Lot	
19 19th Sunday; after Pentecost + 10:00 AM Worship Service + 10:15 AM Sunday School + 11:30 AM Praise Band, Sanctuary + 11:30 AM Administrative Council, F. Hall 	20	21 + 12:30 PM Lunch Bunch meet at Blake 925 Deli	22  + 12:30 PM Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	23	24 ➤ CapKids Half Day - 11:00 am - 6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	25 ✦ 10:00 - 12:00 Trunk or Treat 
➤ Capital Kids Care After School - 2:00 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn						
26 20th Sunday; after Pentecost + 9:30 AM Sunday School Meet & Treat + 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 	27	28	29  + 12:30 PM Bible Study, Fellowship Hall ➤ CapKids Half Day - 11:00 am - 6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall/Lawn	30	31  Happy Halloween	
➤ 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.

**IF YOU WANT GOD
TO OPEN AND
CLOSE DOORS,
YOU NEED TO LET
GO OF THE
DOORKNOB.**

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:

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.

**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.