

Rutherford Congregational Church, UCC
Virtual & In-Person Sunday Gathering
November 14, 2021
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

251 Union Ave, Rutherford,
NJ 07070 (201) 438-6324

ZOOM ID 896 848 7730

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8968487730>

www.rccucc.com

Rev. Annie Allen, Interim Pastor

Annie.shalom1@gmail.com

973-557-0611

Music included in this morning's service is produced under CCLI #65015.

WELCOME

Welcome to Rutherford Congregational Church. May God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit our guide and comforter, flow through our service and into every heart today. Last Thursday was Veterans Day. The airways were filled with good news of many services available to help wounded and traumatized veterans live happy and healthy lives. There were also stories of the deep suffering that many of our veterans still experience. What was missing was a concerted effort to avoid wars and live more peaceful lives so our young men and women would not have to fight in the first place. Today, we will look at the Biblical mandate to turn our swords into plowshares, to lay down the sword and lift up the abundant love that God has offered to us.

Our worship team hopes to provide a worship experience that is EPIC. That is, Experiential, Participatory, Image Rich, and Connective. So, everyone is encourage to participate in whatever way is most comfortable for you. And a reminder, Worship is not a spectator sport, so if outward expression is not your style, we invite you to open your heart wide, pray to Lord and feel God's presence during our time together.

For those of us here in-person the State of NJ has lifted the COVID-19 restrictions for communal worship. Therefore, if you are vaccinated you are not required to wear a mask or social distance from others. However, we encourage everyone to do whatever feels safest and most comfortable to you.

For a copy of today's order of worship or to view a YouTube video recording of this morning's service go to our home webpage www.rccucc.com.

And a reminder to you, that here in this local congregation of the United Church of Christ, *"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*

Now, let us begin service with our musical prelude

Prelude

For the Beauty of the Earth

Music by O'Neill Brothers

Drone Video by Fred Dammers

Readings of Sacred Scriptures



First Testament

Isaiah 2:4

He will settle disputes among great nations. They will hammer their swords into plows and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will never again go to war, never prepare for battle again.

Contemporary Reading

What we are called to is a *life* of peacemaking in which all that we do, say, think, or dream is part of our concern to bring peace to the world. Just as Jesus' commands to love one another cannot be seen as a part-time obligation, but requires our total investment and dedication, so too Jesus' call to peacemaking is unconditional, unlimited, and uncompromising.

– Henry Nouwen

Gospel Lesson

Luke 6: 27-30

²⁷ “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone hits you on one cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

Sermon

Peacemaking

Pastor Annie Allen

Special Music NCH 610 *My Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

Bernard Jackson

A Prayer for our Veterans
(In Unison)



God of Justice and Truth, rock of our lives, Bless our Veterans, with a deep and abiding understanding of our gratitude. Protect them and their families from loneliness and want. We honor them today, worthy people of courage and valor, who gave their best when they were called upon to serve our country. We pray that you will Bless them Lord, for their unselfish service. Bless them for the sacrifices they have made and for their many contributions. Grant them lives of joy and bounty. May their dedication and honor be remembered as a blessing from generation to generation.



Centering Music
Joys and Concerns
Silent Meditation

Prayer of our Savior (All)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. AMEN



TIME OF OFFERING

We who have been richly blessed are called to share those blessings with the world. Give freely in the joy of serving your God and neighbor.

For those in the sanctuary, there is a collection plate at the rear of the center aisle. For those on Zoom or watching on YouTube, please take time now to log onto our website www.rccucc.com and click on the donate link to make your offering. Or mail your check to RCC 251 Union Ave, Rutherford, NJ 07070 Attention: Financial Secretary.

OFFERTORY

NCH 473 *Blessed Assurance*

RCC Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (All)

Holy One, receive these gifts which we freely offer. May they be used for the purposes of your church, the relief of the poor, protection of the planet and the spreading of your abundant love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Closing Hymn

Million Reasons

Life Tree Kids

Led by Church School Children

SENDING FORTH – CLOSING BLESSING

As we leave this place, carry God's Shalom in your heart and share God's Peace with everyone you meet. Together, with God's help, we can and will make a better world. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

March Pomposo
Performed by Suzanne Reynolds

by W. Henry Maxfield

Join us for refreshments and fellowship after service.



Next Sunday, November 21st, we will visit Grace Episcopal Church for a special Thanksgiving Worship Service.

Learn – Lead – Support

Pastor's Bible Study, Each Tuesday, 7:00pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9735570611>

Women's Bible Study or Book Club, Carol Marshall carolmarshall1047@gmail.com

Church School, Christian Education and Children's Activities, Alycia Desmond adammmers@hotmail.com

Worship Team, Ellen Dammers ewdammmers@netscape.net

Music Ministry, Alycia Desmond adammmers@hotmail.com

Administrative Council, Contact Carol Marshall, carolmarshall1047@gmail.com

Future Search Team, Contact Pastor Annie Allen, annie.shalom1@gmail.com

Marketing Team, Contact Meredith Mullane, meredithmullane@gmail.com

Mission Team, Contact Derek Mullane derek.correa.dc@gmail.com

or Carol Anderson careertutor@gmail.com

MISSION TEAM



Thank you to all who contributed to the Haiti Relief Fund: We raised \$1,100.!

Rutherford Food Pantry Help

The director of social services is eager to have volunteers do non-client facing work, to preserve confidentiality, such as stocking shelves. Please consider volunteering your time. M-F. Donations of food items are always needed. A new list of specific items will come out at the beginning of November.

Next Family Promise Meal is scheduled for February 25, 2022

If you will volunteer, or have a friend or family member who wants to serve, contact **Carol Anderson** at: careertutor@gmail.com or call or text 201-686-9100

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the week of Sunday, November 07, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Giving Revenues (Pledged Income, Member Gifts, Non-Member/Misc Gifts, and Open Plate):			
For Sunday, 11/07/21:	\$ 888	\$ 1,630	\$ 742
YTD Giving Revenues as of 11/07/21:	39,960	54,243	14,283
YTD All Other Revenues as of 11/07/21:	39,375	14,950	(24,425)
	<u>79,335</u>	<u>69,193</u>	<u>(10,142)</u>
Anticipated annual deficit per approved budget:			<u>(10,142)</u>
\$ Gifts In Kind This Week:		0.00	
\$ YTD Gifts In Kind, as of 11/07/21:		1,285.43	
Zoom Attendance 11/07/21	10	AVG Zoom	15
Zoom Worship 11/07/21	3	AVG Zoom W	11
Zoom Church School 11/07/21	7	AVG Zoom CS	4
Worship Attendance	21	AVG W	14
YouTube Views 11/07/21	9	AVG YT	17
Total Exposure 11/07/21	40	AVG EX	41



GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH