

Rutherford Congregational Church, UCC

Virtual & In-Person Sunday Gathering

July 18, 2021

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost



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

251 Union Ave, Rutherford,
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ZOOM ID 896 848 7730

www.rccucc.com

Rev. Annie Allen, Interim Pastor

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(973) 557-0611

Susan La Fever, Director of Music

susanlaf@optonline.net

CENTERING MUSIC Sing Praise to the Lord trad. Brazilian arr. Nicholas Palmer

WELCOME

Welcome to Rutherford Congregational Church. May the wind and fire of the spirit blow into your hearts and into this service today. Today we celebrate the all-inclusive nature of God's work in the world. Understanding that God is of infinite creativity, God has created each of us with different gifts, cultures and personalities. In God's world we are all One. Let us celebrate our Unity today.

Our worship team hopes to provide a worship experience that is EPIC. That is, Experiential, Participatory, Image Rich, and Connective. For those of you worshipping at home on Zoom, we encourage you to sing aloud, clap your hands, or do whatever is comfortable for you.

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 your benefit, a link to the PDF of this morning's order of worship is posted on the church's home page, www.rccucc.com.

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 Call to Worship.

Music included in this morning's service is reproduced under CCLI License #650150.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Spoken by Pastor and Congregation)



P: Welcome to Worship Every Soul

C: We are glad to be together in the house of the Lord

P: Let every soul rejoice in God's Love

C: God loves each and every one of us here and everywhere in God's world

P: Praise be to God who made each of us unique

C: Praise be to God whose love is everlasting.

Amen

INVOCATION / OPENING PRAYER

God of all humanity. Today we come to lift up your awesome love and creativity. Only you could create each of us as unique humanbeings. Only you could grant us such a diversity of gifts. We have strayed from your ways and command to love one another. We get stuck in our own tribes and forget that we are all your children. Only you could bring us together as one family. Help us today, oh Lord, to be one family under God. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN NCH 314 Community of Christ Shirley Erena Murray

Contemporary Reading

Phoenix Affirmation One

Christian love of God includes walking fully in the path of Jesus, without denying the legitimacy of other paths God may provide humanity.

As Christians, we find spiritual awakening, challenge, growth, and fulfillment in Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection. While we have accepted the Path of Jesus as our Path, we do not deny the legitimacy of other paths God may provide humanity. Where possible, we seek lively dialog with those of other faiths for mutual benefit and fellowship.

We confess that we have stepped away from Christ's Path whenever we have failed to practice love of God, neighbor, and self, or have claimed Christianity is the only way, even as we claim it to be our way.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

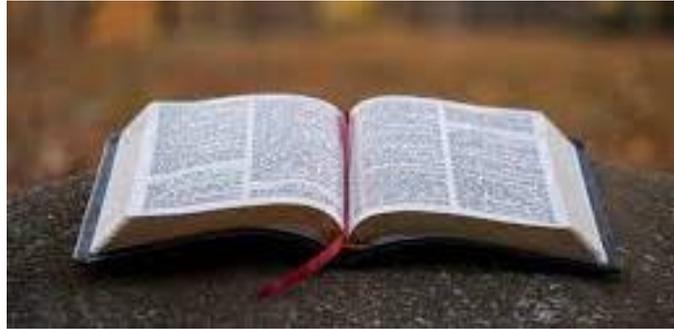


SPECIAL MUSIC

This is the Stuff
Alycia Desmond, vocal and guitar

Francesca Battistelli

Readings of Sacred Scriptures



Ephesians 2:11-22 (GNT) One in Christ

¹¹ You Gentiles by birth—called “the uncircumcised” by the Jews, who call themselves the circumcised (which refers to what men do to their bodies)—remember what you were in the past. ¹² At that time you were apart from Christ. You were foreigners and did not belong to God's chosen people. You had no part in the covenants, which were based on God's promises to his people, and you lived in this world without hope and without God. ¹³ But now, in union with Christ Jesus you, who used to be far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ.^[a] ¹⁴ For Christ himself has brought us peace by making Jews and Gentiles one people. With his own body he broke down the wall that separated them and kept them enemies. ¹⁵ He abolished the Jewish Law with its commandments and rules, in order to create out of the two races one new people in union with himself, in this way making peace. ¹⁶ By his death on the cross Christ destroyed their enmity; by means of the cross he united both races into one body and brought them back to God. ¹⁷ So Christ came and preached the Good News of peace to all—to you Gentiles, who were far away from God, and to the Jews, who were near to him. ¹⁸ It is through Christ that all of us, Jews and Gentiles, are able to come in the one Spirit into the presence of the Father.

¹⁹ So then, you Gentiles are not foreigners or strangers any longer; you are now citizens together with God's people and members of the family of God. ²⁰ You, too, are built upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets,^[a] the cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ He is the one who holds the whole building together and makes it grow into a sacred temple dedicated to the Lord. ²² In union with him you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his Spirit.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen.

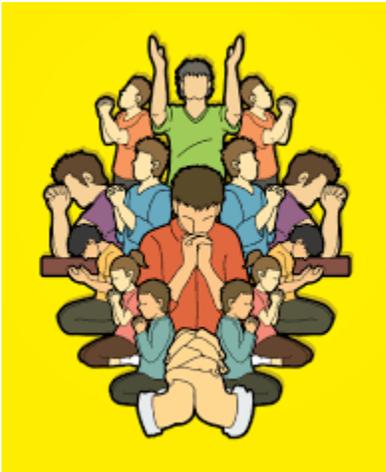
SERMON

One Big Tent

Pastor Annie Allen

Solo

God on the Mountain Tracy Dart
Bernard Jackson



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation

Prayer of our Savior

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

Invitation (**Liturgist**)

Now is time to give back a small portion of all that God has given to you. 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 www.rccucc.com our website 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.

Our DONATION JAR is on the table with the collection plate. Each month, donations will go to a specific cause. For July, it is Family Promise, to provide 150 hot dinners to Bergen County homeless families on Oct 20.

Pennies for Charisse donations continue to support this young girl and her family in the Philippines; please place your change in this receptacle, also on the back table.

OFFERTORY

Lamb of Glory Nelson & McHugh arr. Russell Mauldin
RCCUCC Chapel Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (**All**)

Generous God, You have blessed each of us abundantly. Receive the gifts that we offer today, for the relief of the poor, the healing of the world, and the spreading of your good news. So that those who have much may be generous to those who have little. And may we be good stewards of all you provide. Increase these gifts that they be a blessing to your church and to all who are in need. In Jesus name, Amen.

Closing Hymn NCH 506 Sweet Hour of Prayer William Walford

Announcements (Open to the congregation)

Sending Forth – Closing Blessing

As you leave this place, take the peace of the Lord with you and share it with every person you meet. Know that the world is too small for anything but love. Amen

POSTLUDE Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah John Hughes arr. MarkPatterson

Jays and Concerns

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Prayer Concerns

- Monica Maske Fisher had a second surgery on her fractured elbow on Friday and a heart anomaly was found. She is in Hackensack Hospital and will have a cardiac catheterization on Tuesday.
- Suzanne Reynolds asked for prayers for the families of their neighbor Les Slominany who passed away last week, and Andrew's friends Shaun Ippillito, who died last week, and Tom Cassella, who had a stroke. She also asked for prayers for Andrew.
- Beth Cassels Turano asked for prayers for her sister-in-law's Aunt Ida who has pneumonia.

Joys

- Carol Anderson shared the joy of Robin Reenstra's son David Bryant, who travelled to California to help his uncle, Bill Reenstra, to recover at home from knee surgery. Bill thanked his sister Robin on Facebook for raising a son who would come to spend time helping his uncle (David is still there).
- Jacquie Pagano is grateful that all is well in south Florida after Hurricane Elsa's visit last weekend.
- Suzanne and Phil Reynolds were joyful to be back in church and recently spent time with all three of their children in one place for the first time in a long time.
- Beth Cassels Turano announced that her parents, former RCC interim pastor Bob Cassels and his wife Sheila, will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in August. She asked that we send cards to them and will provide an email with their mailing address in Delaware soon. Beth said that "nobody invites people to church like RCC".
- Cat Desmond thanked those present and on Zoom for coming to church.

May we remember and pray for the health and concerns of

Bill Reenstra & Karen Klimas, Caroline Sundell, Nora Esp, Ellen Dammers, Merry Burke, Catherine (Cat) Desmond, The DiNapoli Family, Carin Fougner, Chuck & Eileen Eastham.

All service men & women, victims of violence, all effected by COVID19.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.



Mission Team has been working on community service projects, and here's your opportunity to volunteer. Neither project can go forward without the participation of our church family.

1. FOOD PANTRY HELP

Mission Team consulted with the Rutherford Food Pantry on how we can help in addition to donating groceries (which continues; the municipal building is now open and you can deliver groceries by ringing the doorbell for SOCIAL SERVICES at the side door). 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, no remote opportunity known, but I can ask.

2. TELEPHONE BANK

Mission team met with the director of the Kip Center to offer to work with its phone back to elderly shut-ins, whose isolation increased during the Covid-19 quarantine but is persistent. She is putting together a list of those who would welcome friendly chats on a regular basis, and RCC would have its own bloc of persons to call (the Center already has a robust calling bank). These calls would all be made from your home and reported on a log.

For each of these, we need at least several people who can commit to x hours per week on a regular basis. By announcing this need in church, we have two volunteers outside of our small Mission Team and we need more to go forward. 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 & Attendance

For the week of Sunday, July 11, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Giving Revenues (Pledged Income, Member Gifts, Non-Member/Misc Gifts, and Open Plate):			
	\$	\$	\$
For Sunday, 07/11/21:	888	1,312	424
YTD Giving Revenues as of 07/11/21:	23,976	42,441	18,465
YTD All Other Revenues as of 07/11/21:	24,500	14,950	(9,550)
	48,476	57,391	8,915
Anticipated annual deficit per approved budget:			8,915
\$ Gifts In Kind This Week:		0.00	
\$ YTD Gifts In Kind, as of 07/11/21:		1,086.06	
PENDING POSTING OF RECOVERED SERVICE			
Zoom Attendance 07/11/21	3	AVG Zoom	26
Zoom Worship 07/11/21	1	AVG Zoom W	15
Zoom Church School 07/11/21	2	AVG Zoom CS	5
Worship Attendance	17	AVG W	14
YouTube Views 07/11/21	12	AVG YT	19
Total Exposure 07/11/21	35	AVG EX	45