

Rutherford Congregational Church, UCC
Virtual & In-Person Sunday Gathering

September 26, 2021

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Men's Service in the Season of Creation



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

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ZOOM ID 896 848 7730

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

www.rccucc.com

Rev. Annie Allen, Interim Pastor

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

WELCOME by Phil Reynolds

Welcome to Rutherford Congregational Church. May the wind and fire of the spirit blow into your hearts and into this service today. Today, the men of Rutherford Congregational Church will continue our in the **Season of Creation**. We unite with Christians around the world in one common purpose – the care of our Planet Earth – our Common Home. We are glad that you are here to join us as we strive to renew life, and care for God’s Beloved Community, the *oikos* (that is home) of God.

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

Phil Reynolds

CALL TO WORSHIP
(Spoken by Leader & People)



Led by Bernard Jackson

L: Calling all men, calling all men, God is calling!

P: We are gathered here together today to answer God's call on our lives.

L. During this season of creation, we are called to care for our Mother - Earth.

P. God has created all things in perfect order.

L. Let us celebrate our planet home and pledge to care for all of God's creation.

P. We are happy to answer God's call to care for the earth.

L. Let us lift our voices in praise and adoration.

P. Hallelujah, Amen

INVOCATION / OPENING PRAYER

Bernard Jackson

Creator God, we gather today to offer thanksgiving for the Earth and all living creatures that you have created. We join to day to answer your call for the men of our church. We acknowledge that you have given us a responsibility, care for all life and the home you have provided for us. Give us guidance, wisdom, strength and courage to work together in the healing of our planet home. In Jesus name, we pray. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN NCH 12 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*
Led by Fred Dammers

Readings of Sacred Scriptures



Genesis 1 Good News Translation

The Story of Creation – [Read by Phil Reynolds](#)

1 In the beginning, when God created the universe,^[a] **2** the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God^[b] was moving over the water. **3** Then God commanded, “Let there be light”—and light appeared. **4** God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, **5** and he named the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

6-7 Then God commanded, “Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places”—and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. **8** He named the dome “Sky.” Evening passed and morning came—that was the second day.

9 Then God commanded, “Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear”—and it was done. **10** He named the land “Earth,” and the water which had come together he named “Sea.” And God was pleased with what he saw. **11** Then he commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit”—and it was done. **12** So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. **13** Evening passed and morning came—that was the third day.

14 Then God commanded, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals^[c] begin; **15** they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth”—and it was done. **16** So God made the two larger

lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. ¹⁷ He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. ¹⁹ Evening passed and morning came—that was the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God commanded, “Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw. ²² He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number. ²³ Evening passed and morning came—that was the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small”—and it was done. ²⁵ So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

²⁶ Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild,^[d] large and small.” ²⁷ So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, ²⁸ blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. ²⁹ I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; ³⁰ but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food”—and it was done. ³¹ God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

Dramatic Reading

The Creation from *God's Trombones – Seven Negro Sermons in Verse*,
by James Weldon Johnson [Read by William Galloway](#)

Special Music

[Bernard Jackson, Song Leader](#)



Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation

[Led by Bernard Jackson](#)

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

[Led by Phil Reynolds](#)

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 *The Garden Song, by David Mallett, Performed by Fred Dammers*

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.

*Affirmation of Faith for Creation Season
Led by William Galloway*



God creates all things, renews all things, and sustains all things.

This we believe.

Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

This we believe.

God became flesh and blood, a part of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

This we believe.

The risen Jesus is the Christ at the center of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

This we believe.

The Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

This we believe.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

<http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/home>

Rev. Annie Allen 2019

CLOSING HYMN NCH 376 *God, We Thank You for our People*

SENDING FORTH – CLOSING BLESSING William Galloway

Men of God, as you leave this place, walk in God's grace and be a blessing to others and the earth. AMEN.

POSTLUDE

Bernard Jackson

Join us for refreshments and fellowship after service.



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

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

Joys & Concerns

September 19, 2020

Prayers

- Carol Marshall asked for prayers for Merry Burke who had a car accident this week but thankfully was not hurt. Merry sees this as a sign it's time to stop driving, and she is looking for a first-floor apartment in Rutherford.
- Ellen Dammers asked for prayers for the Wesp family and relayed that Sharon Wesp thanks those from our congregation who attended the graveside service for her sister Wendy on Friday Sept. 18th, led by Pastor Annie.
- Bernard Jackson asked for prayers for his daughter Tammy who is suffering with a lupus flare.
- Rev. Annie asked for prayers for the planet, ecosystems, good weather, good crops, fresh water, clean air, and abundant life.
- Carol Anderson asked for prayers for the families who have recently lost or recently held celebrations of life for these loved ones; her partner Martin Krauter, neighbor John Zacharias, neighbor Marion Mueller, and Wendy Wesp. Update: This week former member Pauline Alama lost her mother.

Joys

- Elizabeth Jimenez brought her newest granddaughter, Noelia, to church service; she is four months old.
- Bernard Jackson thanks God for allowing him to be here via Zoom this week.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.



Donations are being accepted to help with the earthquake & hurricane victims in Haiti.

Volunteers Needed: 150 Hot Meals to Homeless Families on October 15th

The Mission team will be leading the preparation and delivery of 150 hot meals to Family Promise on Oct 15, and we need help from the congregation to get that accomplished: bakers of frozen lasagna, salad tray assemblers, frozen vegetables cookers, all the morning of the 15th. Come participate in helping hungry people in our area. Please email Carol Anderson careertutor@gmail.com or call Carol at 201-686-9100 if you can help.

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.

Telephone Bank to reach the elderly and shut-ins

Mission team is working with the Kip Center to provide volunteers for its phone bank to elderly shut-ins, whose isolation increased during the Covid-19 quarantine but is persistent. Making brief calls to the elderly is a wonderful way of sharing God's love and making new friends in the process.

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

Finance & Attendance
For the week of Sunday, September 19, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Giving Revenues (Pledged Income, Member Gifts, Non-Member/Misc Gifts, and Open Plate):			
For Sunday, 09/19/21:	\$ 888	\$ 697	\$ (191)
YTD Giving Revenues as of 09/19/21:	33,744	49,203	15,459
YTD All Other Revenues as of 09/19/21:	33,250	14,950	(18,300)
	<u>66,994</u>	<u>64,153</u>	<u>(2,841)</u>
Anticipated annual deficit per approved budget:			<u>(2,841)</u>
\$ Gifts In Kind This Week:		0.00	
\$ YTD Gifts In Kind, as of 09/19/21:		1,285.43	
Zoom Attendance 09/19/21	7	<u>AVG Zoom</u>	25
Zoom Worship 09/19/21	3	<u>AVG Zoom W</u>	12
Zoom Church School 09/19/21	4	<u>AVG Zoom CS</u>	4
Worship Attendance	11	<u>AVG W</u>	14
YouTube Views 09/19/21	10	<u>AVG YT</u>	18
Total Exposure 09/19/21	28	<u>AVG EX</u>	42



GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH