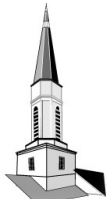


OCTOBER 2025



## The Spire

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

77 Main Street

Springfield VT 05156-2999

(802) - 885-5728 [fccucc@vermontel.net](mailto:fccucc@vermontel.net)

[www.firstchurchspringfield.org](http://www.firstchurchspringfield.org)

[www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield](https://www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield)

*"We are a community in Christ, called to act with love toward our neighbors"*

### Pastor's Message October 2025

*"Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor him with praise!" Psalm 147:1*



A little over a year ago, we began to offer a sing-along worship service, dubbed Acoustic Worship, as an addition and alternative mode of service. What a joy it's been to raise our voices in song together, hearing God's Good News and sharing time in fellowship. Our next installment will be the very first day of October – Wednesday the First. With songs chosen from the folk and country traditions (and some from the hymnals) and lyrics provided, it's a grand opportunity for "praying twice", as the saying goes. We sit in a circle and let our voices sound as they will – all God's critters got a place in the choir, as Bill Staines wrote!

Feel free to join us at 5 PM and experience another way to worship. Rest assured – there'll be no sermon!

Another favorite activity has returned with the change of seasons: Our next community lunch is coming up on the 15th. September's was well-attended as we began to get into the swing of Fall. Take a break from October chores and come inside for lunch with us. More details are inside this edition of the Spire.

May God's blessings be with you,  
Michael Mario, Pastor



## **SPRINGFIELD FAMILY NEEDS FOR THE FOOD SHELF**

Federal funds for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) known as Food Stamps and in Vermont as 3SquaresVT will be significantly reduced at the end of September. Vermont Foodbank is laying off staff. Some food shelves in VT will be closing. Now more than ever we need to support the Springfield Family Food Shelf. The Family Center has asked for the items below, but any item supporting a family meal is welcome.



Pasta

Peanut butter

Chicken Noodle Soup

Canned low sodium soups

Canned Fruit

Tuna

Spaghetti

Oatmeal

Condiments

**DON'T FORGET OUR GREEN PANTRY BOX IN THE GREEN SPACE. ADD TO IT AS YOU CAN. PEOPLE USE IT! THANK YOU!**

Diane Holme, Outreach Ministry

## **CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS**

*Oct. 14      Gay Mobus*

## **CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OR MORE OF MARRIAGE**

*Oct. 21      Roger & Betsy Owen*

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO EVERYONE IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.**

**If you would like an anniversary listed, please let us know in time for the appropriate Spire.**



**CLEAN-UP DAY WILL BE NOV 1st  
AT 9:30 AM**

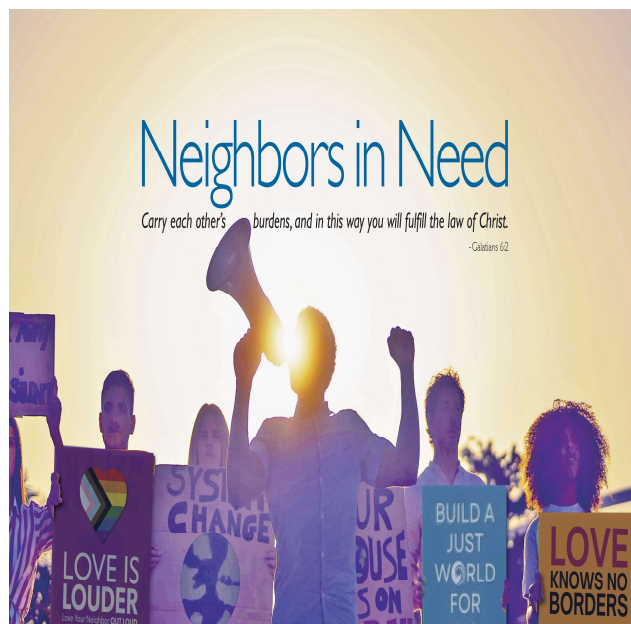
## Community Lunch Kudos

Thanks to all the volunteers who made the Sept. 17th Community Lunch a success! We welcomed about 60 people in for a great lunch of Saucy ham and cheese on rolls or BBQ chicken drumsticks, assorted hearty salads, green salad, and brownies with ice cream for dessert. More than 15 volunteers helped with all the cooking, serving and cleanup! It was such a great team! Of course, the fun music from Pastor Michael keeps everyone happy!

Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> will be the date for our Fall Roast Pork luncheon, served with applesauce, buttered noodles, mashed butternut squash, and green beans, with chocolate chip pumpkin squares for dessert. Please volunteer to help move and set tables, make or serve some food, or help with cleanup! Many hands make the work must easier on everyone!

It takes a church to feed a Community!

Thanks again, Pat Townsend



Dear friends,

In 2025 congregations across the United Church of Christ will collect the Neighbors in Need offering. This thought gives me great hope. It is easy to think of ministry as a fractured enterprise, where every church is isolated on its own. Yet I know through the Special Mission Offerings of the UCC, we are stronger together. The money collected through the Neighbors in Need offering is shared, with two-thirds benefiting the justice and witness ministries of the UCC, including grants awarded for direct service and advocacy initiatives of local congregations and partners. One-third of the offering benefits the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). I encourage you to collect this offering in your congregation. Share stories of what the UCC's Office of Public Policy and Advocacy is doing in Washington, D.C., or highlight the long-term partnership and witness the whole of the United Church of Christ has with CAIM. If you have any questions about Neighbors in Need, or any of our Special Mission Offerings, I invite you to be in touch. You can reach me at [mcdonaldr@ucc.org](mailto:mcdonaldr@ucc.org). May God bless our shared ministry,

Rev. Rachel McDonald, National Ministries of the UCC

## **SPECIAL OFFERING- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>-**

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. This summer, an average of 172 children participated daily in **STEAM** (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) programs at various sites in and around Missouri's Ferguson-Florissant School District.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

### **Quilt Group**

The quilt group will meet October 2 and 16 from 9:30-3:00. You are welcome to join us and do not need to be a church member 🍁.

Beth Dodd, quilt group facilitator  
802-886-8290



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Michael Mario, Pastor  
Sheila Turner, Adm. Assistant  
885-5728  
Todd Murray, Sexton  
885-5728

Church Office Hours	Tues. & Wed. 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M
Pastor's Hours	Wed. & Thurs. 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

