



SPRING 2022

Hello Rutland,

Happy Spring! I was excited to see my FIRST Robin on March 11<sup>th</sup>. For me, this sighting means spring is here (although we all know the snow hasn't ended and the calendar date begs to differ). Spring blossoms will soon be transforming our pretty rural landscape. Rutland offers some exceptional flower garden beauty that is easily observed from our 46 miles of roads.

One location that I enjoy from my SE corner of "town" is at the intersection of Old Stage Road and Franklin Road. Every year the daffodil bulbs here spread and naturalize this area along the road. Another manicured garden is W of the unincorporated community of Stone on Old Stone Road. I will soon add these pictures to our website's photo gallery.

Speaking of rural charm and beauty, how many of you know that our town owns the 1852 historical building (old United Brethren Church) on Hwy 14 near Rome Corners Road? This beautiful building has been authentically restored (with no taxpayer money) and is on both the state and national register of historic places. Today its purpose is not intended to be a museum, rather a charming building that can be rented and utilized for social gatherings, recitals, meetings, weddings and funerals. It has a capacity of 90-100 people.



In 2004 the research and planning phase began when a group of people met and formed “The Friends of Rutland Church”. For 10 years, 100’s of people contributed to make the renovation possible. This ever-increasing group of dedicated individuals operated food stands, wrote 2 grants and dedicated themselves to the labor of restoration.

The foundation work began in 2005. In order to make the building structurally safe, contractors raised the church, excavated beneath and installed a new foundation. The new limestone rock duplicates the appearance of the original foundation. The following year the roof was addressed; cedar shingles like those on the original roof were installed. All windows were removed and transported to a professional window renovator who properly removed the lead paint. The original pews were also stripped of old milk paint and beautifully restored. Once the interior construction was complete, original furnishings were added. My favorite piece is a beautiful organ donated by our former town chair, Dale Beske. Many thanks to Mark Hanson, Myron Bacon, Friends of Rutland Church and 100’s of volunteers, we are fortunate to experience this fine work and remarkable piece of our area’s history.

At this time, our Rutland historic building is in need of some basic maintenance work. The exterior needs some new paint and the deck needs minor stabilization. Rutland resident, Chris Ziemba is now our town’s liaison. If you would like to contribute in any way, please contact Chris at (608)469-8806. The weather is getting nicer by the day so please drive by and take note of this piece of Wisconsin’s history. Any and all volunteer help or monetary donations will be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Deana M. Zentner  
Town of Rutland Chairperson

