

The Rocktonian

Newsletter

Rockton United Methodist Church
102 W. Chapel Street Rockton, IL 61072

(815) 624-7591
Office Hours Tues, Thurs 9am-noon
email: RocktonUMC@gmail.com
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Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor
847-271-2733 (call or text) 9am-9pm



Our Mission

Welcoming all as we
Grow Together
in Faith, Service, and Love



April 2024

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Church Directory Available!

A new directory is available! The information will not be posted online. If you would like to pick up a copy or have one sent to you, please contact the church office by phone or email to make arrangements.



Rockton United
Methodist Church

April 13th

6:30-9:00 p.m.

All are welcome!



There is a *lot* on our calendar in the coming weeks! Please make sure you read the various articles and add details to your personal calendars. Special Thank you to the Outreach Team for planning a Family Game Night to be held on April 13. More details will follow as the date approaches.

You may know that The United Methodist Church is organized around the strength of the laity. This comes from the earliest years in the American colonies when there were not enough clergy to meet the needs of congregations. Many churches were served by a Circuit Rider, a clergy who traveled full-time throughout a region. Congregations received the sacraments rarely.

Today, our regional Conferences (Rockton UMC is part of the Northern Illinois Conference) are headed by a bishop and managed by District Superintendents. Every church has one or more lay representatives who attend the Annual Conference meetings. The lay representatives are equal in number to clergy, so the power is evenly distributed between the two groups in our form of governance.

There is a worldwide meeting every four years (or quadrennium) comprised of lay and clergy member representatives from each region and

conference. You might think of it as a United Nations Assembly. This General Conference is the only body in The United Methodist Church with the authority to change our rules or policies.

For years, regions outside the U.S. have had the autonomy to make adjustments to their version of the Book of Discipline (our rule book) to allow for cultural differences. The U.S., however, has been bound to the Book of Discipline which only the General Conference has the authority to change. Some of the most significant legislation being considered this year are proposals to create new regional conferences that will each have equal power to pass legislation within their own regions.

Our next General Conference will begin April 23 in Charlotte, NC. Because of the pandemic, the last GC was in 2016. You can find information and updates on this year's GC via our conference website at UMCNIC.org, and UMNews.org, and ResourceUMC.org.

I encourage you to watch the news as it unfolds this year at our worldwide meeting. If you have questions, please feel free to ask me.

Blessings,

Cleaning Equipment

If you have seen our boiler room lately, you might have noticed we have about five vacuum cleaners! We think that most have been donated over the years, but unfortunately most also are not working well. John Carleton has taken several apart and rebuilt them. They work well at times, but not for long. I was at the church this week when the cleaning crew came in, and the vacuum was making a racket like I've never heard before! The crew was very gracious about it. They wear earplugs or listen to music while cleaning to reduce the noise. When John came in today to take a look, he said the vacuum ran smoothly and he couldn't make it loud! I think it's safe to say the performance is not consistent.



The best of our vacuums according to our cleaning crew is a commercial vacuum, and it is the one with inconsistent performance. The biggest challenge for the workers crew is that all of the vacuums are household sized. Because we have a LOT of floor space that needs to be vacuumed, it takes quite a bit longer than a larger unit designed for commercial space would.

A while back, when none of our units seemed to be working, the cleaners requested a commercial grade vacuum with a wider base, so it would take less time cleaning our floors.

If you are interested in contributing funds to help purchase a new vacuum for the church (no more vacuum donations, please!), please designate it along with your gift or let the Trustees or church office know. If you know of someone who can use a free vacuum, we would like to get out of the vacuum storage business.

Thank you! Pastor Carolyn

Highway Cleanup

April 28 after church



We clean from Hononegah Forest Preserve up to Burger King on both sides of the road. Gloves, garbage bags reflective vests and pinchers are available for volunteers. A bag lunch will be provided and we eat at the picnic tables at the parking lot of the preserve when we are done. There will be a sign up sheet available in April so we know how many sandwiches to make. The Ruffs will again be our shuttle drivers in case someone needs a ride back to their car. Thank you!

Judy and Dan

What's Up with the Building?

April 2024

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair



As I write this the yard is still white in spots from 6+” of wet spring snow! But it is spring, and time to clean up the church grounds and building. The Trustees have scheduled a **Work Day** for Saturday, **May 4th** from 9:00 AM to Noon. We’ll need to be done by noon as there is another event scheduled for the afternoon, Let’s hope we can get lots of folks and families so the

work will be less for all and done quickly. There will be raking, picking up, trimming, and a check of the gutters to be sure we don’t get any more leaks.

There may be some inside work as well to compliment all the work Margo Leden and her crew have been doing over the last few months going through the rooms. After reading this, if you should think of something that needs to be done, please let the Trustees know. Brenda Wulf will be coordinating the day’s tasks but you can let any one of us know of something you think needs doing.

For anyone who has occasion to use the big dishwasher in the kitchen, it has a leaky relief valve on the top in the back. It’s doing its job but a little too well. Working theory now is that it’s suffering from not being used enough so, hopefully, it will correct itself. Anyway, that’s why there’s a shallow pan under it. Please let a Trustee know if it leaks so as to overflow the pan as we may then have to replace it.

Do you have any scraps of dry wall sitting around? As a part of the office remodeling, most of you know we are also going to redecorate the Ed Wing Hallways. The old drinking fountains have been removed as one of them was broken anyway. To cover up the plumbing gap, we need a couple of scraps of drywall. We say scraps as we don’t need a full 4’ x 8’ sheet, probably half of that. If you have something, drop it off or give the office a call and arrangements can be made to pick it up. We’re thinking 5/8” thick but let us know what you’ve got.

Fellowship Committee

by Gail Terry, Chairperson



We had a great time at our second annual Palm Sunday Brunch on March 24th. As always, there was more than enough food. Thank you to all who helped and participated!



Our church has a tradition of celebrating graduates for members of our congregation. Please call Pastor Carolyn at the church office at (815) 624-7591 or Gail Terry at (815) 988-0498 to have your graduate included. We will need names, level of school graduating from, degrees for college graduates, and other information if you like, such as plans for the future of the graduate. Please do let us know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly.



Sisters in Christ

We are going to get creative with alcohol painting again. On Saturday morning, April 20, we will meet in downtown Rockton at 10 a.m. to enjoy a two-hour session making an alcohol paint artwork of two tiles and a long tile. This will be with Jill at J. R. Finally Art Studio, 210 W. Main Street. The total cost is \$30 per member but Sisters in Christ proposes to pay half of that cost, for a per person fee \$15. Please get your money to Phyllis prior to the event. This will cover the art supplies and the teacher's fee. There is a 12 person limit. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. I apologize for the mix-up on the proposed dates for this and the increase in cost.



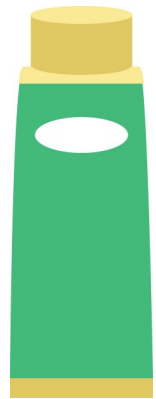
Phyllis DeGraff (608) 368-1051

Missions Team

We will be collecting *hair care products* such as shampoo, conditioner & combs/brushes for Caritas throughout the month of April. These hygiene items are very important for our Caritas neighbors and are supplied only through donations such as this.



There will be a container in the narthex and one at the back door for donations. You will also be able to make a monetary donation if you so choose. Any questions see Judy Schellenberger.



Thank you, Missions

Tuesday, April 30
Veterans Drop-in Dinner

april 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30am Worship  EASTER SUNDAY	1 Easter Monday	2 Office Hours 9am-noon	3	4 Church Office Closed	5	6
7 9:30am Worship  Coffee Hour	8	9 Church Office Closed Pastor at Clergy Gathering 10am Small Group Prayer Team	10 12:00 pm lunch at RUMC for area UMC clergy	11 Office Hours 9am-noon	12 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 	13  Game Night Family Game Night 6:30 p.m. —9:00 p.m.
14 9:30am Worship	15 3:30 pm Trustees 4:30 pm Finance	16 Office Hours 9am-10:15 a.m. Pastor leads worship at Highview 10:30 6:00 pm Leadership Cohort Webinar	17	18 Office Hours 9am-noon	19	20  Sisters in Christ 10am Newsletter articles due
21 9:30am Worship	22	23 Office Hours 9am-noon 10am Small Group Prayer Team 6:00 pm Cohort Coaching Call	24	25 Office Hours 9am-noon	26	27
28 9:30am Worship Food on the 4th  10:30 am Highway Cleanup Project	29	30 Office Hours 9am-noon Dinner for Veteran's Drop-In Center				May 4 9 am-11:30 Cleanup Day  SPRING CLEANUP