



# The Rocktonian

Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church



Rockton United Methodist Church  
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Rockton, IL 61072

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Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor  
847-271-2733 (call or text) 9am-9pm

## Worship With Us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

*RESCHEDULED!* Our annual Church Conference is the annual business meeting of the church. Members vote to confirm the budget and Leadership slate, which go into effect in January.

*Our Church Conference will take place on Wednesday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet with the District Superintendent at 4:30 p.m.*



*Please also take a moment to review the following inclusivity statement, which our Leadership Team is evaluating. We are asking members for feedback and so far, the response has been positive. What are your opinions about formally adopting a statement like this for Rockton UMC? Please contact Pastor Carolyn or any member of the Administrative Council to share your thoughts.*

**"We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed."**



"The good news of Jesus Christ is that God is with us, no matter what, no matter where, no matter when. There is no place you can go where God is not, no time of the day when God is off the clock. This is the teaching of the Incarnation, God with us, Emmanuel."

Advent rings in a new year in the Christian Calendar. While we begin this season celebrating God's choice to come to earth as a human, we also anticipate Christ's return.

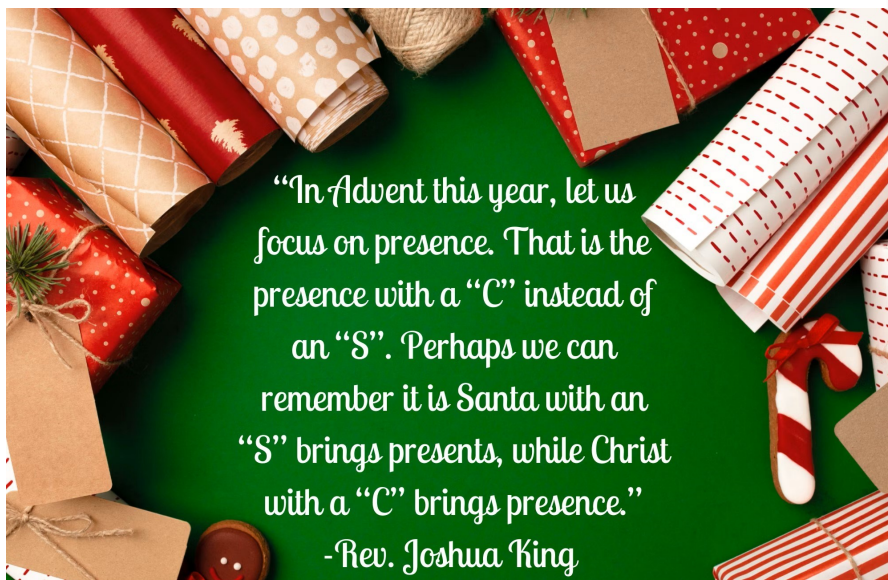
This year our focus in worship highlights the gift of Presence. So much of the focus this time of year is on presents and gifts. Those images can remind us of the opportunity to be more *present* in our daily lives: more present or attuned to God and others.

Our own presence is a gift to others, which is better than any gift money can buy.

Following Sunday worship services, we will meet for a small group study based on a book by Amy G. Oden titled *Right Here Right Now*. The book highlights Christian mindfulness, which many consider to be a Buddhist practice. However, prayerful attentiveness has a long history in Christianity. Being more attentive—more present—in our daily lives can have positive impacts for us and our community.

I hope you will join us for worship and discussions during this season of preparation and wonder.

Blessings,



# What's Up with the Building?

December 2023

Submitted by John Carleton, Trustee Chairperson

As Thanksgiving 2023 is in the rearview mirror, I know I am thankful for my friends and fellow believers at RUMC. And, while we can worship Him anywhere, we should not forget to thank God for providing a place that is safe and familiar in which to sing his praises.

--As of this writing, we are still waiting for a part to come in to fix the church water heater. All the water still works and, unless you let it run for a while, it stays at room temperature enough for a quick hand wash before it turns cold. We'll let everyone know as soon as its fixed.

--Speaking of water, have you used the dishwasher in the kitchen? The directions are on it but I'd like to find someone who has used it enough to give me some advice.

--Oops, Trustees forgot to put gutter guards on after the new gutters were installed following the tree limb smashing the corner of the roof on the parsonage. Thanks to Dan, KC and Mark for doing a quick install on the last decent Saturday of the Fall, that project is now done.

--Last call on the old library shelves. If we have no takers, they will be sawed up so they can fit in the dumpster and be hauled off. They're stacked on the floor between a couple of pews in the choir practice room next to the old office if you want to take a look. They will be tossed the week after the Rocktonian goes out unless we hear otherwise.

--The Trustees developed a budget for 2024 for the Annual Church Conference. Here's praying we can stay in it and there are no other major happenings that will throw it off. Again, thankfully, we were able to absorb some major repairs in 2023 that now will not have to be done again for a long time.

--Thanks to Jim Johnson for going in every Saturday and turning up the heat so folks can be warm in services and we can save energy (\$) during the week.

Finally, a reminder to those of you who use phones to log in to services on Sunday. Be sure to login to Zoom without video. Or, if you forget, click on the camera icon (usually in the lower left part of your screen) to take yourself off of video. You should see a red line across the icon just like muting yourself with the audio. If you have your phone facing so we can see your face, that's fine, but I'm sure most of you do not want other folks seeing the inside of your ear during services...



The church office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. and noon. It is best to call before stopping by the church if you do not have a key, in the event that Pastor Carolyn has an obligation or is called away from the church during regular office hours.

Instead of calling the church office to leave a message, you will get a faster response if you phone or text Pastor Carolyn at (847) 271-2733 between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Pastor is available 24/7 for pastoral care emergencies.

## Christmas Walk

### Craft and Bake Sale Saturday, December 2



Doors will open at 7:00 a.m. so crafters can bring in their items and set up.

*The sale will take place between*

*9:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.*

We are also selling giftable items as a fundraiser for the church. Thank you to everyone who brought in donations!

*Sisters in Christ bake sale will*

*start at 9:00 a.m.*

*and run until the baked goods are gone.*





# DECEMBER

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2  Christmas Walk
3 Worship 9:30am  First Sunday	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:30am  11am-3pm Fellowship Hall used by private group	11	12 10am Small Group Prayer Team 6pm Sisters in Christ Christmas Party at Leden's	13  CHURCH CONFERENCE 4:30pm SPRC 5:00 pm CC	14	15	16
17 Worship 9:30am	18	19	20 January newsletter articles due  4pm Trustees	21	22	23
24  CHRISTMAS EVE Worship 9:30am Food on the 4th (no evening worship)	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26 10am Small Group Prayer Team  7pm Finance	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 9:30am  New Year's Eve	1  New Year's Day					



**CHURCH  
CONFERENCE**

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