



# The Rocktonian

Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church



Rockton United Methodist Church  
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847-271-2733 (call or text) 9am-9pm

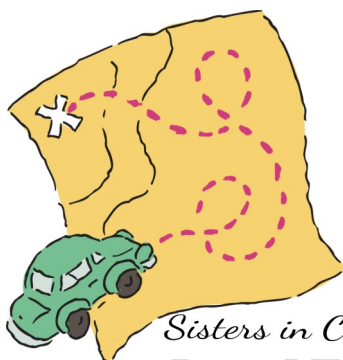
## Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

### Sisters in Christ

At our Christmas party we voted to again do our trip to Sauk City. We have had such fun on previous trips we wanted to go again. This year it will be January 20 (snow day: January 27). We will meet at the church at 9 a.m. We will need a driver for every 4 participants. Sisters in Christ will buy lunch for those who volunteer to drive.

We first drive to Clasen's Bakery in Madison to get some of their famous goodies. Then on to Sauk City to try and find some eagles fishing in the Wisconsin River. Sometimes we see lots and sometimes not but it's fun to check it out. Then lunch in the very first Culver's in Sauk City. We then venture on to the beautiful Wollersheim Winery on the other side of the river. After the winery we drive to Black

Earth to our favorite shoe store, the Shoe Box. There are so many shoes to try on and we have to limit ourselves to an hour otherwise we would never get home! We then head back home but we will stop at the Duluth Trading Company outlet store in Belleville. You never know what great finds you will discover there. All ladies in the church are invited to go with us and there are sign up sheets at the church entry doors. This is an all day event so plan accordingly. If you have any questions, please give Phyllis DeGraff a call at (608) 368-1051.



*Sisters in Christ*  
**Road Trip**



Thank you to everyone who came to our annual Church Conference on December 13. We elected leaders for the calendar year 2024 and approved a budget.

In the midst of the flurry of Christmas activities and planning for our New Year Wesley Covenant Renewal Service on 12/31, I forgot to finalize and send out a newsletter. I took a much needed day off and only at the end of it did I remember I had not sent out a newsletter. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

I am not a big fan of New Year Resolutions, mostly because I have never been very good at goal setting in general. However, when I was working in the corporate world I did learn to update my resume every year. This practice helped me keep my information current so I was ready if an opportunity presented itself. I also learned this practice provided an opportunity to review and appreciate what I had learned, both from accomplishments and mistakes.

A willingness to make mistakes and learn from them is one of the signs of a healthy congregation. As I often mention in sermons, technology has

changed our world in many ways, and churches must learn to adapt and explore new ways of connecting with our neighbors in meaningful ways.

There are no best practices or well-defined ways for churches to grow and evolve in this era. We must keep our core essence. This includes, of course, our theology—our understanding of who God is and how God acts. We are disciples—committed followers of the Way of Christ, building community in the Methodist tradition. We also have freedom to experiment and explore how best to offer the gifts of our faith with our neighbors.

I am hopeful about the year we are now entering because I have witnessed the unique gifts of this congregation: our resilience and flexibility, and our strong and caring relationships will inform our ministries.

The work before us involves discovering how to share our gifts and the Good News of God's Love with others. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our willingness to serve, I am excited for us to learn and grow together .

Blessings,

# What's Up with the Building?

January 2024

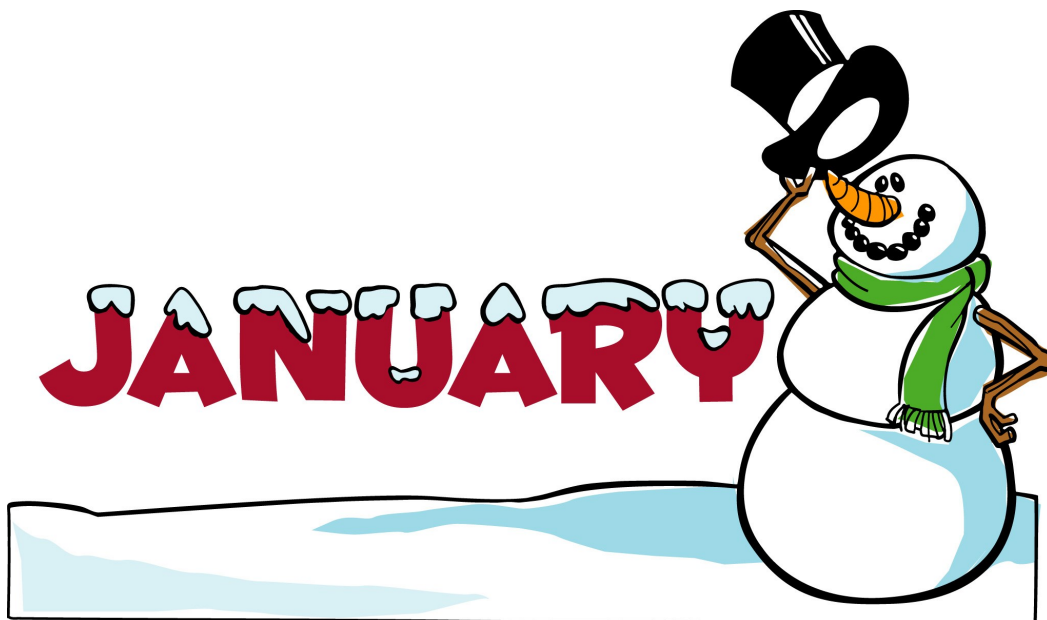
Submitted by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

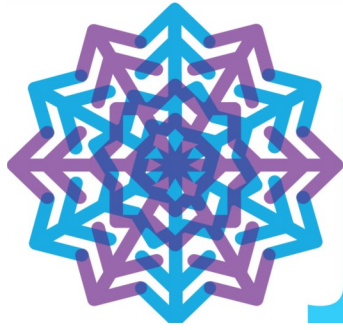
When you read this, it will be the start of a new year and let's all pray it will be a good one for RUMC filled with the blessings of what we can do for others.

The Trustees want to thank KC Wulf, Dan Davis and Mark Lukasick for their help this past year with projects that had to be done on a ladder as the rest of us are at the point we have to limit the amount of work we do on ladders. They've been invaluable installing gutter guards at the parsonage and checking the gutters at church to prevent leaks and fixing a leak when it was found.

As of the time I'm writing this we still don't have hot water available. After doing some digging in the Trustees' records, we find that our present tankless water heater was installed in the fall of 1997, some 26 years ago! That might explain why our plumber is having difficulty finding a part. After much discussion, the Trustees authorized a new water heater if the part can't be found. Frankly, with an appliance that old we don't have much choice.

Finally, Trustees are also going to have the outdoor locks re-keyed on our three outside doors. We've talked for some time about getting a handle on how many keys are out there and who has them. Early in the new year we will be getting the locks done and getting keys to distribute to those who need them on a regular basis. The new keys will be numbered and folks will be asked to sign one out so we can keep track of them. Be patient as we're going to get an initial number made to start and if we should run out then you might have to wait until we can get more. So, watch the bulletins and listen to the announcements in services for when this will happen. The plan now is to have the keys in the office and have folks return their old key and sign out a new one when they arrive.





# JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany
7 Worship 9:30am  First Sunday	8	9 10am Small Group Prayer Team	10	11  6pm Private group meeting at church	12  5:30 Girl Scouts	13
14 Worship 9:30am	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21 Worship 9:30am	22 Sisters in Christ trip to Sauk City  4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	23 10am Small Group Prayer Team  4:30 pm Admin Council	24	25 February newsletter articles due	26	27
28 Worship 9:30am Food on the 4th	29	30	31			