



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

June 2023



Rockton United Methodist Church
102 West Chapel Street
Rockton, IL 61072

Office Phone: 815-624-7591
E-mail: RocktonUMC@gmail.com
Website: www.rocktonumc.org

Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor

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

Thanks for Road Work Cleanup!



Volunteers on our Hononegah Road crew trash clean-up last month (from the Forest Preserve to Burger King) did a great job!

Helpers were Phyllis DeGraff, Brenda Wulf, Donna Chambers, Alan and Janet Bridgeland, Pastor Carolyn and Mark Lukasick, Sharon and Jerry Ruff, and Judy and Dan Davis. We had some rain, so afterwards we enjoyed our picnic lunch at the church.

Once again, thank you so much for helping out!

—Judy Davis

A Reminder about “The Upper Room”

Rockton UMC has been receiving “The Upper Room” devotional for some time, and most months very few issues have been picked up, which means many issues are discarded. If you are interested in receiving the devotional at home, you have the option of subscribing by calling (877) 899-2781, Ext. 1740. A yearly subscription costs \$14.99.

A link to online Upper Room devotionals is also available on our website.



Last month we noticed that the church offices were especially warm. The office is located directly above our boiler room on the lower level, so there has always been a "toasty" element to the office during the winter months when the boilers are working.

We addressed the core issue, but it got us to thinking: if we moved into the building today, we would not locate our offices in the most uncomfortable room in the wing! That room, since there will always be additional heat during the winter months, would best be utilized as a storage room.

Your leadership team and Trustees have started a process of exploring the best use of our space on the upper level. We are months into a project creating a custom display case which would replace the current wall of library shelving. This unit could house and display our historical items.

The Memorial Committee approved funds for the new unit, and various committees have added their input. Just as we were ready to move forward with updating the library/classroom, we were faced with the questions of how to improve the office environment.

No final decisions have been made, but the leadership wanted to make the congregation more aware of the conversations taking place.

The current thinking is that the library could be re-purposed as an office, since it is closest to the main double doors to the Education Wing.

The existing choir room is the largest room on the floor, and it could be repurposed to house two areas. A boardroom style table and chairs would serve as a meeting and adult classroom space with a tv for online participants. Other space in the room could be outfitted with comfortable lounge seating. Our current lounge in the hallway outside the sanctuary does not provide any privacy if it is needed.

Again, I want to emphasize that these are preliminary ideas which are being discussed. If you have thoughts or concerns to share, please speak to anyone on our leadership team. We want to make the most out of the resources we have, and our building is an important resource.

Blessings,

What's Up with the Building? June 2023

What's Up with the Buildings?

Submitted by John Carleton, Chairperson

Apparently, May 2023 was The "Month of the Sidewalk" at RUMC and I didn't get the original memo...by the time you read this the tilted sidewalk that goes from the West Lot to the main doors of the Education Wing will be all nice and level and the cones will be gone. Thanks to a generous donor coming forward, this \$500 project was paid for before it even started and now folks won't have to worry about tripping on the edges.

The project we didn't anticipate, however, was the chunk of sidewalk that had to be removed in the front along Chapel Street. Another water leak sprung up in the water access box outside the Women's Restroom. In order for the water to be shut off so Brian Elmer Plumbers could work on it, the Village would have to shut off the water from the main. The water in church has now been fixed and is back on but to do that, the Village had to take out part of the sidewalk, dig down, and put in a shut off valve. Fortunately, the Village will cover that cost. They also will put in a valve so they won't have to do that again. It will be torn up until there's been a few good rains to settle things and then the sidewalk will be replaced. So, we may have to wait a few weeks.

Thanks again to all those that worked during Grounds Days in early May and many thanks to KC Wulf for climbing up to clean out the accumulated gunk in the drain holes and gutters. We'll need to make that a regular job every Fall and Spring. I think the grounds are looking their best with the new mulch.

We are proceeding with the project to replace the windows in the Parsonage. Trustees were originally going to skip the big windows in the living room but Ad Board has encouraged us to get bids on replacing those as well. This is why it's great to have different groups have input to the things we do. The project to have nice shelves/cabinets to display our church artifacts is also proceeding. Along with the group working with Margo that is organizing and working on our rooms, the whole up-stairs floor is getting looked at and a discussion is ongoing as to where to put things and how to best use those rooms.

Finally, talking about rooms, we tested the dust in the Heat Exchanger Room off the Fellowship Hall for asbestos. I, like you, used to think there was a hot-air furnace in that room. What looks like a furnace is actually a heat exchanger that takes the hot water from the boilers and blows air across a heat exchanger to provide warm air to the Fellowship Hall so there's never any flame in there. While what's left of the tile on the floor does have asbestos in it, the dust does not, so that gunk will be cleaned up the first week in June. Then Trustees are looking into repairing the walls that are allowing water to seep in to the north wall of that room and the west wall of the Sisters-in-Christ Lounge.

Using Our Website for Devotions (and other things...)

Submitted by John Carleton

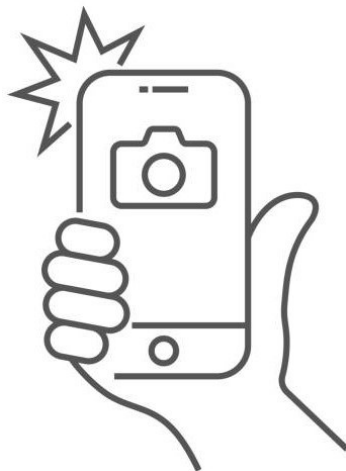
A few weeks back, Pastor Carolyn talked about the availability of the daily devotional booklets, *The Upper Room*, that used to be in a rack as you came up the stairs in the Education Wing. This article is to let you know that you can access *The Upper Room* and other devotionals on our RUMC Website.

If you go to our website at www.rocktonumc.org you can find lots of things to help you in your daily journey. Most folks think that church websites are to let folks who are unfamiliar with our church know about, and find, us. But our website also provides a lot of information in one easy location for all of our members as well. There are pictures of some church events, past copies of the year's Rocktonian Newsletter and links to many useful publications and other websites.

If you look at the tabs in a top line on the first web page, you'll see a tab on the right end that says "More" with a downward arrow. Click on that and you'll find "Links" to many resources and some articles on church history from the old Rockton Herald.

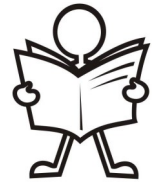
If you click on the yellow buttons under the Links, they will take you to the devotionals *Our Daily Bread*, *The Upper Room*, and *Devotions for Women*. There's also links to our Methodist Conference and National UM websites and a very useful link that allows you to look up Bible passages. Check them out!

This article is also a good place to ask all of you to provide things for our website, especially pictures! If your group has an activity, or you happen to see something going on at church you think other folks would like to see, then activate your camera on your cellphone and take some pics. While a group shot is nice, a shot with a bunch of folks doing something is better. Avoid including empty chairs, tables or pews in your pics if you can. See something going on in worship you like? Then try to quietly catch a picture, or better yet, when folks are singing and no one will hear a click then send your pictures to the office at rocktonumc@gmail.com.



Tidbits of Our History

—Rockton Herald, Edson Carr, Editor—



1893

*“From the Elgin Advocate: ‘Reverend Mr. Hall, who preaches to the M.E. people of South Elgin, has not seemed to satisfy the folks at Plato Corners, where he has been filling an appointment once each Sunday for a long time. Whether he gives the straight gospel, which many professors of religion can’t stand, or whether there is some other reason, we are not informed. On a recent Sunday he found the doors of the church locked and he could not get in. On another occasion, it is said that when he did gain admittance, he preached to an entirely empty church, not having a soul to hear him. Elder Haight told Mr. Hall to hold the fort, and that is the present status.’”

*“In speaking of the battle flags of Illinois Regiments on display at the World’s Fair, the Chicago Inter-Ocean says: ‘Many of these banners are torn by shot and shell, and tattered from ripe old age; not a few of them are stained with the blood of their defenders. One of the most conspicuous examples of this character are the colors of the gallant Thirteenth. Sergeant Patrick Riley bathed the Stars and Stripes in his life’s blood while defending the colors at Ring Gold gap, and they bear a placard detailing the gallant defense made by this famous color sergeant before he was finally killed.’”

*“It is now asserted that new fractional currency will be issued in a few weeks in denominations of 10, 15, 25, and 50 cents, and that it will resemble the old fractional currency issued during the civil war. It will be very handy currency, particularly for remitting small amounts through the mails.”

Many Thanks from Caritas!



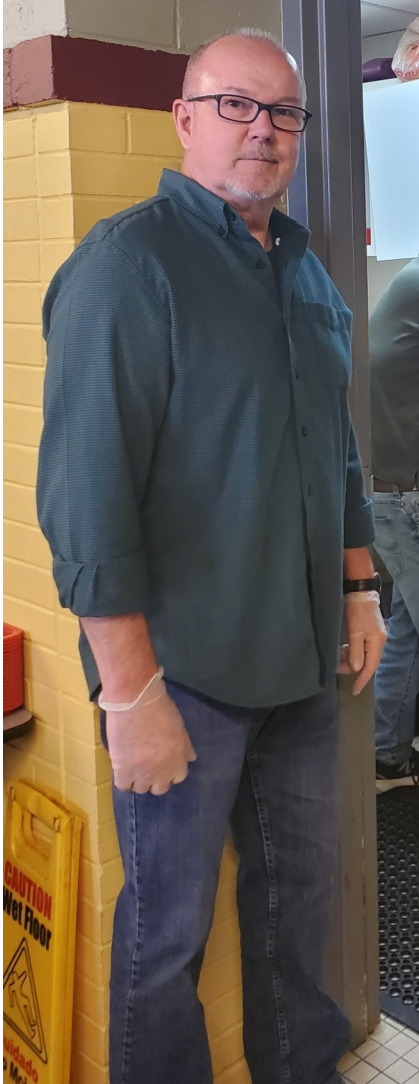
Dear Rockton United Methodist church members: Your charitable contribution of \$117 dated April 25 is timely. We at Caritas appreciate your kindness and generosity. Challenges: I have often said, “When challenges present themselves, so do the answers.” It is May and 2023 has already had its share of challenges. Increased need, while available amounts of donated food are decreasing. The answer has been to create new sources for food. We have been successful, and it better prepares Caritas for a future of uncertainty. The number of people we serve monthly is steadily increasing. To meet this need, your support gives us the capacity to continue providing food security for the neighbors we serve, regardless of the barriers that reality imposes.

Sincerely,

*Max P. Dodson,
Executive Director, Caritas*

RUMC Members Participated in Soup Kitchen in April!

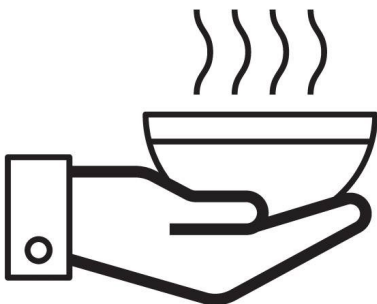
Saturday, April 22 was the day RUMC helped out at the Soup Kitchen in Rockford. The fall date is set for Saturday, Sept. 30. Sign-up for donations (monetary and food items), and participation for that month, will be posted in church as we get close to that date.



Photos: left, is Mark Lukasick, to the right: Judy and Dan Davis, Donna and Paul 's grandson Andrew, Jan Kerch, and Marilyn Reed.

To the immediate right are Pam and Laura Noel, Judy Schellenberger, Steve Noel, and Brenda Wulf.




Additional people are guests.





June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship 9:30am	5	6 → NIC Annual Conference  <i>Connected in Christ</i> <u>Come to the Table</u>	7 → NIC Annual Conference  <i>Connected in Christ</i> <u>Come to the Table</u>	8 ← NIC Annual Conference  <i>Connected in Christ</i> <u>Come to the Table</u>	9	10
11 Worship 9:30am	12	13 10 a.m. Small Group Prayer Team	14	15	16	17
18 Worship 9:30am	19	20 July Newsletter Submissions Due 7 p.m. Finance	21  First Day of Summer! 4 p.m. Trustees	22	23	24
25 Worship 9:30am Food on the 4th Graduates Recognized	26	27 10 a.m. Small Group Prayer Team	28	29	30	