



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

May 2023



Rockton United Methodist Church
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Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor

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

Church Grounds Work Day: Saturday, 9 a.m., May 6th

Brenda Wulf will be at the church cleaning up the grounds from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Help is needed in bagging leaves from under bushes, cleaning up flower beds, spraying weeds, and laying down some new mulch where needed.



Window cleaning can also be added to the "to do" list. Any questions or other suggestions, please contact Brenda (text or call) 815-988-2543. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex! Thank you.

A Word about "The Upper Room" Magazine

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...\$14.99 per year subscription.





The Easter Season has begun! At sunset on Easter Sunday, the season also known as The Great Fifty Days begins and we focus on the gift of resurrection and the hope it brings.

This year our focus in worship throughout the Easter Season is on renewal and transformation, as illustrated by the change a caterpillar undergoes when it becomes a butterfly. The same God who created caterpillars with the ability and purpose to transform and become something new also provides us with abilities and passions and opportunities to continue to learn and grow in faith throughout our lives, experiencing seasons of transformation in our own lives as we embrace ways to share the Good News of God's love with our world today.

After Jesus' resurrection, he spent time with his disciples during the next forty days before ascending to heaven. He told them to wait until the Holy Spirit arrived. They prayed and waited ten days and on a holiday known as Pentecost (which means "fiftieth") the Spirit arrived and empowered them all to go into the world bearing the Good News. They did, and they turned their world upside down. The disciples who were once clumsy, timid, and

afraid became Apostles who themselves performed miracles in Jesus' name and inspired countless others to become followers of Christ. It's a great story! You can read it yourself in the book of Acts, chapter 2. More than two thousand years later, Christians celebrate Pentecost as the Birthday of The Church, the Body of Christ here in the world today. Pentecost this year falls on May 28.

As we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, we think about what it means to live out the truth and promise of resurrection each new day. To do that, we remember that the same Spirit has given gifts to each of us so that we can make a difference in our world. As individuals and as churches, we have the same assignment the first disciples had. I don't know about you, but sometimes that thought intimidates me. Then I remember that loving our neighbors is not too great a task. It happens one person at a time, one day at a time. It is really God's love we are sharing, so there's plenty to go around!

Blessings,



What's Up with the Building? (May 2023)

What's Up with the Buildings? May 2023

Submitted by John Carleton, Chairperson

After a couple of (what I grew up calling) “frog stranglers”, the Trustees are reviewing our gutters and roofs. One of those downpours caused some minor flooding at the Parsonage as the gutters still hadn't been replaced from the ice storm. Fortunately, all the ice storm damage has since been repaired and the forked tree has been removed. Some of the limbs that were producing leaves to clog the church gutters have been trimmed. We're also going to redo some of the downspouts to get water further away from the church.

Please note that small group meetings will now be held in the old nursery in preparation for the remodeling of the library. Most of the rest of the work around the church will be small stuff that's been mentioned in earlier “What's Up?” articles or was on the list developed by the Risk Analysis walk-through with the NIC insurance administrator.

We do have one large project pending which has been bid and approved by the Trustees which is the replacement of the windows in the Parsonage. They have lost much of their ability to keep the extreme cold and heat out. The cost will be just south of \$14,000 and we will be seeking advice/approval from the Finance Committee and the Ad Board as to how to proceed. Slowly, but surely, we are dealing with our aging infrastructure.

Our church grounds are looking pretty good, but if some of you would like to help them look even better, we'll be having a Spring Grounds Day on May 6th. Look for a separate announcement in this Rocktonian for details from Brenda Wulf. Our recent Grounds Days have been well attended and when that happens, lots of good work gets done quickly.

Finally, Trustees are looking for a few folks who are comfortable and able to do some ladder work. The roof on the Education Wing has accumulated a good deal of natural debris from nearby trees which is clogging up the gutters and just generally impeding the flow of rainwater. There's a spot in the south west corner that is literally sprouting its own trees! There is a nice aluminum extension ladder at the top of the stairwell in the southwest corner for that use.

Also, when they replaced the damaged gutters at the Parsonage, they were not able to save the gutter screens so they will need to be replaced. Please contact Brenda Wulf or John Carleton if you can help. Thanks!

Tidbits of Our History

—Rockton Herald, Edson Carr, Editor—



1901 News Items

*“The Rockford Register-Gazette says a fireman at station No. 3 came across some very curious relics one day last week and some that one sees but seldom. They found imbedded several petrified potatoes, most so perfect that the eyes were discernable and some of them perfect.”

*“The Willows, south of Beloit, notorious as a shelter for criminals and disreputable types from times immemorial, are being cleared away to make room for the Rockford-Janesville electric railroad, and soon the tracks of the road will occupy the site of this disreputable place.”

*“A man in North Carolina was selling standing timber - walnut trees. The man who was buying came to one very handsome tree. He told the owner he would pay as much as \$50 for that tree. The owner did not sell but sent for experts. He got \$1,500 for the tree (curled walnut) as it stood. The man who cut the tree down realized \$3,000. It was shipped to New York and cut one-sixth to one-half an inch. The scales were watched. The tree brought \$60,000.”

*“The town of Rantoul, Ill. was wiped out by fire on Friday. A hotel and a hardware store are the only business structures left standing. The burned buildings include the post office, the Illinois Central depot, the opera house, two newspaper offices and the quarters of the telephone and telegraph companies.”

*“The board of pardons in Minnesota met last Wednesday and pardoned Cole and James Younger, the notorious outlaws who have been in the Stillwater penitentiary for the last 25 years for complicity in the robbery and murder at the time of the raid on the Northfield, Minn. Bank. They can not leave the state.”

*“‘He went flying to Jesus’ — a would-be bank burglar was literally ‘blown to pieces’ at Benton, Wis. Monday night by the explosion of nitro-glycerin, which he carried in his hip pocket. He was breaking into a creamery to get tools to force an entrance into a bank. As he was climbing through an opening into the creamery, a trap door fell and struck him on the hip thereby exploding the nitro-glycerin and he was instantly killed.”

“The plat of the new town of South Beloit, Ill. has been recorded. It is a new addition laid out south of the state line and adjacent to Beloit.” **In the latter 1800s/early 1900s, the town was simply referred to as “the South City of Beloit.”*

A Note from David Wellen




Thank you to the whole church for welcoming me and starting a new chapter in my walk with Christ. I am humbled and overwhelmed by the opportunity to serve and already be a part of this church.
In the Love of Christ, D. Wellen



May 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Roadside Cleanup after Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6 Church Grounds Work Day, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
7 Worship 9:30am	8	9 Small Group Prayer Team 10 a.m. Sisters in Christ 7 p.m.	10	11	12	13
14 Worship 9:30am	15	16	17 Trustees 4 p.m.	18 Administrative Board 7 p.m.	19	20 June Newsletter Submissions due
21 Worship 9:30am	22	23 Small Group Prayer Team 10 a.m.	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 9:30am Food on the 4th 	29 Memorial Day 	30 Finance 7 p.m.	31			