

# The Rocktonian

## Newsletter

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

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## Our Mission

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



# May

# 2024

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





The postponed 2020 General Conference is being held April 23—May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, NC. "[General Conference](#)" is comprised of United Methodist clergy and lay leaders who are elected from annual, missionary and provisional conferences around the world. This representative body is the only one that can set official policy and speak for the denomination. General Conference gathers for a 10-day meeting every four years." (from [www.umc.org/en/content/2020-general-conference-in-2024](http://www.umc.org/en/content/2020-general-conference-in-2024))

As many of you know, those wanting a traditionalist denomination broke away to create a new Global Methodist Church last May. There were provisions available for congregations to leave the UMC through the end of 2023. Many congregations, especially in the southern states of the U.S. left the UMC to join the GMC; many others became independent. Overall, since 2019, over 7,500 congregations have received approval to leave The UMC, which represents about 25%.

These changes will impact our worldwide budget and the organizations which are supported by local churches through their annual conferences.

Some individuals who created the new denomination retained membership in The UMC in order to attend General Conference with the hopes of

extending disaffiliation options or disrupting the proceedings. Their efforts have been largely unsuccessful.

Although this year's GC will not be complete until May 3, the progress so far has been very positive. Most of the work last week was in committees, which prepare or approve legislation to be brought before the entire body to be voted on. Committee work ended on Saturday, and various legislation will be debated and voted upon this week.

One of the major updates is the success of proposed Regionalization for the U.S. Other regions of The UMC have the ability to adapt or adjust the Book of Discipline according to their context. The U.S. currently requires approval of the worldwide body to make any changes; we are hoping to establish the ability to make changes in our own context. The GC approved this measure. It now needs to be approved or ratified by 2/3 of the Annual Conferences of the Church.

You can find information and updates on this year's GC via our conference website at [UMCNIC.org](http://UMCNIC.org), or find news updates at [UMNews.org](http://UMNews.org) or [ResourceUMC.org](http://ResourceUMC.org). If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask me.

Blessings,

## "Tell Me A Story..."

Perhaps each of us has sweet recollections of this common phrase, from our childhood, while being a parent, or having a beloved grandchild make the request.

A small group of leaders has been learning with our pastor about adaptive leadership (leading in new situations when best practices are not yet known.) The cohort wants to hear your stories! As our congregation grows in faith and responds to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are excited to hear the stories you have involving our church: memories from your youngest years that make you smile, transitions that have empowered you, events that brought you closer to God, even struggles that have challenged and tested you. Over snacks and in the environment of the multiple upgrades to Rockton United Methodist Church parsonage, we can hardly wait to join with you for fellowship and sharing of stories! The small groups that will be gathering are likely to be inspired and encouraged by the stories that will remind us to embrace our common heritage and allow us to learn more about God's good care for our church community. How enriched our hearts will become as we join together as long-time and more recent members and friends to move forward in God's grace.



Thank you to various church members who contributed to a new commercial vacuum cleaner for the church. Our cleaning crew will appreciate the updated equipment!



## Highway Cleanup **May 19** after church

Due to heavy rain, our highway cleanup day has been postponed to **May 19**.

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.



Judy and Dan Davis

# What's Up with the Building?

April 2024

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

Just another quick reminder of the Spring Grounds Day at church on May 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. While this is a "Grounds Day", there will be things to do in the building as well as outside. There will be something to do for everyone so all are welcome and needed! See last month's Rocktonian if you need more details.

We had a leak in the roof of the Education Wing a week or two back. Well, actually, it was not so much a leak in the roof itself as it was a leak where the roof meets the walls. We've had several of those in the past couple of years. When the roofer went up to fix this last one, he confirmed our suspicions that the Education Wing roof has about two more good seasons left in it. A third year would be stretching it. It was last replaced in the Fall of 2005 when the skylights were removed. As a result, we need to be planning to have the roof of the Education Wing redone. Hoping that we can nurse that couple of more years out of the roof, we'll be setting up plans for a two-year fund drive to pay for the roof. Prices for roofing materials could change in two years but we're going to get a "ballpark figure" on how much it will cost and go from there. So be watching in up-coming What's Up articles to see what our goal needs to be.

Finally, we've gradually been putting up LED lighting outside the church on the sign and soon on the flag pole. Just like wired lights, LED lights can have issues when batteries get old etc. If you should see a light out, please let a Trustee know, especially in the summer when lights come on much later in the evening. To put a twist on a common phrase, "If you don't see something, say something..."



**Saturday,  
May 4  
9am—11:30am**

## Sisters in Christ

On Sunday, May 5, from 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Sisters in Christ are hosting a wildflower walk in John Carleton's woods near the Pecatonica River. This will be up to three miles. The path is good but hiking boots or waterproof shoes are recommended. We will have bug spray with us for those who need it. PLEASE NOTE: **This hike is at your own risk.** We cannot get too close to the river as banks can be dangerous. We will meet at the church and carpool as there is limited parking at the site. If your families want to come along they are welcome. The last time I hiked this was in early May and the bluebells were amazing. Please RSVP to me for this hike. This will be the final scheduled event of our season. Sisters in Christ will start up again in September with a campfire at my house.

Phyllis DeGraff  
608-368-1051



## Fellowship Committee

by Gail Terry, Chairperson

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> we will celebrate Abby Deborah Enderle's high school graduation from Hononegah High School during the church service.

Please join Abby and her family and her church lady friends in Fellowship Hall after the service to celebrate with a treat of her choice, coffee/juice.



*We are very proud of you Abby!  
Good work!*



## Missions Team

Thank you to the crew who helped set up, cook, serve, and clean up for the lunch we provided at Jubilee Center on March 30. Many thanks to Sophia and Donna for the photos!



# May

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><b>April 23—May 3, 2024</b></p> <p><b>The United Methodist Church General Conference</b> CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA</p>					<p>4 9 am-11:30 Cleanup Day</p> 
<p>5 9:30am Worship</p>  <p>1pm-3pm Sisters in Christ host Wildflower Walk</p>	6	<p>7 Office closed Pastor on retreat</p>	<p>8  5pm SPRC</p>	<p>9 Office Hours 9am-noon</p>	10	11
<p>12 9:30am Worship</p> 	13	<p>14 Office Hours 9am-noon  10am Small Group Prayer Team</p>	15	<p>16 Office Hours 9am-noon</p>	17	18
<p>19 9:30am Worship</p>  <p>10:30 am</p>	<p>20 3:30 pm Trustees 4:30 pm Finance Newsletter articles due</p>	<p>21 Office Hours 9am-10:15 a.m. Pastor leads worship at Highview 10:30 4:30 pm Ad Council</p>	22	<p>23 Office Hours 9am-noon</p>	<p>24  5:30pm Girl Scouts</p> 	25
<p>26 9:30am Worship  Food on the 4th</p>	 <p><b>Memorial Day</b></p>	<p>28 Office Hours 9am-noon  10am Small Group Prayer Team 6pm Cohort Coaching Call</p>	29	<p>30 Office Hours 9am-noon</p>	31	



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