



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church



Rockton United Methodist Church
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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.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend church on Sunday, November 26 when we will also hold our annual Church Conference. This is the annual business meeting of the church where we vote to confirm the budget and Leadership slate for the following calendar year. We will also celebrate the ways we have seen God at work in our faith community.



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."



Thank you for helping make our Trunk or Treat event a success! We had fourteen cars and four groups present, as well as several folks who joined us in response to our open invitation. We weren't able to count all the kids who came through, but there were a lot! And thanks to your generosity, we had plenty of candy to give away! It was a cold day, but we were grateful it wasn't colder and the rain held off! The entire group had a lot of fun. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Together we shared joy and increased our visibility in the larger community.

Thank you also to the crowd which helped make and serve lunch at Jubilee Center on Sept 30. We had a great turnout and served over 100 meals!

On Monday, October 30, several Rockton UMC volunteers prepared and served dinner at the Veteran's Drop In Center. Thank you to everyone who helped out. Several volunteers were gifted with charms on a necklace from one of the vets!

In addition to these events, we are planning new outreach opportunities for November and December. For much of the past few decades, churches have hoped to draw new people by offering

styles of worship that they hoped would appeal to young people. This is called attractational worship. We can and should be aware of what makes worship meaningful to people. However, younger generations are looking for deeper spiritual connections and their questions and challenges were not often embraced or welcomed by established churches, so they left. New forms of outreach focus not on drawing people into church worship services, but instead connecting with people outside of the church. We have a group of people who are working to plan an outreach event the day before Thanksgiving, when kids are out of school. Our plan is to host an event where local children can make a craft and cook something fresh! We are also exploring the idea of providing an occasion for older adults to gather and connect—maybe a game night or afternoon of cards and fellowship. If you are interested in becoming involved in either of these events, please let Pastor Carolyn or Dave Wellen know. We'd love to have your help!

Blessings,

Veterans Drop in Dinner



Trunk or Treat



Food Pantry Assistance

The Old Stone Church's food pantry has asked us to help provide for our neighbors. Thank you for the donations already brought to church during October. Canned vegetables are in high demand, so we will be collecting them and boxed potatoes during the first two Sundays in November.



Thank you for helping to make this year's Thanksgiving more comfortable for our neighbors.

November 5 canned vegetables

November 12 boxed mashed potatoes

The pantry appreciates all donations: every one counts!

Soup Kitchen Update

by Donna Chambers, Coordinator

On Saturday, September 30, 2023, a group of 19 volunteers from the RUMC spent part of their day serving a pasta and meatball lunch to over 100 guests at the Jubilee Center in Rockford. We were assisted by John Stelter from the Pecatonica UMC as our certified supervisor.

This weekly outreach is organized by Emmanuel Episcopal Church and involves approximately 10-15 churches or organizations serving all year to local individuals and families. The RUMC serves twice each year with the Mission Committee determining the menu and coordinating the plans. Some of the food items were donated and the remainder was purchased with previous monetary donations.

Thank you to everyone who helps make this event a successful mission twice a year. Our next opportunity to serve will be in the spring of 2024.



Participants: Judy Davis, Dan Davis, Brenda Wulf, Roy Croissant, Andrea Enderle, Jan Kerch, Sandy Stamm, Mike Kerch, Phyllis DeGraff, Margo Leden, Judy Schellenberger, Greg Leden, Dan Enderle, Pastor Carolyn, Sophia's friend Jamari, Sophia Enderle, Mark, Lukasick, Donna Chambers and Paul Chambers.

Sisters in Christ Fundraiser

Our Sisters in Christ group is looking forward to the annual bake sale during the craft sale. We are asking members to bake goodies to sell during our one and only fundraiser for the year. In addition, we are featuring homemade granola (using Alan Bridgeland's fabulous recipe) in a pint jar for \$8 each. We will be making this granola available to members prior to the craft sale in the Narthex after church.

There is no Sisters in Christ meeting in November.

Thanks to Sisters in Christ for baking cookies for our coffee hours following church on the First Sunday!



What's Up with the Building?

November 2023

Submitted by John Carleton, Trustee Chairperson

The leaves are falling fast (along with the temperatures) so we have to think about removing the leaves and, eventually, the snow. Thankfully, snow removal for our sidewalks and parking lots will be taken care of by same volunteers as last year, and for that, we are grateful. More on this in a future article. We also have someone who is ladder capable to go up and clean out the gutters on the education wing that have been the source of leakage in the past. We are thankful as it's a job that has to be done in the cold after the trees are done shedding and, depending on the year, it can be pretty mucky. That leaves the leaves (sorry...) on the ground that have to be raked up. If you'd like to help with raking and bagging, please contact our Trustee in charge of the church grounds, Brenda Wulf, and let her know. Also, we've had a donor come forward to put covers on two of the window wells so those will go by the Heat Exchanger Room in the front.

Do you need some shelves? The old ones from the library are available. They are fiber board and reddish with brackets. If you're interested, let me know. With the new office mostly done and with most of the carpets in the Education Wing being shampooed, that part of the building is looking pretty good. We still have some painting to do in the hallways and some of the trim needs replacing so we are making progress. Finally, we are still having the church cleaned only once a month since Covid began to wind down.

Trustees discussed if this routine is working. What does the congregation think? If you have thoughts on the cleanliness of the building, please share them with a Trustee.

Some Thoughts for Those Who Attend by Zoom:

This is a reminder that when you log in to Sunday services, please, please be sure you are muted. The AV techs have it set up so everyone is automatically muted when they log on but, every once in a while, someone will take off the muting and it's hard for a tech to catch with everything else they have to do. So, please be sure the little microphone icon in the lower left has a red bar across it. If not, should you happen to cough or sneeze or maybe yell at the grand kids, it will block out the service for the others on line and sometimes, it can be so loud, those in the Sanctuary can hear it. If you have any questions about using Zoom for services, please don't hesitate to ask.

Fellowship Committee

Submitted by Gail Terry

Fire Prevention Week was October 8 through October 14. Donna G. and Nancy B brought this large gift basket to the firehouse on October 11 on behalf of the Fellowship Committee.



We will celebrate our veterans on **Sunday, November 12**. They will be recognized during the service and we will thank them with cake and coffee following worship in Fellowship Hall.

Craft and Bake Sale



We now have crafters scheduled and do not have any tables available. The door will be opened at 7:00 a.m. so crafters can bring in n their items.

The sale will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m.

The bake sale will start at 9:00 a.m. and run until the baked goods are gone.



We are also asking for nice giftable items to sell as a fundraiser for the church. Bring them into what used to be the Sisters in Christ Marketplace at any time. We will price them and set up on tables. Thank you!



The church office could use a new paper cutter. We have one, but its best days are behind it as it no longer makes straight or square cuts. If you have a paper cutter or know where to find one, please contact the office!



November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  ALL SAINTS' DAY	2 4:30pm Finance Team	3	4
5 Worship 9:30am Daylight Savings  Coffee Hour First Sunday	6	7 Election Day	8	9 1pm Nominations	10	11  Veterans Day
12 Worship 9:30am  PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS	13	14 10am Small Group Prayer Team	15 4pm Trustees 5pm Ad Council	16	17	18
19 Worship 9:30am  Thanksgiving Service	20 December newsletter articles due	21	22 1:00—3:00 pm Outreach event Crafts & Cooking	23  Happy THANKS GIVING	24 Native American Heritage Day	25
26 Worship 9:30am Food on the 4th  CHURCH CONFERENCE	27	28 10am Small Group Prayer Team	29	30	1	2  Christmas Walk

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Church Family,

I am so grateful for your faithful participation in our beloved community. Thank you for the generous gift in observance of Pastor Appreciation Month! Your kind words of encouragement and support mean more than you know. I love being the Church with all of you!

Blessings,

Pastor Carolyn

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for your kindness. After an eight day stay in the hospital recently, I'm recovering at home! Thank you so much for your cards and prayers. They meant a lot to me! Thank you!



Sharon Ruff



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.