



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church

 **OCTOBER** 2023



Rockton United Methodist Church
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Rockton, IL 61072

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Office Hours Tues, Thurs 9am-noon
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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.

The Leadership Team of Rockton UMC recently reviewed the following inclusivity statement to be considered for our congregation. We are asking members for feedback. Do you agree with the statement below? Would you change anything? What are your opinions about formally adopting a statement like this for our church? Please contact Pastor Carolyn or anyone on 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."



On Sunday, October 29, the Rockton downtown area businesses will host trick-or-treating for children between 1pm—3pm.

Although most of our members are past the season of life where we are thinking about our kids' Halloween costumes, I think our church has an exciting opportunity. Since we have a large parking lot close to the downtown area, we are planning a Trunk or Treat event, not only for our church, but welcoming other organizations to join us as well.

Our congregation describes its core value as being friendly and welcoming. Sharing our parking lot would require almost no effort or energy on our part, and could provide the chance for us to build relationships with people we otherwise would not meet.

For those who do not want to spend several hours passing out candy on a Sunday afternoon, we are asking for your support to provide candy for others to hand out.

Rockton Pride is a new non-profit organization which advocates for inclusivity and supports LGBTQ+ issues. It is comprised of mostly young adults who have limited financial

resources, but they do have energy! Most of the members of this group have had little exposure to religion, most of it negative. The group was looking to increase their visibility in the community. Between their energy and our resources, this opportunity seemed like a natural fit!

We extended an invitation to the Girl Scouts who recently started meeting in our building, and the UU church in Rockton is also interested in joining our Trunk or Treat event. If anyone has connections with other scouting troops, local 4-H clubs, or other organizations, please let me know so we can coordinate participation.

I learned recently that this is quite a large event for our downtown businesses; they often serve over *one thousand* children!

There is a new book study on Sundays following worship. We are reading Fresh Expressions, a new form of Methodist outreach, based on providing gatherings and building community outside the church. In addition to discussing the bible studies outlined in the book, we have been brainstorming

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possibilities to offer art and cooking projects as a way of building on the game nights we hosted last year. We are prayerfully considering how to connect with area families in fun, creative ways. This Sunday it seemed as though God was also inviting us to consider providing space for older adults to gather and find connection. If you are interested in helping with these new ministries, please join us on Sunday mornings. We hope to kick off in November and hand out flyers

at the Trunk or Treat event to promote these new ministries.

If you are interested in joining the fun, please consider donating candy and let us know if you plan to bring a car to participate on October 29. We hope to fill up our parking lot and have a lot of fun making new friends in the community!

If you have any questions or concerns or suggestions to improve the event, please let me know.

Blessings,



Food Pantry Assistance

The Old Stone Church's food pantry usually has a local company sponsor a food drive to help provide items for the dozens of turkey baskets they distribute in November. This year the company is unable to sponsor the food drive, so the pantry's director is asking local congregations to help provide for our neighbors.

They are requesting the following donations, spread out over the next seven weeks. Please consider making a financial donation or bringing food on this list to church as you are able to help make this year's Thanksgiving more comfortable for our neighbors.

October 1	boxed macaroni and cheese
October 8	boxed cereal
October 15	ramen noodles
October 22	boxed or packaged turkey stuffing mix
October 29	canned fruit
November 5	canned vegetables
November 12	boxed mashed potatoes



The pantry appreciates all donations: every one counts!

What's Up with the Building?

October 2023

Submitted by John Carleton, Trustee Chairperson

As summer is now in the rear-view mirror, several things that have been in progress have been completed or are getting close to completion. There are other small projects in progress that really aren't worth the space here.

- ◆ But it's really worth mentioning that the new windows at the parsonage have been installed and look great. Pastor and Mark will be shielded from the drafts when the polar vortex comes down and they already notice that the house is much quieter. We're going to try having our painter, Dave Atterbury, see what he can do with the large windows in the living room.
- ◆ We finally got all the bids to do some waterproofing but, after listening to three different contractors and their evaluations of the situation, some of the Trustees have some ideas that may be more cost effective. We're going to try covering the window wells and we're already working to be sure water drains away from the building better.
- ◆ With the leaves beginning to come down, the grounds will soon be getting to the point to where they could use some work. Mark's been working on the bushes but we'll need other folks to help with Fall cleanup. Please contact Brenda Wulf and let her know you'd like to help. We've learned that it's essential that the gutters are cleaned of all the summer tree debris so we will need someone who is ladder-capable to go up and clean them out before the snow flies and the leaves are frozen in the gutters.
- ◆ Thanks are in order for the crew that put up the banners in the Education Wing entry way. While we couldn't hide it all, it looks much better than the white efflorescence on the brick wall.
- ◆ The newly redone office is really taking shape thanks to the dedicated crew that's been working on it. We hope to have the office equipment moved over by the time you read this.
- ◆ There is always something that needs doing around the church so if you have some time and the skills, let a Trustee know. Some examples would include adopting a vacuum cleaner to be sure it is working as best it can or, if need be, see it gets junked. We'll be needing around a dozen well covers in two different sizes so if you'd like to donate to put one or two over a window, let a Trustee know. You can always contact me at jcarle@charter.net Thanks!!



*It's Time for
Fall Cleanup*

Fellowship Committee

Upcoming Events

Submitted by Gail Terry

Fire Prevention Week is October 8 through October 14. Traditionally, the Fellowship Committee, representing our church, has honored the firefighters by presenting them with a large basket of goodies for the station.



They love receiving it and we love giving it! Thank you to Donna G. and Nancy B for your dedication to this project—purchasing, arranging, and delivering the basket.



Veteran's Day is November 11. We will honor our veterans in church on Sunday, November 12 during the service and will celebrate with cake and coffee in Fellowship Hall following worship. We need to know if there are any changes or additions that should be made to our annual tribute in the worship service. Please contact the church at (815) 624-7591 or email at rocktonumc@gmail.com and we will get back to you.



Holiday Bake Sale

We will hold our annual Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, December 2, the Saturday of Rockton's Christmas Walk. The bake sale will run from 9:00 a.m. until the goodies are gone. Phyllis will provide details as we get closer to the date.

The Craft Sale will start at 9:00 a.m. and run until 5:00 p.m. Doors will be open at 7:00 a.m. for crafters to bring in their items. There will be someone available to help the crafters carry things in if needed. The lift is not available to bring in items The cost of tables is \$20, which includes a lunch (for crafters only). We have some table spaces still available so please contact Gail Terry at (815) 988-0498 to reserve a space or ask questions.

We are again asking for donations of nice, giftable items to be sold as a fundraiser for the church. Bring them in any time please and thank you.





October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 4pm SPRC	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:30am  First Sunday	9	10 10am Small Group Prayer Team 7pm Sisters in Christ	11	12	13 5:30pm  Girl Scouts	14
15 Worship 9:30am	16	17	18 4pm Trustees	19	20 November newsletter articles due	21
22 Worship 9:30am Food on the Fourth	23	24 10am Small Group Prayer Team 7pm Finance Team	25	26	27 5:30pm  Girl Scouts	28
29 Worship 9:30am Food on the 4th  1-3pm	30 Veterans Drop In Supper	31 Halloween				

Thank you to Pastor Carolyn for her visit to see me on my 100th birthday and for the beautiful flower arrangement. Also Thank You for all the cards I received from my church family. I have been blessed and appreciate all.

Betty Homer



Georgiale Colby is offering to donate the following instruments. Please call (815) 871-3761 if you know



Instruments Available

anyone who is interested.

Kimball Spinnett Piano



Margaret Downing no longer works at the church, so unfortunately the Historical Tidbits will no longer be featured in our monthly newsletter. The church office will still be 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.

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 29 1-3pm



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