



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church
September 2023



Rockton United Methodist Church
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Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor

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

Mark Your Calendar! Saturday, December 2nd
Holiday Craft/Bake Sale...and Luncheon!

We will be holding our Craft and Bake Sale on the Saturday of Rockton's Christmas Walk, which is set for Dec. 3rd. The Bake Sale will start at 9 a.m. and end either at 5 p.m. or whenever all the baked goods are gone. Specifics about donating will be available as the date gets closer. The Craft Sale will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The door will open at 7 a.m. for set up. Tables will be \$20 each, which includes lunch. We want our church members to have first chances to reserve a table. You can call the office at (815) 624-7951 or Gail Terry at (815) 988-0498. The lift will not be available for bringing in items. There will, however, be someone available to help carry items down the stairs on Fri., Dec. 2nd at 7 a.m. We will again be requesting contributions of nice, "giftable" items to be sold as a church fundraiser. If you are cleaning out and have some nice items we might sell, please set them aside or bring them in and we will store them until the sale!



Submitted by Gail Terry



Last Sunday I shared something I learned about a book I recently read for school. A former Discipleship Pastor for a megachurch had become discouraged because he couldn't understand why some resources like classes and training on spiritual disciplines helped bring about lasting change (transformation) in church members, while others seemed to not be receptive to change. When he met a person specializing in brain science, he became fascinated with how we use our brains and how we communicate and grow. He learned that the part of the brain we usually call the creative side is also driven by relationships and emotions, while the "left brain" which we think of as limited to logic processes new information and information.

People are relational beings, and this pastor recognized the church members who grew spiritually were also connected with other Christians relationally; those who did not experience transformation were more isolated.

During the first few centuries of Christianity, the early church was focused not on learning the right things or knowing the correct answers to theological questions. Instead, their

focus was on learning to live their lives like Jesus did. Once Christianity was legalized in the fourth century (and gained access to political power), the commitment to nonviolence became more optional; belonging to the church and believing its teachings became more important than living in ways distinctively different from the culture.

Especially in the past two centuries, Christianity has become more about what people *believe*, rather than how they *live*. We don't talk much about transformation, and over time many Christians have resigned themselves to settling for a faith that will hopefully pay off on the other side of death.

The author and former pastor realized that if we focus on strengthening our connections with God and one another, transformation will happen more often as we nurture the soil of our souls in beloved community.

As he learned more about how our brains filter and process learning, he realized we have been trying to take shortcuts as we skip over some crucial elements. Connection and belonging and joy are a few of the critical ingredients present in vital faith communities.

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During the coming weeks, we will explore and experiment with what it means to embrace and incorporate more of the relational elements into our congregation. I believe this is something many of you have been missing. I often hear stories about how you miss the events and meals and gatherings the congregation used to hold. I suspect it wasn't because of the amazing birthday cake—it was the connection with one another.

This is only one of the things I am encouraged about as we transition from summer to autumn. I have been exploring the possibility of building on the game nights we offered to local children last year. They had so much fun! I know of congregations who have

had success offering cooking classes or art classes for the larger community. We happen to have newer members who are both trained in these areas and interested in providing these types of experiences. We may need help coordinating and communicating these events, and if you are interested in supporting this potential outreach, through your prayers, your time, your financial support, or by providing supplies, please reach out to me and let me know your interest.

I am excited to see where God is at work within and around our congregation. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community!

Blessings,



Memorial Committee Project Completed



Rockton United Methodist Church now has a beautiful display case! The Memorial Committee agreed to use some of its funding to create this dedicated space in the former Library (at the top of the stairs in the Education Wing). This room will now become the church office and more of our unique historical items will greet members and visitors upon arrival at the church! The design was inspired by the architecture at the Education Wing entrance (see photo). Please take a moment to thank the members of our Memorial Committee who made this beautiful addition possible: Chairperson Nancy Bielema, Treasurer Donna Granath, Darlene Matlock, Peggy Wellnitz, Paul Chambers, and Pam Noel.



Tidbits of Our History

—Rockton Herald, Edson Carr, Editor—



1877:

"We notice that several buildings are being repaired and fitted up which will add greatly to the beauty of Rockton. Among the many, we mention the following: Mr. Gay's building adjoining the race is assuming decidedly improved appearance. Dr. Waite is rebuilding the house on the corner north of Waite's hotel. Mr. James McDonald, elated with dignity and honors as one of the recently elected city fathers, has added a new roof to his house with increased height to be in keeping with emoluments of office."

Advertising was going full blast in the periodicals by 1877:

Advertised was a schedule for the "Rockton and Beloit Express: S.S. Boone will run a bus for passenger and express business to Beloit and return every day. Leaves Rockton 8 a.m., arrives Beloit 8:30 a.m. Leaves Beloit 10:30 a.m., arrives Rockton 11 a.m."

Some other classified ads listed included; "Low Prices and Square Dealings is the motto of the Centennial Clothing House, Scott's old stand opposite the Gazette office, Rockford." "New England House, William Lawshe, Proprietor. Corner of Main and Washington Streets, Rockton." "D.V. Waite, M.D. Physician and surgeon. Office and residence two doors west of the Congregational Church, Rockton, Ills." "\$25 buys a new stove and furniture at the Rockton Hardware."

A long advertisement said, "New Cash Store, Groceries and Confectionary, J.H. Humphreys would announce to the citizens of Rockton and surrounding country that he has opened a grocery and confectionary store in connection with his Picture Gallery where you can always find a good assortment of staple groceries at low prices, as the same quality of goods can be bought for in any other place in town. I do not pretend to sell at cost but I will sell at the *lowest living price* possible. My goods are all new and fresh and are warranted to give satisfaction. Give me a call before purchasing elsewhere and satisfy yourselves as to prices. My stock consists of Teas, Coffees, Sugar, Rice, Raisins, Starch, Soap, Baking Powder, Saleratus, Crackers, etc. Also salt and water lime for sale by the bbl.* or lb." *(Note: "bbl." - by the barrel.) The ad continued, "Remember the place, first door west of Post Office, Rockton. Persons wishing Pictures taken will always find me ready to attend them in that line. Copying of old pictures a specialty. J.H. Humphreys, Rockton,"



Main St. Rockton, 1800s



September 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 9:30am	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:30am	11	12 10 a.m. Small Group Prayer Team 7 p.m. Sisters in Christ at DeGraff Home	13	14	15	16
17 Worship 9:30am	18	19	20 12 p.m. Oct. Newsletter Articles Due 4 p.m. Trustees 5 p.m. Admin. Council	21	22	23
24 Worship 9:30am Food on the 4th	25	26 10 a.m. Small Group Prayer Team 7 p.m. Finance Team	27	28	29	30 9 a.m. Soup Kitchen

Other Upcoming Events



Invitation: Sisters in Christ Meeting

Dear Sisters: You are invited to my house, 12552 W. St. Lawrence Ave., Beloit, on Tues., Sept. 12 from 6-8 p.m. for our first meeting of the season! Snacks and drinks will be provided. We'll have fellowship around our campfire and enjoy each other's company. If you need a ride, please let me know!

Phyllis DeGraff! (608) 365-1051

Soup Kitchen Reminder from Donna Chambers

Soup Kitchen volunteers: Our upcoming September 30th Soup Kitchen activity is coming soon. More specific information will be shared on Sundays in church.

