



# The Rocktonian

February Newsletter 2025

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

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Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor  
847-271-2733 (call or text) 9am-9pm

Welcoming all in Jesus' name  
as we Grow Together in Faith, Service, and Love  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

## Calling All Cooks!

There are two projects aimed at helping supplement the meals volunteers are making and bringing to several members. The cooking will take place Saturday, February 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Sisters in Christ will be making their homemade soup. Volunteers will help chop veggies, cook the soup, then freeze servings.

There will also be a group of volunteers preparing casseroles; servings will also be frozen for future delivery.

Men and women are welcome to come, whether seasoned cooks or helping hands willing to assemble or help as needed. Your time and effort will make a difference!





As we look forward to Spring , I wanted to provide updates on a Community Garden currently being planned.

This garden will be a collaborative project between the Roscoe Gardening Club and Rockton UMC. The proposal, which has been approved by Trustees and our Administrative Council, named the following objective:

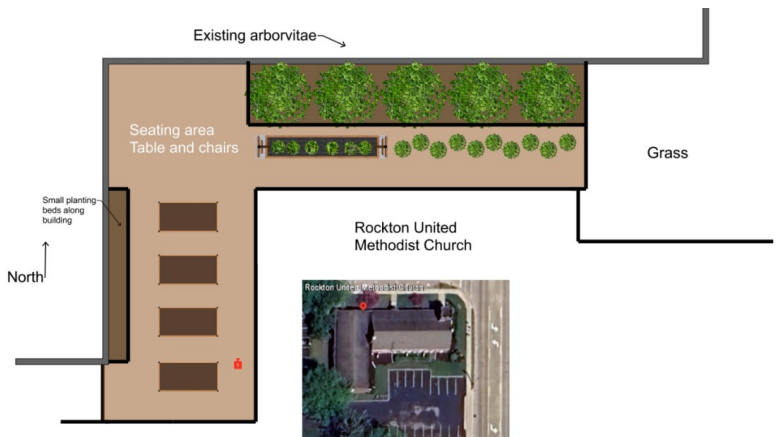
*To create a Community Garden on the grounds of Rockton United Methodist Church which engages the local community and provides a nurturing environment enabling individuals to have access to fresh, ecologically grown food, while encouraging environmental biodiversity, beautification and sustainable gardening practices.*

One of our goals is to promote connections with the larger community as we encourage participation among other community members.

The produce from this garden will benefit local food pantries and households in need of fresh food.

I am excited about this project because not only will we be building on our dedication to support local food needs through Food on the Fourth, we will be exploring new opportunities to connect with our neighbors and the needs in our larger community.

We know our congregation does not have the energy or volunteer force able to take on a large project like this. The beauty of this opportunity is that it allows us to tap



into our gifts of Hospitality and Welcoming as we invite others to join us in a project to bless our neighbors. Rockton UMC will provide an ideal, central location and water for the garden beds. The Gardening Club will organize the plantings and coordinate volunteers to maintain it. Of course, we are hoping to include volunteers from Rockton UMC who are willing to help maintain the garden or support these efforts.

Lori Lee will serve as the contact person for the church and be our liaison for the Gardening Club. Please feel free to contact either her or me with any questions you may have as we experiment our way forward. We will keep you informed and ask you to be in prayer about how we might explore new ways to provide genuine, loving hospitality as this project unfolds.

Blessings,

# What's Up with the Building?

February 2025

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

Keep your fingers crossed, but we're starting February and, so far, there's been more of a need for salt-spreading than snow-shoveling. It's still important to say a big thank you to those who sometimes have to get up early to come in and make sure the walks are safe when folks come to church even if there's just an inch or two (which is often more slippery than a foot of snow...). There's a bunch of you, some who do it regularly, and others who fill-in when needed. Your efforts are appreciated!! Oh, and let's also thank the folks who run the vacuum in the narthex to clean up that salt when it gets dragged in from the outside.

How's the temperature in the building? I've talked about replacing the church thermostats in previous Rocktonians and as of this writing, some have been replaced and others are coming. The one in the Sanctuary will be the trickiest one. If all goes well, it will turn up the heat early Sunday morning so someone doesn't have to come in Saturday night to do it. It may need adjusting when it's finally installed so, talk to those around you to see if they agree, and if it's too chilly or too toasty then let us know so we can adjust things.

The Trustees had already started a gradual replacement of CFL bulbs with LED bulbs a couple of years ago. The Clean Lighting Act passed back in August in Illinois, gives us until 2026 to get rid of them and until 2027 for us to stop using fluorescent tube. That last one will be more impactful as we have lots of tubes in the Fellowship Hall and classrooms. We can use up what we have but as the law kicks in we won't be able to buy or replace old tubes when they go out. This is a good thing as LED's are safer and use less electricity, it will just take an initial investment to get us there.

The Trustees continue to thank the crew that's been going through the rooms and identifying items that haven't been used for a long time or are obsolete and getting rid of them. There are on-going discussions as to how to re-purpose the classrooms so they can be put to good use. If you have an idea, let someone know so you can be a part of the discussion.

Finally, the lift got fixed Wednesday. The door switch had a sticky mechanism and the tech took it apart and lubricated it so, hopefully, it will work as intended again. If you need to use the lift, let someone know so you can be assisted or even trained on how to use it.

# Sisters In Christ

by Phyllis DeGraff

Here are the pictures taken by Lisa, Jan Kerch's friend, on our outing. We had a great time. The first stop was Clasen's European Bakery in Middleton where we enjoyed picking out some fabulous bread and pastries. Next we drove to Sauk City and Prairie du Sac to look for eagles fishing on the Wisconsin River. We saw between 15 to 20 eagles right by the dam and observed them fishing in the river. Next we had lunch at Culver's and then drove over to nearby picturesque Wollersheim Winery. The road then led to The Shoe Box in Black Earth. If you haven't experienced this store, you should. They have two full stores of shoes and accessories in all sizes (including hard to find sizes). As we continued south we stopped by Duluth Trading's outlet store in Belleville. We ended up back at the church at 5:30 p.m.

Information will be provided at a later date but plan on a movie night at Beloit Classic Cinema on February 11. We will have to wait a bit to find out what movies are playing and the timing of the showings.



# F.E.B.R.U.A.R.Y

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am Worship	3 Pastor at Board of Ordination meetings all day	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:30am Worship	10	11 10am Small Group Prayer Team   Sisters in Christ Movie Night	12	13	14	15 9am Church Cooking Day
16 9:30am Worship	17  4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	18 10am Retirement Home Worship	19	20  Newsletter articles due	21	22
23 9:30am Worship	24	25 10am Small Group Prayer Team	26	27	28	