



The Rocktonian

Newsletter

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

Office Hours by appointment
email: RocktonUMC@gmail.com
website: www.rocktonumc.org

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.



**November 4,5,6
in Roscoe**

Dine in or Drive thru
orders mentioning
Rockton UMC will
support our fundraiser.



Sometimes I wish Thanksgiving was able to keep pace with Halloween and Christmas in terms of its ability to generate revenue for retailers. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see reminders of the many reasons to be grateful throughout the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving? Then again, perhaps it is a blessing that this simple tradition of slowing down and gathering with friends and loved ones to give thanks to God has not become overly commercialized.

In celebration of our one national holiday which calls attention to gratitude and God's provision, I want to share with you some of the things for which I give thanks to God. I am so blessed to live with my husband and pets in a lovely home located on a quiet street in a really special town. Among the various places I have lived, Rockton is most similar to the small, close-knit farming community where I grew up. I am grateful that our eleven grandchildren all live nearby.

I am grateful for the privilege to serve as your pastor. This is a truly wonderful congregation with rich history and so many members who understand that ministry is something we ALL do! I am especially thankful for the many ways our church makes efforts to reach out to our neighbors in Christ's name. I appreciate our leadership team and the ways we are working together to support the church as well as explore new opportunities in ministry.

The love and support of our extended church family is a blessing which money cannot buy. Every week's worship service is a reminder that the most important offerings which we bring to God are the gifts of our praise and gratitude. We share God's joy in the midst of our celebrations and we share God's comfort during times of loss and difficulty. We share encouragement and faith with each other along the journey. We worship a Risen Savior who was and is and is to come! God's overflowing love, the peace of Jesus, and the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit are gifts which truly set us free and give us new life. And they are freely offered to all who are willing to receive them.

So, even though the political advertisements won't be replaced after the election with thanksgiving ads reminding us to be grateful for the truly important blessings in life, I invite you to join me in practicing the habit of giving thanks to God regularly in the days and weeks ahead.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!
His faithful love endures forever.*

Blessings,

*1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 106:1,
Psalm 107:1, Psalm 118:1, 29, Psalm 136:1*

What's Up with the Building?

November 2024

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

Lately the Trustees have been doing some planning regarding our heating system and security. With our building not being used on a regular basis, we're trying to balance cost with comfort. We've started by reviewing our thermostats (some of which are originals) to make it easier to have heat when we need it and cut back when we don't. Be patient and provide feedback as we gradually replace some of the thermostats to better control the different areas of the church (there are six heating areas). And, don't be surprised if you make a quick stop during the week to find much of the church cooler than usual.

As to security, we're going to start by installing some wireless cameras to monitor the doors and other parts of the building. Again, this will be done gradually, so stay tuned as this project proceeds.

A while back you may have heard there was a discussion of whether we could save money by unplugging the fridge and freezer in the kitchen. As many of you advised us, this is probably not good for those two appliances to be stopped and started. After the Chambers loaned us their home watt meter, we were able to determine that the two of them together use about \$75 a year in electricity which is not worth all the headaches we might create by unplugging them. We're always looking for ways to save the church money, but that isn't one of them especially if we are going to try to make more and better use of our kitchen for community events.

I'll close with a reminder for everyone that will be facing us in the next couple of years, the roof. Any ideas (and contributions) on how to fund replacing our aging roofs will be greatly appreciated. Our goal is about \$55,000 so we've got some work to do.

Thank you for the generous expression of your support during Pastor Appreciation Month. I am truly grateful to be serving alongside all of you as we live into our callings together as disciples of Jesus.



I would like to thank all of you who remembered my 101st birthday with cards and kind words. I appreciated your thoughtfulness. I am fortunate to have reached this age.

Blessings to all,

Betty Homer

Sisters In Christ

On November 19 at 6:30 we will be having a Hygge Evening (pronounced hoo-gge) in our basement room.

The definition of hygge in Glydendals Rode Ordboger (Glydendals Red Dictionary) is comfort, coziness, snug, homelike, pleasant, nice.

Bring along your current craft project, pictures of your latest trip or vacation, picture books made from your vacation photos, or just bring yourself along for a dose of sisterhood!

Any questions, contact Phyllis at (608) 368-1051.



Photos from October's Sisters In Christ Alcohol Painting



Soup Kitchen

On Saturday, September 28th a group of dedicated Rockton United Methodist Church members served a delicious, satisfying meal to about 120 Rockford residents at the Jubilee Center in Rockford. The mostaccioli with meatballs in marinara sauce with side dishes and pumpkin pie for dessert was served by 14 hard working people. Lori and Kelly did an awesome job of handling the heavy lift of food preparation (and clean-up, ugh!) even though they had no previous experience with the activity or in the Jubilee Center kitchen. The many additional tasks were well handled by the rest of the crew.

Thank you very much for everyone who donates and participates in this activity.

It has been determined by the missions committee that we will increase our participation in the Soup Kitchen ministry to three times in 2025 since we are blessed with people who are excited about participating. The dates for next year will be announced in December.





Thank you to everyone who donated candy and participated in this year's Trunk or Treat. We gave away loads of candy and enjoyed handing out treats with friends who joined us from Rockton Pride, The Rockton UU congregation, and Girl Scouts.

We didn't have a costume contest, but if we did, Jan and Mike Kerch would have won hands down!



Fellowship Committee

Fellowship Baskets
were delivered to the
Rockton Fire Department
October 16



Veterans' Day



is November 11 so we will celebrate our veterans in worship on Sunday, November 10 during the church service. After worship we will serve coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall to continue the celebration. Please plan on joining us!

Craft and Bake Sale

On December 7th we will hold our annual craft and bake sales coinciding with Rockton's Christmas Walk. We have crafters with a good variety of handmade items—something for everyone! The sale will run from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to select one of a kind gifts for your family and friends or just treat yourself. Please support our crafters with your presence and by sharing the date and time on your social media. Thank you!



Hanging of the greens is scheduled after church service on November 24th and will include setup and decorating for the craft and bake sale.

We need a medium size Christmas tree for Fellowship Hall. If anyone has a tree that is no longer being used, please consider donating it. Call Gail Terry at (815) 988-0498 to arrange pickup.



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  ALL SAINTS' DAY	2
3 9:30am Worship  Observing All Saints Day with Fellowship after worship	4 4:30 pm Nominations 6pm Rockton Pride meeting Culver's Night Fundraiser	5  Election Day Culver's Night Fundraiser	6 Culver's Night Fundraiser	7	8	9
10 9:30am Worship Honoring our Veterans with Fellowship after worship	11  THANK YOU VETERANS	12 10am Small Group Prayer Team	13	14	15	16
17 9:30am Worship 11am—2pm private Birthday Party in Fellowship Hall	18 4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	19 10am Retirement Home Worship 4:30pm Ad Council 6:30pm Sisters in Christ	20 Newsletter articles due 4:15—5:45 SPRC meeting	21	22	23
24 9:30am Worship Food on the 4th Hanging of the Greens and Craft Sale setup after worship 	25	26 10am Small Group Prayer Team	27	28  THANKSGIVING Day	29  Native-American Heritage Day	30
Office Hours by Appointment						