

**Rockton United  
Methodist Church**  
PO Box 293  
Rockton, IL 61072

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## The Rocktonian

**Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church  
January & February 2018**



### **Worship With Us**

Sunday Worship 9:00 am &  
Fusion Worship 10:45 am

Children's Sunday School 9:15 am

Enjoy fellowship after service with coffee and treats!

### **Visit Our Website**

[www.rocktonumc.org](http://www.rocktonumc.org)

### **Contact Us**

Rockton United Methodist Church  
102 West Chapel Street, PO Box 293  
Rockton, IL 61072

Office Phone: 815-624-7591  
Office Hours: Mon-Wed, 8-12; Fri 8-11  
Email: [info@rocktonumc.org](mailto:info@rocktonumc.org)

### **Pastor Megan Smick**

Cell phone: 815-742-7952  
Pastor Smick's Office Hours: Wed & Thu 1-3  
(call before coming)  
Email: [megansmick1@gmail.com](mailto:megansmick1@gmail.com)

### **Mission Statement**

Grow FAITH in Jesus Christ.  
Share LOVE with others.  
Give SERVICE to our neighbors.



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### Mission Statement

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## Message from the Pastor

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.  
In God, whose word I praise—  
in God I trust and am not afraid.*

Psalm 56: 3-4

Many of you know that back in September, I found a kitten in a ditch. She weighed only a little over half a pound, and I think had become exhausted from trying to keep up with her mother. A warm bed and good food (plus de-worming and de-fleaing) soon restored her to health. She was frightened for the first couple days we had her, but quickly realized no one was going to hurt her. She began to enjoy ear rubs and chewing on fingers with her tiny teeth. It wasn't long before a surprisingly raucous purr emerged. We named her Pumpkin, because she seemed like our Halloween kitten.

Pumpkin has thrived. She turns most ordinary tasks in our house into a 3-ring circus with her energetic antics. But she is also a cuddler. When she finally wears out, she loves to find a warm lap and be stroked into a stupor. She was feral—born wild and unaccustomed to human touch. But with love and nurture, she has come to depend on and trust her human family.

So I've had ample opportunity to ponder trust lately. As Pumpkin lays with such faith in my lap, knowing that I have only good for her, it convicts me. I wonder if I trust God half as much as she trusts me.

As the church, we face uncertain times. Our culture is increasingly secular. Our denomination is wrestling with issues of human sexuality and division. Our congregation isn't growing as we would like it to. The temptation is there to focus on the negative and give up efforts to grow the Kingdom of God among us. I get that; but, we need to keep in mind that this is the opposite of the trust and faith we are called to.

When Lazarus was sealed in the tomb, his sisters thought it was over, but Jesus changed that. When Jesus died on the cross, his disciples thought it was over, but they couldn't have been more wrong. When the early church was persecuted, many thought it was lights out for the faithful, but they were mistaken.

Our God is one of reversals, transformation and new life. All he requires from us is faith—faith of heart and action. So we worship and pray and read scripture. We minister and serve and call forth the Kingdom with our love. And we trust in our God of mercy and redemption.

In an act of faith, we continue to reach out to our community. The Vision Team is working on two new projects to accomplish this. On Sunday, December 17, we will be offering a parents' day out to our local grade schools. We are partnering with the retired adults at D'Agnolo apartments to entertain children from 1 to 5 in the afternoon while parents take a rest or make holiday preparations.

Also coming up, John Carlton and I are meeting with the Administrative Team at Hononegah High School to discuss working together on a caring network. Our vision is that we could be a hub of giving in our community that engages students and neighbors to donate to disaster relief in our country, and local projects as well.

# CHURCH NEWS



## Let Us Pray For:



.Please pray for Charlie; Pauline; Harlow; Joannie; Randall; Carolyn; Jim; Rick; Laura & Jared; Jane; Vicky; Roy; for emergency first responders; patience with my mother; for acceptance by family; a sister who is struggling; those who need a positive attitude; families in stress; those dependent on Social Security; for a family struggling with forgiveness; Olds family; Byer family; Peek family, Sterit family, Rallo family; Elmer family, Weber family; Mortenson family; Severide family; Dioysius family; Wagner family; that hate in our country would be overcome; our church and its mission; our country & leaders.



### 2018 SOUP KITCHEN DATES

April 14, 2018

September 29, 2018

### Veteran's Meals

We go to the Veteran's Drop in Center in Rockford to prepare and serve great meals for our veterans. The next meal will be: March 16, 2018.

If interested, please call the church office at: 815-624-7591.

### Donation needs for Caritas

**Food:** Shelf stable fruit (preferably unsweetened or light syrup), canned meat (chicken, tuna, salmon),

**ketchup, Meal Makes (hamburger/chicken/tuna Helpers)**

**Personal Hygiene:** Feminine products, deodorant (men and women), baby shampoo/body wash, baby wipes, diapers sizes 4-6

**Office Supplies:** Sharpies (black), stamps, standard copy paper.

**Volunteers:** Host/Hostess Wednesday & Thursday. AM & PM, on call to help with donations.

**Please put things in the bin in the narthex**

ATTENTION: ALL RUMC GROUP LEADERS, CHOIR DIRECTORS, MISSION CHAIRPERSONS, ETC.

- **OUR CHURCH WILL SOON HAVE A NEW WEBSITE AND WE ARE IN NEED OF:**
- New pictures of your group in action
- Updated descriptions of what your group does.
- When and where it meets.
- Information about your group and any celebrations, events.
- Pictures of previous happenings to make them want to join.
- Take a cell phone picture or two!

Your information will be added soon after it is received. Please understand that all information received **may** have to be edited for space requirements.

Send information, pictures and more to John Carlton at [jcarle@charter.net](mailto:jcarle@charter.net).

### Mark your Calendar

Join us for a "Mash-up Event" on Wednesday, **February 14**

We will be starting the Lenten Season by celebrating Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and Valentine's Day with an event that "mashes" them all together! Please plan to be with us for:

**6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service** in the sanctuary

**6:30 p.m. Dinner** in the Fellowship Hall

There is no cost for the dinner, but a free will offering will be taken to cover the cost of the groceries. We hope to see you on February 14th for a great evening of worship and fellow-

### 50th Wedding Anniversary

**Frank & Johanna  
Berman  
November 11, 1967**

**Michael & Becky Berman McMahon  
and their families celebrated their  
parents, 50th Wedding Anniversary on  
November 11, 2017.**

### 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Margaret (Peg) Hayelan will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on February 27, 2018. She will be flying to Texas on February 20, 2018.

We will be having her party on:

- ◆ Sunday, February 25, 2018
- ◆ Rio Valley Estates
- ◆ In our Hall at the Park
- ◆ Weslaco, Texas

We know that she would love to receive birthday cards from her church members. Please mail to the following address by February 19, 2018 so they will arrive for her party. The address is:

- ◆ Peg Hayelan
- ◆ 715 North Westgate
- ◆ %of Donna Granath at #153
- ◆ Weslaco, Texas 78596

### **Mash-up Event" on February 14**

The menu for dinner includes baked ham, roasted turkey breast, mostaccioli with meatballs, mashed potatoes, assorted salads, rolls and butter, and dessert.

# CHURCH NEWS

## Pastoral Care Report for November and December

Pastoral Contacts	43
Hospital Visits	02
Pastoral Visits	05
Thank You's	40
Stewardship Messages	113
Worship Contacts	03
Shut-In Visits	02

If you are aware of anyone who needs a visit or call, please let Pastor Megan know! The email address is: [megansmick1@gmail.com](mailto:megansmick1@gmail.com) or call 815-742-7952. You may also leave her a note when you're at church.

## Prayer Team

Our church now has a new Prayer Team that meets the first and third Tuesdays at 10 am in the lounge room outside of the sanctuary.

We meet together to talk and learn about prayer plus to pray for our church, its members and direction. We are under the leadership of Ruth Melles.

Ruth Melles

## 2018 Highway Project

The wood sign on the east side has been reconditioned and moved as per request from IDOT. This work was done by Shawcraft Sign. Also the flagpole and memorial stone have been moved as per request from IDOT. This work was done by Briarwood Builders.

Both projects were paid for from funds received from IDOT last year. There will be a street drain box near the location where the sign and flagpole were.

Ron Zoeller

## Sisters In Christ

Membership is open and welcome to all women in the church. We hope you will consider joining our monthly fellowship group. If you haven't received any e-mails from me regarding Sisters in Christ, please contact me at [pdegraff@aol.com](mailto:pdegraff@aol.com) or 608-368-1051 to get your contact information on our mailings. This is particularly important for upcoming events or if a need arises (such as a funeral meal). Thanks everyone.

On January 10, 2018, at 8 am the Sisters in Christ went on a road trip to Sauk City. The road trip was a success and thanks for the memories. A picture of the trip has been printed below. Thank you also for the help with the Alcorn family meal and luncheon.

On November 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. our own Jan Martin presented a program on balance and core stability. She is a physical therapist with Mercy Health Care and did have some great tips for us.

On December 12, 2017 we had our annual Christmas party at the home of the ever gracious Margo Leden. We would love to have all the women in the church attend our events.

Phyllis DeGraff

### Upcoming Events

**February 13** - Meeting.....6:30 -pm.

Bring cookie dough to bake cookies in the kitchen for stocking in the freezer.

**March 13 - Fun Craft; starts at 6:00**

**p.m.** Cost is \$25.00 but will discuss at February meeting if our group can pick this up at cost. We will be using alcohol paint to make coasters. Need to sign up in advance.

**April 11** at 6:30 p.m. - Jill Huett will be teaching us how to make paper flower table decorations.







## **THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM**

During the past year the 6 members of Congregational Care have been active in making over 50 calls to members of Rockton United Methodist Church who were unable to attend worship services. It is a joy for both the team member and the person being visited. We have had reports from the families of those visited how much our visits are appreciated.

**If you know of someone who needs to be called upon or if you would like to join us as we make our monthly visits please call Pastor Megan.**

It is a privilege for us to meet with those who are unable to get out and about. We send blessings to both the giver and receiver.

Mary Louise Shakespear

### **New Flags**

Thank you Bill & Cheryl Campbell for buying our new flags for our flagpole.

Ron Zoeller





### **Memorial Committee**

The Memorial Committee received lighter weight folding tables. The older tables we have are so heavy and they make setting up for events very difficult. Thanks to the families of Elizabeth Browning and Gen Reich for the memorials that were given in their names. Those memorials, along with additional undesignated funds, made this purchase possible. Additional thanks to Greg and Margo Leden for using their truck to get the tables to the church.

Donna Granath

### **Fellowship Committee**

Veterans' Recognition was held November 12th. The members of our congregation who served their country were honored during the church service and given a small thank you for serving gift. Coffee hour was dedicated to the veterans. We are forever grateful for those willing to risk themselves for the betterment of our country. Thank you!

Gail Terry

# JANUARY 2018

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



01-Jason Fogarty  
 01-Kendra Wulf  
 03 - Bruce Muench  
 05 - Seth Nygren  
 09 - Barb Dietz  
 11 - Donna Chambers  
 11 - Don Miller  
 17 - Margo Leden

22 - Matthew Tamar  
 23 - Brenda Wulf  
 26 - Jerry Schulz  
 30 - Matthew Alcorn  
 30 - Jacqueline Lefevre

14 - Jim & Gail Johnson  
 18 - Jerry & Darlene Weaver

# FEBRUARY 2018

				1	2	3 Trivia Night Steven Mack Middle School 6:00 pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Sisters In Christ Meeting 6:30 pm (cookie dough bake)	14 Mash Up Event Ash Wed. 6:00 pm Service, Dinner 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



## Birthdays

01 - Irene Ulferts  
 02 - Donna Hellinga  
 04-Hossein Safavinejad  
 07-Earl Tamar  
 07-Jennifer Vail  
 13 - Cassie Zimmer  
 14 - Darlene Matlock  
 17-Christine Gustafson  
 18-Jeffrey Davis  
 19-Janet Bridgeland  
 20-Rick Eick  
 20-Judy Schellenberger  
 21-Sharon Heumiller  
 22-Jim Johnson  
 22-Jeremy Schulz  
 27 - Peg Hayelan  
 27 - Carrie Wallen



## Anniversaries

02 - Jerry & Tina Schulz  
 14 - Richard & Georgiale Colby  
 15 - Troy & Jennifer Vail  
 27 - Mert & Tena Stenzel