



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church

March & April 2018



Worship With Us

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

Children's Sunday School 9:15

Enjoy fellowship between services at 10:00 am
with coffee and treats!

Visit Our Website

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

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



Mission Statement

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

Message from the Pastor

Praying about church finances. Thank you to the many faithful people of this congregation who support our mission with their gifts of treasure! Your generosity allows us to worship, pray and study together, provide meals to veterans and the needy, send food to our neighbors, care for shut-ins, mentor children, serve our community, and so much more. We are blessed to be a blessing to our neighbors!

To keep our ministries going, we need your financial support. For the first time in several years, our pledge drive for 2018 fell \$20,000 short of meeting our budget. Giving was impacted by some families moving from our church, other families who usually pledge didn't, and some families have never pledged.

Your pledge is crucial. It allows us to budget, which allows us to move forward in ministry. I've been praying about this daily since the beginning of the year, and I'm asking you to join me. Please raise up with me prayers that the money will be found, that our ministries will continue to serve and grow, that we will continue to be an outpost of the Kingdom of God for our community, and that we will be enabled and empowered to make disciples.

It's never too late to pledge. Pledge forms are located in the narthex of the church and in the church office. Drop them in the offering plate, or in the offerings box in the church work room.

Matthew 6: 21 says, *"...where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* My heart is with God and with his church in Rockton, and I know yours is too.

Rockton Caring Network. Your Vision Team has batted around an idea to make our church a center of community giving. When our church is mentioned, or when people are looking for a church, we would like them to say that Rockton UMC cares about their neighbors.

With that in mind, we are looking at creating a caring network to engage our neighbors in our ministry. John Carlton and I were invited to talk to the staff at Hononegah High School about this idea. They are right now collecting food for homeless high school students, and we will take it to Caritas when they are ready.

Caritas is currently serving 97 (97!) homeless high school students by weekly giving them bags of microwavable meals. You are invited to join this effort. Please bring soups with pull tab lids, Spaghetti-O's with pull tabs, Hormel Completes, Dinty Moore Beef Stew, tuna in a pouch, and Campbell's Ready Meals to church and leave them in the bin in the narthex. Paula Davis at Caritas tells me that these items are the hardest for Caritas to get donated, probably because they are a little more expensive than other types of food.

Try to imagine the high schoolers you know or have known not having a home to call their own. Try to imagine negotiating school, adolescence and the challenges of early adulthood without the stability of a home. Our donations can take a major burden from them and make a difference in young lives. Please pick up a few items when you go to the store.



*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*

Thanks

Just a word of thanks to those on the Fellowship Committee that made the Irish Potluck a great time of fellowship while enjoying a wonderful meal. The word goes, you never want to miss a potluck at the Methodist church. They have the best cooks in their congregation!! Mark your calendar to be with us for the next meal— a free breakfast after the Easter worship service on April 1st.

Wanted

**Crafters and Artists
Hononegah Women's Club
August 20, 2018**

Contact: Jennifer Vail or email at hwcrocktonil@gmail.com for more information.

Thank You!

Thank You!

Thank You!

Thank you everyone for helping make my 90th birthday a wonderful celebration! I have received 123 cards and have enjoyed reading each one of them.

My sister, Donna, planned an unforgettable open house for me here in our park at Weslaco, TX, and a dinner party for our family of ten and closest friends following the open house. This included Jim and Gail Johnson. I was so happy they could be here! By Peg Hayelan

Sisters in Christ Store

The shop has been cleaned and there is a true need for Christian books, holiday gift items, and all gift items in general.

Please give new, to gently used, items and gift ideas—from kid items to adult items. Our shop is in great need of new contributions to stock our shelves.

Consider checking out those items you might use as garage sale selections and drop off those donations to our store in the fireplace room.

Thanks, Jennifer Vail

Missions Committee

April Is Hair Care Month

During the month of April the Missions Committee will be collecting hair care products (shampoo, conditioner & combs) for Caritas. This is the one time a year that we do this in order to fill the Hair Care Shelf at Caritas.

These products are not donated as food is the primary concern but they are necessary to provide healthy hygiene.

During the month of April we are asking that you support the Hair Care shelf by donating any of the products that I mentioned above.

I will be placing a large tub in the church Narthex for the collection of these products. It would be wonderful if we could fill the tub.

Please help make it happen.

Judy Schellenberger, Missions Committee

CHURCH NEWS



Let Us Pray For:



Please pray for Charlie; Pauline; Harlow; Ashley, Audrina, Jerry; Bruce; Roy; Melanie; Carol; Boots; Bob; the Hayes family; the Luck family; for Gideons as they travel; for those who grieve; for those experiencing flooding and storm damage; for a marriage turmoil; for a mother's health, for patience and grace under stress; for struggles with home remodeling; for peace; our church and its mission; our country and leaders.

Free

Three pairs of cross country skis, poles, and shoes. Old style bindings but these can be converted easily at any ski shop to new bindings.

If interested, please call:
Phyllis DeGraff at
608-368-1051.



2018 SOUP KITCHEN DATES

April 14, 2018

September 29, 2018

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.

CHURCH NEWS

Pastoral Care Report for January and February

Pastoral Contacts	33
Pastoral Visits	4
Hospital Visits	8
Community Contacts	5

If you are aware of anyone who needs a visit or call, please let Pastor Megan know!

The email address is: megansmick1@gmail.com or call 815-742-7952.

You may also leave her a note when you're at church.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Thursday, March 29	Maundy Thursday Communion Service	7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 30	Ecumenical Good Friday Service	12:00 Noon
	(at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2336 Freeport Rd. Rockton)	
Sunday, April 1	Easter Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
	Free Easter Brunch (in fellowship hall)	10:00 a.m.

(There will be no Fusion small group service on Easter Sunday.)

*PLEASE PLAN TO BE WITH US DURING THIS EXCITING HOLY WEEK
AND INVITE A FRIEND AND/OR NEIGHBOR!*

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.



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

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. 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.

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.

Mary Louise Shakespear

CHURCH NEWS

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 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.



At our March meeting we made coasters under the guidance of artist Kala Lombardo. There were some pretty creative designs!

2018 MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Lenten Prayer Service 6:30 pm	22 Ad Council 7:00 pm	23 Last day to or- der flowers for Easter Worship	24
25 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	26 Choir 6:00 pm	27	28	29 Maundy Thurs. Service 7:00 pm	30 Good Friday Service at Noon Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	31

www.free-printable-calendar.com

Birthdays

3 Ruth Melles
 6 Donna Hayenga
 12 Laura Noel
 14 Anita Stiffler
 18 Judy Davis
 Troy Vail
 19 Karen Fysh
 Jason Knoespel
 20 Melinda Croisant

22 Jan Kerch
 24 Judy Bradac
 27 Heather Fysh
 29 Brett Bridgeland
 Darlene Weaver
 31 Donna Granath
 Rose Lovejoy

Anniversaries

25 Jim and Sandy Stamm 1961

2018 APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship 9:00 am Brunch 10:00 am	2	3 Prayer Team 10:00 am	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	9 Choir 6:00 pm	10 Bible Study 10:00 am Church library	11 Bible Study 6:30 pm Church library	12	13	14 Soup Kitchen
15 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	16 Choir 6:00 pm	17 Prayer Team 10:00 am	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	23 Choir 6:00 pm	24 Bible Study 10:00 am Church library	25 Bible Study 6:30 pm Church library	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	30 Choir 6:00 pm					

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Birthdays

3 Roy Croisant
6 Sandy Stamm
8 Lisa Hayenga
10 Jean Cooper
12 Robert Hayenga
14 Steve Davis

18 June Althoff
20 Sadaf Safavinejad
27 Lesa Stevens

Anniversaries

Dave and Linda Martin 1988