



# The Rocktonian

## Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church

### May & June 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](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: Tues. 9-10 & Fri. 9-11  
(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.

## Message from the Pastor

*Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.*

Philippians 4: 8, *The Message*

No one could miss the construction on Blackhawk Road. At the moment, it's a giant jumble of machines, gravel and gaping holes. And it has caused some challenges. We can't use the front entrance to our parking lot or even our front door. The parking along Chapel Street, so convenient for those who are using the lift, is also blocked. It's a headache we all wish would be over soon!

It has disrupted my walking habit as well. Now that the weather is nice, my dog, Lupi, and I like to take long ambulations around Rockton; but, I can no longer cross Blackhawk Road as a pedestrian. So, we are limited to two routes on the east side. I'll admit to some frustration and resentment!

But, I notice as I walk, that the sun still shines on me. The breeze still flows by, the birds still sing. And Lupi still sniffs everything in his path! Really, am I all that inconvenienced? Is it really such a big deal, especially when I will get to enjoy the fruits of this labor in the coming years? Instead of complaining and focusing on my resentment, wouldn't it be a better idea to focus on the sky and the trees and the budding lilacs?

In the scripture above, Paul is writing to the church in Philippi from prison. He certainly has many things to complain about and be resentful for! And yet, from this dark setting of suffering and uncertainty, he speaks of joy and blessing.

The Philippians had been squabbling among themselves, breaking into factions, perhaps divided over how to face some challenge to the church. Paul breaks into this situation with encouragement to keep their focus on their blessings, to come together in unity so that they can experience the good things of God. Especially, they should keep their minds on things that are true and gracious, the best, not the worst, and things to praise, not things to curse.

I'm going to do my best to follow Paul's advice. I'm going to enjoy my walks, no matter the route. And whenever I see the construction zone, I'm going to pray. I will pray that the work goes smoothly, that the workers stay safe, and that their labor is a blessing to us and our community. I know my prayer will reach God, and maybe it will soften my heart during an inconvenient time.

What has been annoying you lately? Is there anything you are resentful of? What might be a more profitable focus? Is there some way you can turn it into prayer?

# **The 179th Northern Illinois Annual Conference**

## **June 3-5, 2018 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles**

The theme for annual conference this year is “Navigating Uncharted Water” based on Romans 5:3b-4: “trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. Since we are all navigating uncharted water within our communities, churches and our denomination, there will be conference discussion on how to draw on our faith and continue to share the gospel of hope.

Each year the Bishop puts before the congregations of our Northern Illinois Conference a special appeal, asking for donations to support a cause that affects our denomination worldwide. This year Bishop Sally Dyck has designated that the Bishop’s Appeal Offering go for Global Migration. Worldwide, 65.5 million people have been forcibly displaced. Even though our country isn’t receiving as many refugees, United Methodists around the world, especially in Europe, are accepting them and they need our assistance!

During the month of May, you may make a contribution to the Bishop’s Appeal by putting your special offering in one of the pew envelopes, marking it BISHOP’S APPEAL, and dropping it in the collection plate. During the Annual Conference, Karen Fysh and Pastor Megan will present the contributions on behalf of our congregation. 75% of the offering will go to the Global Migration Advance to assist international migrants and refugees. 25% will go to local organizations in Northern Illinois working with immigrants and refugees such as Refugee One and World Relief.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Fysh.

## **Mission Challenge - Cleaning Kits**

Following an active, destructive hurricane season in 2017, the Northern Illinois Conference Board of Global Ministries has chosen cleaning kit buckets as this year’s Annual Conference Mission Challenge. Each District is being challenged to collect designated cleaning kit items to be distributed through the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, located in Chatham Illinois. It is related to the North Central Jurisdiction and is a cooperating depot in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Relief Supply Network. The Rockford District is challenged to bring the following items:

- Pack of 18 cleaning wipes (Handi Wipes).....Goal: 200 packs
- Pack of 5 dust masks.....Goal: 200 packs
- 2 pairs of kitchen dishwashing gloves  
(good for multiple uses)..... Goal: 300 sets

During the Month of May, there will be a suitcase in the Narthex where you can place your donations toward this mission challenge for Annual Conference.



# Free Piano!

I have a very pretty, small, upright piano and bench free for the taking! Please call or text Judie at:

815-243-6738

## Wanted

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

**Contact: Jennifer Vail or email at [hwcrocktonil@gmail.com](mailto:hwcrocktonil@gmail.com) for more information.**



## Looking for Special Music For the Summer Months



I will once again be obtaining musicians for our summer worship services. I welcome volunteers from our church to provide special music and would also appreciate receiving suggestions about a musician (soloist, quartet, group, instrumentalist, etc.) that you can recommend to me. Phone me at 815-520-3172 or email me at [margaret.peg.hayelan1928@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.peg.hayelan1928@gmail.com)

Peg Hayelan

## 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



## Church Prayer Team



Our church Prayer Team 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. The church prayer team will continue to meet through the month of May at the church before taking the summer months to engage in prayer from home.

## Hononegah Road Cleanup

**Sunday, May 6th**

Hononegah Road Cleanup will take place Sunday, May 6th after the first service at church. Our route is from Hononegah Forest Preserve up to the Walgreen's/Burger King area on Hononegah Road. We do both sides of the road. Please wear your grubby clothes to church. We will meet downstairs to get gloves, tongs, sturdy garbage bags, and reflective vests. There will be a basket with sandwiches, chips, apples, and water for you to have an early lunch or enjoy afterwards. Dan and Judy Davis will be parked at the Hononegah Forest Preserve and at Walgreen's with extra supplies and to be shuttle drivers if needed. Fusion Worshipers, please join us after your service. We leave the bags tied up on the sides of the road in convenient spots for the County Highway Department to pick up. Please return the gloves, tongs, and vests to Dan and Judy when finished. Thank you for your support in helping keep our community clean!

## Let Us Pray For:

Charlie; Pauline & Bob; Harlow;  
Melanie; Carol; Noriel; Allison; Ruth;  
Kyle & Ashley; Luke; Justin;  
Audrina and her family;  
for a marriage in turmoil  
for a mother's health and upcoming surgery;  
for a mother and her cat;  
for the challenges of home remodeling;  
the Matheson's on their move to Woodstock;  
for people who are unable to leave their homes;  
for homeless students;  
for someone who needs patience and understanding;  
for peace in our world;  
our church, its mission;  
our country & leaders.

*(Prayer requests will appear for about 1 month after submission. Feel free to submit them again via the Response Sheet, or contact the church office to add or remove names. For an urgent prayer request, call Sharon Ruff to start the prayer chain: 815-229-1932.)*

# CHURCH NEWS

## Pastoral Care Report for March and April

Pastoral Contacts	22	Pastoral Visits	2
Hospital Visits	1	Shut-in Visits	2
Worship contacts (people who have been missed in worship)	13		
Community visits (seeing people outside our church family)	6		

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.



## THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

Are you aware our church has a team of members who have set aside time once a month to come and visit with you? Are you not able to attend church services regularly? Take advantage of our Congregational Care Team. Call our church office at 815-624-7591 and leave a message along with your phone number. One of the ladies/and or gentleman of the Congregational Care Team will be happy to return your call and then at your convenience will come spend some time with you for a visit. "Try it - You will like it".

# Thanks So Much

Dear Friends,  
How very much I have appreciated your expressions of love and concern for me this winter! I am so thankful for God's protection during my winter illness, and I value so greatly those of you who prayed for me and with me, visited me, sent cards, stocked my frig and freezer with food, transported me to appointments, did household tasks, brought gifts to me, remembered my birthday the day I transferred out of critical care, called or texted with much needed encouragement, loaned or gave me books for my hospitalization/recuperation. Although this is not a journey I would have chosen, I am moved by the mercy of Almighty God and the tremendous care I received from you, my dear friends and church community. I am learning many new lessons and am gaining a broader perspective as a result of your presence with me. My love, prayers, and thanksgiving go out to all of you who have surrounded me.

Fondly, Christine Gustafson





## 2018 Highway Project

Just a reminder that we have had to make some changes to accessing our church for the next few months. The only entry to our parking lot will be at the Chapel Street entrance. The front doors will still be open, but you may also enter the church from a back door facing the west parking lot and the double doors to the education wing. At Pastor Megan's request, on Sunday morning, if you are an active person, please park in the south parking area to allow those who aren't as active to have the closer parking spots in the west parking lot. The lift is available, although you won't be able to park in front of it at this time.

# Sisters in Christ



Our next meeting is scheduled for May 8. We will be painting rocks for the Rockton Rocks project. These will then be placed around Rockton for children to find and enjoy. If you have any extra craft paint or small paintbrushes please bring them. Jennifer Vail will be bringing extras. Rocks will be provided. It starts at 6:30 and goes until we get tired.



The June end-of-season party will be a campfire. Please put June 8 at 7 p.m. on your calendars. Details to follow.



Kudos to Nancy Bielema, Judy Schellenberger, and Janet Bridgeland for handling the funeral recently. Our members provide hostesses/assistants for funerals and we always are asking for volunteers. Thanks so much for taking your time and efforts for this important ministry.



Judy Schellenberger has requested \$25 from our account to provide hair care products to Caritas. Please vote yes or no to me.



We also need to discuss meeting dates for next season. If you have a certain date (i.e. first Monday of the month) that you cannot meet, please e-mail or call me about it. We have been meeting the second Tuesday of the month and we have a few members with conflicts on that date.

Phyllis DeGraff

# MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Bible Study 10:00 Scouts 6:30-8:30 Worship Committee 6:30	<b>2</b>  Bible Study 6:30	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am  Hononegah Rd. Cleanup	<b>7</b>  Choir Practice 6:00	<b>8</b> Bible Study 10:00  Sisters in Christ 6:30 Scouts 6:30-8:30	<b>9</b>  Bible Study 6:30	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>  Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	<b>14</b>  Choir Practice 6:00	<b>15</b> Prayer Group 10:00 <b>NO Bible Study</b> Scouts 6:30-8:30	<b>16</b>  Bible Study 6:30	<b>17</b>  Rockton Woman's Club Dining room 5:-10:00 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	<b>21</b>  Choir Practice 6:00	<b>22</b> Bible Study 10:00 Scouts 6:30-8:30	<b>23</b>  Bible Study 6:30	<b>24</b>  Ad Board 7:00 Church Library	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Food on the 4th  Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Bible Study 10:00  Scouts 6:30-8:30	<b>30</b>  Bible Study 6:30	<b>31</b>		

Free Printable Calendars From [towncalendars.com](http://towncalendars.com)

## BIRTHDAYS

9 Tina Reich  
 11 Judy Cunningham  
 20 Tim Schultz  
 22 Lindsay Stott  
 24 Devin Smick  
 25 Jeffrey Carleton  
 27 Mark Alcorn  
 John Carleton  
 Gail Johnson

## ANNIVERSARIES

2 Don and Lesa Stevens  
 20 Seth and Shannon Nygren



# JUNE 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	4	5 Scouts 6:30-8:30	6	7	8 Sisters in Christ Campfire 7:00	9
10 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	11	12 Scouts 6:30-8:30	13	14	15	16
17 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	18	19 Scouts 6:30-8:30	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	25	26 Scouts 6:30-8:30	27	28	29	30

[www.freshcalendars.com](http://www.freshcalendars.com)

## BIRTHDAYS

3 Ron Zoeller  
 4 Diane LaForge  
 8 Cheryl Campbell  
 15 Gail Terry  
 16 Nancy Bielema

## ANNIVERSARIES

3 Jeff & Lisa Schutz  
 12 Greg & Margo Leden  
 Bradley & Tina Reich  
 14 Bob and Pauline Lawhorn  
 22 Paul and Donna Chambers  
 28 Roy and Melinda Croisant