



The Rocktonian

April Newsletter 2025

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

Office Hours by appointment
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Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor
847-271-2733 (call or text) 9am-9pm
Call 24/7 for emergencies

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



We are looking for folks who might enjoy writing articles or editing this newsletter. Please contact Pastor Carolyn for more information





Someone recently mentioned to me that *renewal* seems to be a theme at our church this Spring. I was impressed that I hadn't noticed the connection between all that is happening. Lent is a season of reflection and spiritual renewal. I hope your Lenten practices have been meaningful.

There has been a lot of renewal in our Education wing. Volunteers have completed renovations in the old Nursery, which is now our Meeting Room. Special thanks to Lori Lee, who procured new furniture for the space. Lori's husband Cris and son Carson donated hours of time to prep and paint and install new pieces. Our new meeting table was funded by Sisters in Christ. Another donation covered the cost of new (to us) cabinets holding the T.V. and computer. Dan Enderle hung the wallpaper in addition to prepping and painting the room. John Carleton installed new ceiling lights and reconnected the computer when everything was complete. Margo and Greg Leden created a beautiful custom piece of art for the new space. This was a big job, and those working on it embraced it as a labor of love. Enjoy the before and after photos included in this newsletter!

The upstairs hallway has also been renewed. The chair rails and water fountain served their purpose well for years, but they are no longer needed. Our local professional painter did a fantastic job patching and painting the space after volunteers prepped it. We plan to have new lighting professionally installed in the coming weeks.

Our collaborative Community Garden is yet another source of renewal! In the next week or two the ground will be prepped. Raised beds have been assembled and will be brought on site and filled with logs, then leaves before receiving new soil. The Roscoe Gardening Club is very excited about this project. Their members will take care of the planning and maintenance of the garden. I hope our members are able to volunteer some time. I look forward to learning more about gardening from our new friends, and I know our members will find ways to offer hospitality to our new partners as together we work to fill a need in our larger community and build community in the process. We will keep you posted of official kickoff dates and opportunities to celebrate this new ministry.



Holy Week

Holy Week begins on April 13, Palm Sunday, where we will welcome five new members in worship followed by a church-wide potluck! Holy Week Worship will take place on Thursday, 4/17 at 6:00 p.m. Booklets for guided individual prayer and reflection will be available for Good Friday observance. Easter falls on April 20 this year. We have a lot to celebrate!

Blessings,

What's Up with the Building?

April 2025

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

Ah spring, and no, I'm not ready to put the snow shovels away just yet. I can still remember a horrible snow storm on April 21st some time when I rode the bus back in my school days. I know, with climate change it's highly unlikely, but I'll wait for May baskets to put all the snow stuff away. Then again, be careful around the tree near the Education Wing doors. It's been shedding bud casings which can be slippery when wet. We'll have to wait until they dry to blow them off the sidewalks.

A follow-up on an item from the March What's Up? We had both the cleaners and the painter look at the black areas over the mini-split A/C units in the Sanctuary and, sure enough, they are shadows! They've fooled a lot of folks but no cleanser will take them out and no paint will cover them up so they're just always going to be there, especially on bright days.

A reminder to take a peek (or take a look at the next two pages!) at the upper hallway and the Meeting Room as the Meeting Room is pretty much done and the hallway is freshly painted and awaiting an electrician to install new lights and baseboard. Note to anyone who might be planning to use Zoom in the room. The outlet bar to start everything up is now hidden in one of the front cabinets and there's a lovely new and larger TV with different remotes and setup. So, best to check things out with someone who's used it prior to your meeting.

Need a nice, big desk? The one in the old office is for sale. We've already had a prospective buyer take a look. Ask Margo if you're interested.

Future projects that are coming up include getting bids to do some tuck-pointing around the South West entrance to the Ed. Wing. It's needed a little before but this winter was tough on it so we'll see how much we can afford to do on the west and south walls. We're still looking at some outdoor cameras to keep track of our exits, lower windows and the gardens. And finally, speaking of the gardens, the Garden Club project is deep into the planning stages so you may see some things start to happen later on in the month.

The coming of Spring always reminds me of one experience in our Adult Sunday School with Pauline Lawhorn many years ago. Some of you may remember Dan Saavedra who came to the US from a Latin American country and was a member of that class. He talked with much passion about, coming from an equatorial country where it's always "summer", how amazed he was when he experienced his first spring ever! To hear him tell how he first experienced the plants coming up from the barren ground, it was clear this was a very spiritual experience for him. So, the next time you curse the winter, think about the thrill of Spring and the message of re-birth it brings. Just before Easter....

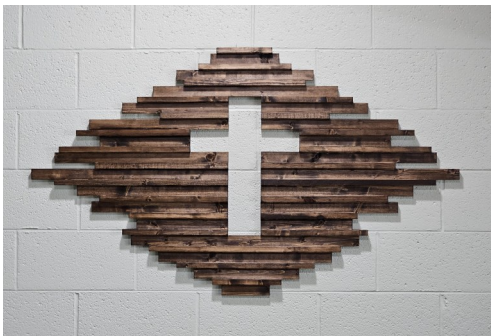


REMODELING PROJECT

Before
Meetings held in old nursery



During
Dan Enderle hanging wallpaper (left)
Pastor Carolyn spray painting primer (right)



After
Custom artwork by Greg and Margo Leden (above)
Finished Meeting Room (right)



Fellowship Committee

Potluck Brunch on April 13 after worship service! Please bring your food to the kitchen prior to the service and we will work together to have everything ready to share the meal after the service.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex and it would be appreciated if you sign up for a food category that you will bring as well as how many in your party. If you do not sign up... you are still very welcome to come and enjoy!

On Palm Sunday morning at 9:00 while egg dishes are being prepared, there will be an opportunity for young people and young at heart to make crosses from palm fronds.



The Fellowship Committee has a tradition of hosting a celebration for graduates in our church family. This includes 8th grade, high school, college and any advanced degrees. If you have a student graduating or if you are a student graduating, please let Pastor Carolyn (847) 271-2733 or Gail Terry (815) 988-0498 know as soon as possible. If we do have graduates, we will choose a Sunday in May that fits those families; schedule to arrange our celebration.

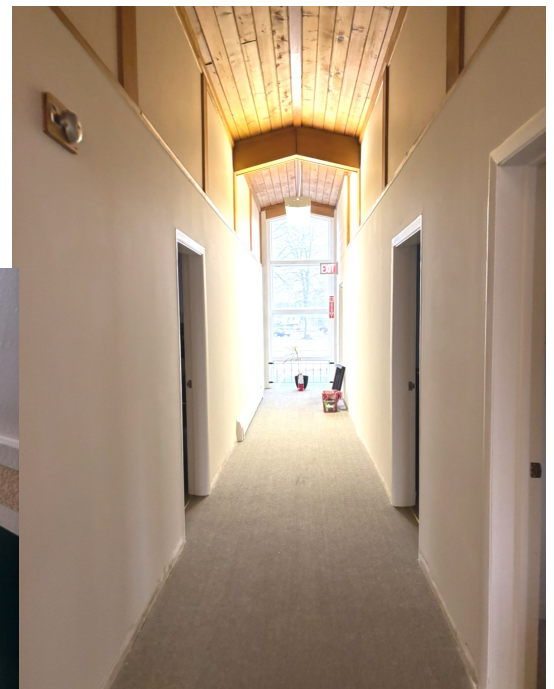


Upstairs Hallway Renovation

Before (left)

Carson Lee (center)
removing baseboard

After (right)





A·P·R·I·L

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30am Worship 	7	8	9	10 6:00 p.m. Rockton Pride meeting	11	12
13 9:30am Worship Palm Sunday Potluck	14	15 10am Retirement Home Worship	16	17 Soil Delivery for Community Garden  6pm Holy Week Worship	18  GOOD FRIDAY Volunteers preparing raised garden beds	19 Volunteers preparing raised garden beds
20 9:30am Worship  EASTER SUNDAY	21 Newsletter articles due 4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	22 4:30 pm Ad Council	23	24	25	26
27 9:30am Worship Food on the 4th	28	29	30	<i>Office Hours by Appointment</i>		