



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

April 2021



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Worship With Us on Sunday Morning

**Worship is at 9:00 a.m. and reservations are needed ahead of time
due to Covid restrictions.**

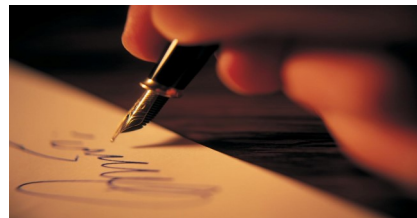
The Zoom connection also continues to be an option!

Mission Statement

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

Visit Our Website
www.rocktonumc.org

From the Pastor's Pen



April 2021

By: Pastor Rolland B. Hayag



Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

I hope that the atmosphere and the message of Holy Week brings you a positive spirit in your daily life. Yes, we all are facing the uncertain days, and the atmosphere of the passion of Christ could be intense...and with all of this, tremors from the issues of racial and political issues...hate crimes, devastations cause by storms and other events that we don't have control over, may have overwhelmed us.

However, having a positive attitude in life is really important in our daily living, and it can also help uplift other lives too. It creates a domino effect. Some of you received the "caring cross" and read the history of that small cross made of wood from an olive tree, which is certified as having come from the Holy Land where Christ was born. I hope that this cross gives hope and Joy for you this Holy Week.

There is more history to this Cross made from wood out of an olive tree. According to its history, this type of wood was also carved to make nails in which it is said was used to nailed and pierce the hands of Jesus.

On Friday, April 2nd, I invite you to come and join me in a Solemn Worship at Rockton UMC, to remember Christ's "Seven Last Words" on the cross. Worship begins at 7 p.m., and we will be joined by Shirland United Methodist Church. You can join me in-person (Wearing Mask Still Required) and we will also stream this on Facebook. As we close the chapter of Jesus on the Cross, this week's Good Friday, I also would like to invite you to join us on the celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Until then, may the Lord, our God, Bless us all.

*Peace,
Pastor Rolland Hayag*

April “What’s Up?”

By John Carleton, Chair of the Building Committee

This month’s “What’s Up?” is hard to write as many of the things may already be done by the time you read this. And, as always, there are those things we’d like to get done but we have to wait for meetings and vendors to get back to us. Here’s what’s up as of the end of March.

Sink Hole: Hopefully, by the time you read this there will be a gravel patch where the sink hole and depression used to be. It may be gravel for several weeks as the contractor waits for the rock to settle so they can be sure its firm and level before any blacktop covers it.

Lift: The idea of putting in stair/chair lifts or ramps did not pan out. Fire regulations and cost didn’t make these options any more feasible than fixing the lift. We will explore more options with the lift company to try to get it fixed.

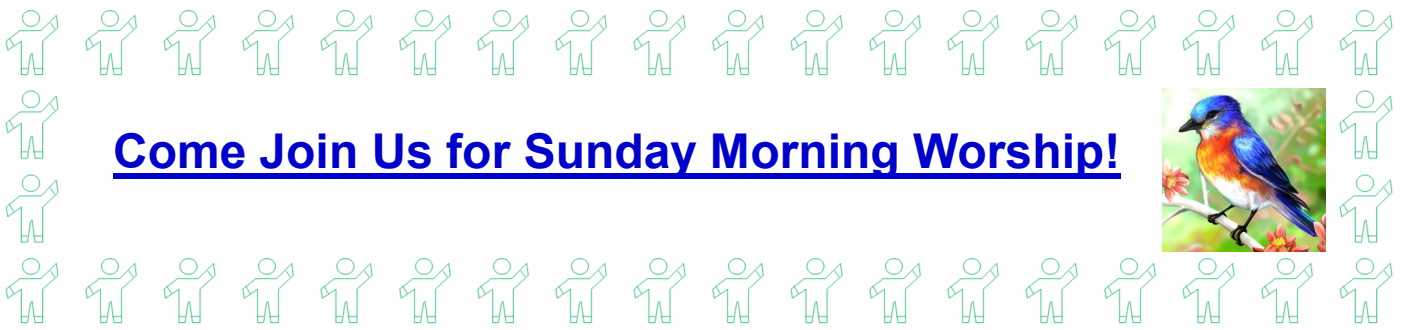
Parsonage: The renter is mostly moved out and did a nice job cleaning. He still had a few things left as of this writing. We will recruit a team from Sisters-in-Christ to go in and do the finishing touches and then have the carpets shampooed. The Trustees already have a few things they know of that will need fixing and there will be others on the “to-do” list. We’ll be inviting our new pastor and family up for a walk-through.

Thanks to Bill Campbell and son Randy for cleaning out the overgrown row of shrubs and giving the yard a thorough cleaning as you can see the picture.

LED Lights: Trustees are going to slowly begin moving towards LED lighting in the Education Wing as the lights last much longer, use less electricity and run cooler.

Thanks: Thank you to Laura and Jared Janes for their work on snow removal in a very tough winter. They must be looking forward to shifting to mowing the grass.

Thanks too to Jerry Green for all of his long hours in setting up all the sound and AV tech in the Sanctuary. A very difficult job after everything was dismantled and stored during the fix. The list of folks who have done a lot of work to get us up and running again could go on and on! Please know all your efforts are appreciated. Please say a prayer to thank all of them for their efforts on behalf of God’s work and also add a prayer in the hopes that nothing else will break down and need fixing . . .



[Come Join Us for Sunday Morning Worship!](#)

Looking for “Counters”

Karen Fyhx Request

Counters are needed to do the offering every Sunday (once a month). One of our counters has indicated she cannot continue to do counting and another counter is needed to team up with a second counter.

Please contact Karen at pfeffer43@charter.net if you would be able to give some of your time to this task! Thank you.

Karen Fysh, Financial Secretary

~~Thank You Note~~

From Peg Hayelan

My birthday was last month, but I want to thank everyone for all the cards, phone calls, and messages!



Big Thank You from Nancy Bielema...



I would like to thank my church family for their thoughts, prayers, cards and food given to me. I lost my brother-in-law and wife, along with an aunt, to Covid. My brother died of brain cancer, and my sister-in-law to Alzheimer's.

A sister had successful cancer surgery!

It has been a difficult year with the loss of family and friends.

**From The Rockton Herald,
Editor Edson Carr—**

Some Methodist Church News, 1912: *“The Methodist people will give a fine chicken pie supper next Thursday evening. The proceeds will be applied to the pastor’s salary.”*

Other News:

1873

*“The ghost story which has caused so much excitement in Rockford for the past week or two, has, like all other such nonsense, evaporated, and nothing left but an innocent old white cow browsing around in the vicinity where the ghost was reported to have been seen.

1877

*Anecdote of Lincoln: “‘One day,’ said Mr. Lincoln, ‘when I first came here (Springfield), I got into a fit of musing in my room, and stood resting my elbows on the bureau. Looking into the glass it struck me what an awfully ugly man I was. The fact grew on me, and I made up my mind I must be the ugliest man in the world. It so maddened me that I resolved, should I ever see an uglier man, I would shoot him on sight.

“Not long after this, ‘Andy’ (naming a lawyer present) came to town, and the first time I saw him, I said to myself, ‘There’s the man.’ I went home, took down my gun, and prowled around the streets waiting for him.

“He soon came along. ‘Halt, Andy!’ said I, pointing my gun at him. ‘Say your prayers, for I am going to shoot you.’

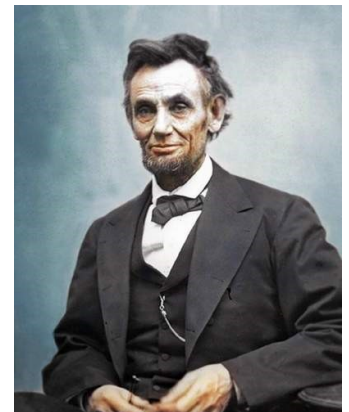
“Why, Mr. Lincoln, what’s the matter? What have I done?’

“Well, I made an oath that if I ever saw a man uglier than I am, I’d shoot him on the spot. You are uglier, sure; so prepare to die.’

“Mr. Lincoln, do you really think I am uglier than you?’

“Yes.’

“Well, Mr. Lincoln,’ replied Andy deliberately, and looking me squarely in the face, ‘If I am any uglier, fire away.’”



1893

*Edson Carr noted that “Meat dealers have raised the price of porter house steak to 18 cents per pound. Sirloin sells at 15 and round at 12.”

1894

*“Of all the mean things said by men to and about women, commend us to the parson who told the sisters of his flock that ‘Christ first appeared to woman just so the news would spread faster.’”

1912

*“The Ladies Aid of the M.E. church gave an ice cream social on last Saturday evening. It was quite well attended and the ladies realized about \$5.00 from the event.”

**Worship on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
via Zoom**

- **Sunday School meets every Sunday morning
between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.
—Mark Alcorn facilitating**

**Good Friday Worship, April 2nd, 7:00 p.m.
in-person in Rockton or through Zoom!**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY APRIL
BIRTHDAYS!**

**Roy Croisant, April 3
Sandy Stamm, April 6
Jean Cooper, April 10
Robert Hayenga, April 12
June Althoff, April 18
Sadaf Safavinejad, April 20
Lesa Stevens, April 20**

**APRIL
ANNIVERSARIES**

**April 7 — David and Linda Martin
April 23 — David and Patsy Dach**

**Happy
anniversary**