



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

August 2020



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Worship With Us on Sunday Morning in our Parking Lot

We have made the decision to begin worshipping in our parking lot at **9:00am Sunday mornings**. At this time we are continuing to live-stream our service from the parking lot as well. Please visit our website for more information.

Mission Statement

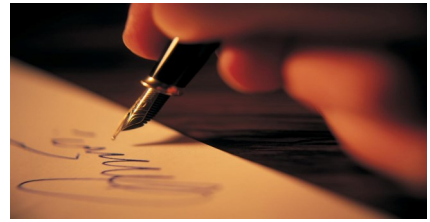
Grow FAITH in Jesus Christ.
Share LOVE with others.
Give SERVICE to our neighbors.

Visit Our Website

www.rocktonumc.org

From the Pastor's Pen

August, 2020



We have some new things going on in and around our church building with the combination of moving to Parking Lot Services this month along with beginning repairs on our Sanctuary. We are cautiously optimistic with these signs of potential return to worship services as we have known them for years but have been unable to experience these past 10 months. Though we all know that the church is truly not a building but it is the people, we still look forward to being back in our own space and to be able to use the gifts and resources God has given us to worship, serve, fellowship and make disciples all for the furthering of God's Kingdom. I have been proud and blessed at how well our church has weathered these issues and continued with our connection in Christian unity and love as a body of believers, loving God and loving others. I look forward to see how God will move and work in us over the next few months.

I encourage us all to continue to pray for an end to this pandemic that has affected the world and also caused a lot of division and strife within our nation, even among Christians. We need to remember to be steadfast in the call that our Northern Illinois Conference has issued to "do no harm" by being diligent with face-coverings and social distancing. I recently read an article that churches are one of the biggest spreaders of Covid19. This is a sobering reminder that we need to do our best to protect one another and to be a witness to our community by "loving our neighbor" through our actions to care and protect each other. I see following guidelines such as face coverings and social distancing as examples of "love in action".

And as we move forward with our Parking Lot Services and continue our discipleship opportunities over Zoom and other online media, may we remember to love and pray for one another in ways that we can do best, whether giving others a call or a card in the mail or what-have-you. Let us continue in the call from the book of Hebrews:

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Howie Snyder



We Are Gathering To Worship!

Come and join us as we gather to share Sunday morning worship in our Rockton UMC parking lot!

When: Beginning this Sunday - August 9th

Where: The parking lot at Rockton UMC

Time: 9:00 am (lasting 30-35 minutes)

Rain?: If it is raining, or it is questionable, the decision whether to go to “live stream only” worship will be made by 8:30am. Please watch your email on those days for service information.

We are excited to come together to worship in our own church parking lot, but it is important that we consider our safety as we gather.

As you enter the parking lot from either driveway:

- You will drop off your weekly offering envelope in the designated container.
- You will park in every other parking space. (Someone will help direct you.)

The worship committee has set up guidelines for your protection:

- ◆ There are two options for worshipping “in person”:
 1. Stay in your car and tune the radio to 87.9 FM - no mask required in your car
 2. Bring a lawn chair, sit outside in front of your car - **mask required**
If you wish to sit outside your car with no mask, you will need to place your chair(family unit) 15 feet away from anyone else.
- ◆ If you are wanting to visit with friends, please make sure you are wearing your mask and you stay 6 feet away from the other person.



What's Up With the Building?

August

On July 21st the proposal for repairing and stabilizing the south wall of our sanctuary was finally approved by a special Charge Conference/Ad Council Meeting. Sjostrom and Sons, Inc. has been notified of this approval and we have received the necessary documentation so we can finally begin the work to fix the wall! The insurance looks good and by the time you read this, the contract will have been signed and sent. It will take some time for the steel parts that will be used to stabilize the wall to be fabricated but Sjostrom hopes to finish the project in about sixty-days once the parts are finished. Barring any unforeseen problems (which is never a sure thing with an older building), we have a chance of the building being ready for us by, hopefully, Halloween but with a better chance by Thanksgiving. We will have been out of our Sanctuary for about a year due to the need for repairs and, sadly, Covid-19, as we had our work day to remove the pews and furnishings on October 14, of last year. The day may soon be here when there will be no more need to ask "What's Up with the Building?", you'll be able to go in and see for yourself and worship together once again!

We'll be needing lots of help to get things back in order so please watch your email and future Newsletters/Bulletins for work parties. We will also need your contributions to help support the repairs and allow for programs to continue. Please see this Rocktonian for articles about fund raising.

John Carleton
Chair of the Building Committee



Other Projects

As a result of all the discussions and evaluations of the building, other church projects have been suggested and have been on our wish lists for years. Some of these were covered in the July Rocktonian in the What's Up with the Building article. They include:

Re-carpet the sanctuary

Replace projector with flat screen TV's

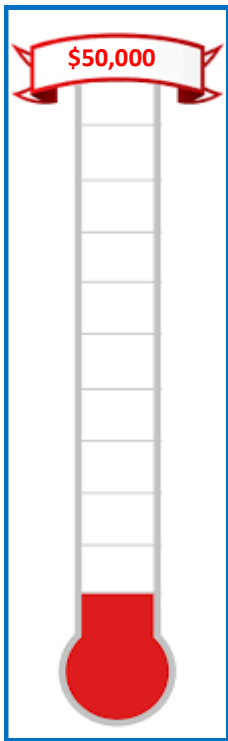
Digital-Sign out front

Better enclose the lift entrance

Repaint the sanctuary entrance

Build a ramp from the south parking lot

Of these, re-carpeting the sanctuary would best be done before we put the pews back in place after the repair work is done. A committee is already looking into this and has some estimates ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000. The other projects are still on the "wish" list. Sjostrom will be doing some painting as a part of the repairs and that work is included in the contract. It is important to note that these projects are included as they have been a part of conversations about the building over the past few months but they are **not** part of the fund-raising campaign for the building repairs. These projects will be attempted only when a large number of congregation members let it be known they want these improvements and are willing to work for the funds to make them happen.



Funding Campaign for the Sanctuary

The contract for the Sanctuary repairs is for \$115,616. You can play an important role in this project by helping to provide the resources to pay for the project and keep our church resources in a viable condition. With this in mind, the Resources Group has set a fund-raising goal of \$50,000. Your pledge or donation can be sent to the church. If sending a check, please make the check payable to RUMC. In the memo line, please include your envelope number and "Church Campaign Fund Drive".

You may notice that our campaign thermometer is already **above zero** as some members as of this writing have contributed close to \$2,500! We hope you will consider making a donation and it will be a blessing that will allow us to once again worship in our Sanctuary and continue God's work.

Our Fund Raising History

As we discussed this funding campaign to help with the Sanctuary repairs, the question often came up as to, ". . . when was the last time we had a funding campaign??" After some "less than exhaustive" research, it would appear the last major "capital" campaign was around 1963 when we extended the Sanctuary and built the parsonage. Many of us "old-timers" can still see Pastor Bob Elliot standing in front of a campaign poster on a tripod in front of the Fireplace Room, pledge-card in hand. We've had some minor campaigns and have been very fortunate to have families donate towards major improvements as memorials. Some examples include: the Manley family and the carpeting in the Sanctuary in 1964, the handbells in 1984, the organ in 1990, and carpeting in the lounge area/bell room by the Sunleaf family in 2006 and, of course, the lift. This list is by no means exhaustive, and other folks may have contributed to these projects as well but, hopefully, you get the idea.

In the last Rocktonian we explored the history of the famous "fried-cakes" and its role in the church and fund raising. There have been Italian Dinners and other events that have not only helped with projects but have been a blessing in church fellowship over the years. The fact that we may have trouble remembering these events may be due to the fact we apparently haven't had to have them all that often. While a church always asks for pledges and donations to maintain our services, facilities and apportionments, we have been fortunate not to have had any major fund raising in over fifty years. What do you remember about these events in the life of the church? Dig through your memory and church folder and see if you can recall some of the fund-raising events that enriched the life of the church both in terms of funds and fellowship and let us know. We'd love to share your memories or newspaper clippings! (And frankly, we have a not-so-hidden agenda here as we'd love some good ideas to help support this campaign).





Congregational Care Team



August 2020

We continue to remember our shut ins. Hopefully soon we will be able to visit more of them in person. In the meantime, think about helping us out by writing or calling those of our church family who continue to be shut out from being able to have visitors. Call me if you need a phone # or address. Or even a stamp if needed. Just bought a new roll Friday.



MaryLouise Muench
Co-ordinator Congregational Care Team
815-623-7556

Uganda Student Sponsorships

For \$25 you can supply one Uganda student's school uniform, supplies, and a year of education. If you would like to be part of this mission work, please contact Christine Gustafson at cmquspt@yahoo.com or call/ text @ 815/871-5888. If writing a check for this mission, please make it out to the Rockton UMC and write Uganda in the memo line.

Thank you for your partnership in this venture! The children and their families are so grateful for our financial support as well as the prayers of Rockton United Methodist Church.

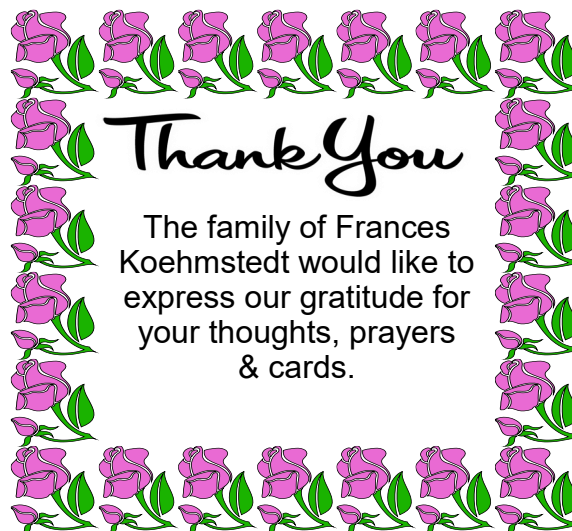
God bless you!!

Christine Gustafson



Sunday School Information

Our worship service has been moved to an earlier time which is currently the Sunday School hour. There is a need to find a different time for Adult Sunday School / Bible Study. After worship on August 9th, the class participants will remain in the parking lot to discuss establishing a new time to hold class. Watch the upcoming Saturday Bulletins for further information.



On July 25th, we gathered together for Communion in the parking lot!



We brought a chair.

We wore a mask.



We sat 6 feet apart.



WE HAD FUN!

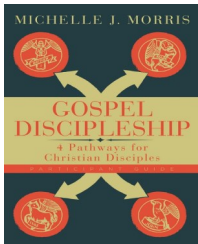


August 2020

There are no regular monthly meetings or any social activities being held by our congregation at this time, so no need for the regular calendar. These events are scheduled for August:

- Each Sunday at 9:00am Worship in the Rockton UMC parking lot.
- These events are happening every week using ZOOM:

Sunday School Study Group with Mark Alcorn facilitating: Time TBD



Study Group every Thursday morning at 10:00am - 11:00am with Pastor Howie facilitating

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 Tina Schultz	25 Jim Stamm
3 Grant Abel	28 Mike Kerch
8 Susan Abel	29 Jared Knoespel
9 Charlie Cunningham	Pam Noel
10 Kassie Vail	Elliot Schultz
11 Jeff Lane	30 Betty Homer
12 Tayebah Safavinejad	
13 Judie Heinschel	
16 Bill Campbell	
17 Jan Martin	
18 Richard Cooper	

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

1 Don and Jill Huett
4 John and Sandy Carleton
10 Jim and Diane LaForge
12 Earl and Erin Tamar
13 Merle and Mary Sprague
21 Mike and Jan Kerch
26 Mark and Nicole Alcorn

