



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

August 2021



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Still Looking for “Counters” on Sundays!

Counters are needed to do the offering every Sunday (monthly), four additional counters are actually needed! 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

**Worship With Us Sunday
Mornings at 9 a.m.**





from the pastor's desk

One of the first questions I was asked when I was being introduced to Rockton UMC was to share my vision for the church. I replied that I didn't yet have a vision for the church; I believe every church has a unique identity and call to service. The ministry priorities may change over time, but the deeper purpose of a congregation lies at the heart of the passions and gifts within the members.

My priority is to get to know the members of Rockton UMC, then to get to know the larger community of Rockton. I want to hear from you as individuals where your interests and passions lie, and I want to learn about your concerns for the larger community and the world.

One of my passions is equipping and empowering the members of the Church to do the work of ministry. We are all called to respond to God's saving activity in our lives by serving where and how God has shaped each one to serve. The Apostle Paul wrote to the early church, listing some of the gifts given to congregations through its members.

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's

people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ...He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

(Eph 4:11-12,16 NLT)

For some, serving faithfully means caring for others, especially those who are sick or vulnerable. For others, that means leading, helping the church recognize its priorities so together our work is focused and our ministries and outreach are effective in making a difference in our world. Some are gifted to prepare and lead worship services; others quietly serve behind the scenes, making sure things run smoothly.

The ways we faithfully serve are as varied as our personalities and life experiences. Together, they make up the unique qualities and abilities of a congregation. As I come to know you better as individuals, I look forward to sharing what I sense is God's vision for this congregation.

I am grateful for the ways God is already at work in your hearts, and I look forward to our journey together in the coming months and years.

Blessings,



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August: “What’s Up with the Buildings?”

By John Carleton, Trustee Chairperson

I’m keeping my fingers crossed (and saying not a few prayers) that things have finally quieted down for our buildings. Now, hopefully, we can set some priorities for doing some long-term improvements and maintenance. Said another way, we can choose to do some things we’d like to do, without having to stress over what we must do.

The saga of the lift continues but we hope to have it finally fixed this month and not for an outrageous price. Not sharing any details at this time but let’s hope we can finally start using it again some time this month.

As most of you may already know, the flat screen TV project was approved last Sunday and will soon be a reality. Thanks to Ron Zoeller and his group of interested members that have done the background work to put this project together, this will add so much to our worship.

We are still working on how best to share our worship services with those who cannot attend or still are not comfortable in doing so with the new variant. There are several issues from how to deal with the copyright laws for music, what’s the best camera setup, and how will we record/stream services. The church now has its own Zoom account but the biggest obstacle right now is woman/man power. We need a few brave techs who are willing to do some learning about how to stream our services. As with all tech, once the learning curve is over it will just be a matter of setting up each Sunday and then downloading after services. We especially need someone to serve as coordinator. If you’re interested, please let Pastor Carolyn know. She would love to hear from you. It will be a great way to serve our shut-ins.

I asked in the July, *What’s Up?* if folks were satisfied with having the building cleaned only once a month. So far, I’ve heard very little feedback on this. Therefore, as the old adage goes, “No news, is good news.” We’ll continue to clean the building once a month until we start to hear otherwise.

As alluded to in the beginning, the Finance Committee has asked the Trustees to come up with a prioritized list of future projects around the church. This is a great idea so we can better plan for how to use our time and treasure to care for our facilities. Some folks have already suggested projects that need to be done. If you have something you think should be on the list then you can let any one of the Trustees know what that might be. Just because it makes the list won’t mean that it will get done any time in the near future after all of the other expenses we’ve had, but it will mean it’s something for which we should begin to plan.

Finally, as I walked around the building the other day looking for some plaques and a portrait that belong in the north, over-flow room (didn’t find them BTW, anyone have any ideas where they were stored?) it occurred to me that there are still lots of miscellaneous items left over from things moved during the fix that need a more permanent home. Sometime this Fall we hope to have a church work day to go through the rooms and get them in order. Some rooms will be easy, others will need more work. Watch for more news and a date.



Northern Illinois Conference

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

New Districts Effective July 1

NIC's five new districts officially changed over July 1. In 2020, the Annual Conference approved legislation to reduce the number of districts from six to five as well as the number of District Superintendents to five. Each district has new branding and web pages. You will find leadership contact information, news, an interactive map, and a list of churches on the revised landing pages.

—Following are the new links:

- Prairie North:** umcnic.org/prairienorth
- Prairie Central:** umcnic.org/prariecentral
- Prairie South:** umcnic.org/prairiesouth
- Lake North:** umcnic.org/lakenorth
- Lake South:** umcnic.org/lakesouth



**UPDATE — Northern Illinois Conference (NIC)
of the United Methodist Church**

*****TIDBITS OF HISTORY*****

From the Rockton Herald:

When News was Entertaining to Read!

*In the 1800s, not all younger people were respectful around churches on Sunday,
as noted by Herald Editor Edson Carr...*

1878 “The disgusting ‘gawkers’ were out in full force on Sunday evening last, completely filling the walk in front of the Methodist church, compelling every person who attended that church that evening to run the gauntlet of ‘gawking’ eyes and leering faces.

“We are requested to say that the officers of the church have determined to have no more ‘gawking’ on the walk in front of their edifice and if it is persisted in, the guilty ones will be promptly punished. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend church and seats will be provided for those who may come but no more of the abominable behavior of staring church goers out of countenance, smoking cigars, and using profane language will be tolerated.

“It is a shame that enough of the young men of this vicinity have no more respect for themselves, their friends, or the Church of God than to congregate in front of our churches in such numbers.”

1879 “Rockton Library Association: The next regular meeting occurs on Monday evening next at the Library at 7 ½ o'clock. It is expected there will be a full attendance as the last adjourned meeting, though of vital interest, was forgotten by so many. “The business was necessarily left for this meeting. This meeting must not fail. J.G. Veness, Pres.” *(Right: An interesting “vintage” photo of the Talcott Free Library...early on. I know it isn’t church news but I love the vintage photo of Rockton’s library!)*



1893 “We would suggest a wholesale slaughter by our authorities, and especially our policemen, of those boys who stand around church doors on Sundays, staring people out of countenance and making our nights hideous by their yells and whoops. A thousand Apache Indians would find themselves outdone by this class of roughs.

“We are startled from our slumbers at all hours of the night by heart-rendering, ear-splitting yells, and on the instant rush out of bed expecting ‘murder most foul’ was being committed, or that an alarm of fire was being given, only to find that these howlers were enjoying a moon light ramble accompanied by those unearthly shrieks. And, are our authorities awake to this fact? Will they allow this to go quietly on unheeded and unpunished?”

1894 “The Methodist church has been holding revival meetings every evening for some time past. The attendance has been large. There were, as always, some ‘fools who came to scoff’ among those who came to pray. One of the scoffers, for his manifest zeal in serving the devil by disturbing the meetings, got sentenced by Justice Rogers to twenty days in the county jail. I think that such a Justice would be beneficial to the morals and manners of some of the youths of Rockton, for some of the vestibules of their churches are marked in a manner too disgusting for a lady to express. I think the boys who delight in such caricatures should be sent to Reform School till they learn a little more decency.”

The Old Stone Church "Bag Night"

The "First Annual" Bag Night ("Cornhole Bags Tournament") is set for Tuesday, August 17th at the church, 101 E. Union St. in Rockton. Proceeds will go to benefit the Rockton Food Pantry. Admission is a bag of food for the pantry. To register, call (815) 624-6212 or e-mail the church at OldStoneChurch@OldStoneChurch.net. Join us for food, live music, and family fun...for a good cause!

—From John Carleton:

Our church's Website could use some updated church related photos of family members who are serving in our Armed Forces, members involved in church activities, that kind of thing! Feel free to send them on to us, we would love to add them to our Website with your permission!

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Tina Schulz, 8/02; Grant Abel, 8/03;
Susan Abel, 8/03; Charlie Cunningham,
8/09; Kassie Vail, 8/10; Jeffrey Lane 8/11;
Judie Heinschel, 8/13;
William Campbell, 8/16; Jan Martin, 8/17;
Richard Cooper, 8/18;
Bradley Reich, 8/18;
Chrissy Wells, 8/24;
James Stamm, 8/25;
Jared Knoespel, 8/29; Pam
Noel, 8/29; Elliot Schultz,
8/29; Betty Homer, 8/30.



HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Jill Huett, 8/01; John &
Sandy Carlton, 8/04; James & Diana
LaForge; Earl & Erin Tamar, 8/12;
Mary and Merle Sprague, 8/13;
Mike & Jan Kerch, 8/21;
Mark & Nicole Alcorn, 8/26.

