

# The Rocktonian

## Newsletter

Rockton United Methodist Church  
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## Our Mission

Welcoming all as we  
Grow Together  
in Faith, Service, and Love



# August

## 2024



**Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.**





July has been quiet at the church, as you might notice from the size of our newsletter this month.

The Missions Team made a meal and served clients at the Veterans Drop In Center on July 29 in Rockford. Thank you to all who participated!

This month we kicked off a worship series inspired by the hymn Blest Be the Tie that Binds, focusing on the ways we are woven together in community. The first week we reflected on the scriptures that describe God as a potter shaping clay, and how we are most faithful when we are willing to be formed as we grow in faith. Those who were present in worship in person received Play Doh to keep their hands busy during service!

The second week we created a large weaving (pictured below), highlighting the idea that when one member is impacted, we all are affected. (1 Corinthians 12:26). As members of

God's beloved Creation, we are to remember our responsibilities to care for one another and our beautiful world. The series will continue through August.

A Gardening Club was recently started in Roscoe. The founder was hoping to find 30 like-minded people. Within weeks, the Facebook group had 1,300 members! One of their goals is to start a community garden. The group is excited about our central location. They will be evaluating and planning something for 2025 and will present ideas to our Trustees in the coming weeks. We will keep you posted as opportunities develop. Everything is very much in preliminary stages, so we invite your prayerful support as we seek God's guidance as to how we might use our resources to bless the larger community.

Blessings,



## **What's Up with the Building?**

**August 2024**

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

What's Up will be kind of short this month as there's not a lot of new things going on. Many of the projects mentioned in previous months are either done or continuing but there really isn't anything major that's new. We're always working to stay ahead of the leaks in our aging roofs and then we hope to get plastering and/or painting done to repair the streaks from the leaks. We continue to care and improve the grounds. The carillon is a little wonky again. And, we continue to look for ways to save what we spend on utilities and other costs. In that regard we are exploring ways to redo our thermostats now that building use tends to vary a great deal from day to day and week to week. Not a big issue this hot summer but we want to have something ready for the heating season. If you have any experience with different thermostats and heat controls that can be remotely controlled, please give us call so we can learn from your experience.

As I have come off some stressful and challenging years in the past, when I have a day that's just a regular ole day, call it a "status quo" day, I've learned to cherish such days. Trouble will come soon enough and it's comforting to know that God will be there to help us through it. But, it's also nice to be able to be on your knees and thank Him for a day without trouble. So, while I know winter is coming, and yes, the roof may leak again, I thank God for a month when our church building is "status quo".

## **Finance Team**

by Dan Davis, Finance Chair

Hello all.

As the follow-up to our recent pledge drive, and as Pastor Carolyn noted last month, the pledges showed an increase of about \$7,000. This will greatly align our budget with revenues and improve our ability to achieve a balanced budget for 2024. Our thought is that the recent pledge drive will be what we will also use in planning out our 2025 budget. Then, maybe we will do another pledge drive in mid-2025 for the 2026 budget.

We thank you again for your continued support as we go forward in our service to God and the community.

Thank you all. God's love and blessings to all.

# AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<i>Office Hours by Appointment</i>						
4 9:30am Worship 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30am Worship	12	13 10am Small Group Prayer Team	14	15	16	17
18 9:30am Worship	19 3:30 pm Trustees 4:30 pm Finance	20 10am Retirement Home Worship 4:30 pm Ad Council Newsletter articles due	21	22	23	24
25 9:30am Worship Food on the 4th	26	27 10am Small Group Prayer Team  6pm Leadership Cohort	28	29	30	31