

**Rockton United  
Methodist Church**  
PO Box 293  
Rockton, IL 61072

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## The Rocktonian

**Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church  
December 2019**

### **Rev. Howie Snyder, Pastor**

**Email:** pastorhowiesnyder@gmail.com **Cell:** 630-809-9419

### **Contact Us**

Rockton United Methodist Church  
102 West Chapel Street, PO Box 293, Rockton, IL 61072

**Email:** info@rocktonumc.org **Office Phone:** 815-624-7591

### **Visit Our Website**

[www.rocktonumc.org](http://www.rocktonumc.org)

### **Mission Statement**

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

### **Worship With Us on Sunday Morning**

(Sunday services temporarily held at Prince of Peace Church on Freeport Road)

**9:00 am Adult Sunday School Class**

Lead by Mark Alcorn

**10:00 am Join us for Coffee Hour .**

**10:45 am Worship Service**

Children dismissed for Sunday  
School at 11:00 am



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## Sisters in Christ Christmas Gathering



Sisters in Christ will be celebrating their annual Christmas party on **Tuesday, December 3**, at the ever gracious Margo Leden's home, 13956 Sunrise Circle, Rockton.

The party begins at **6:30 p.m.** Please bring a festive appetizer or dessert. We are still in need of someone to plan a couple holiday games for that evening. If you would like to take on this task, please contact me. We hope you will join us for this enjoyable evening of food and fun!

Phyllis DeGraff

## Saturday, December 7

# Craft Sale

## 9 am - 4 pm

Local crafters display their  
creations for purchase on both levels of the church.



## BAKE SALE

## Saturday, December 7



Sisters in Christ will be sponsoring a Bake Sale during the hours of the Craft Sale. Make your purchases at the Craft Sale and then stop and pick up a snack for the ride home!



I want to thank you for all the cards, prayers and well wishes that were sent my way as I recuperated at home after my surgery. The meals that were prepared by some of you were delicious and very much appreciated by my family. I am hoping my next check-up yields another good report and I will be back at my desk in the church office on Monday, December 9th. I am “truly” blessed to be a part of this church.

Pamela True

## *Snyder Holiday Open House*

*Please plan to join us at our home to  
enjoy festive food and drink to  
celebrate the holidays.*

*Who ..... **Congregations of the  
Durand and Rockton UMCs***

*When ..... **Sunday, December 22***

*Time ..... **3:00 - 7:00 pm***

*Where .... **508 Fremont Street  
Durand, IL***

*We hope that you will come and enjoy a  
time of holiday fellowship with our two  
congregations!*

*Nicole and Howie*

### We are Going Caroling!

We would love to have your voices join us as we take a group to go caroling at Highview in the Woodlands on

**Monday, December 23  
10:15 am**

We will bring the songsheets, you just meet us at Highview. We think you will have a great time-and maybe Santa will put you on the good list!

### Christmas Eve Services

Once again, Nicole and Howie will do their Christmas Eve Services together. Nicole will fill the pulpit in Durand and Howie at Rockton with the other taking responsibility for other parts of the service. Service times:

Durand UMC	5:00 pm
Rockton UMC	7:00 pm





## Serving Meals to the Veterans

The Missions Committee always enjoys taking a meal to the Veterans Drop in Center in Rockford. Those preparing the meal leave the church about 2:00 pm and travel to the Center to get the meal ready and set up to serve those Veterans that look forward to a good meal and great conversation with members of our congregation.





# T H A N K S

It was exciting to deliver 32 knitted and crocheted scarves to the Veterans Drop-in Center on the Friday when our missions committee provided a meal. There were so many styles for them to choose from and all will provide warmth in the weeks to come. Many thanks to the women that used their talents to provide these scarves for our veterans!



**There are many things that get done for our church and congregation by members that expect nothing in return for their good deeds. If you know someone that we should acknowledge please let the church office know.**

**This month it was mentioned we should express our thanks to:**

- The choir for participating in the combined choir at the Community Thanksgiving Service at Cross and Crown Church
- All those who chose a name(s) off the Wimpy's Fund Bulletin Board and purchased gifts for those children
- Those that helped make the soup for our shut-ins
- The mission group for taking another meal to the Veterans Drop-in Center
- All those that made scarves for the Veterans
- Those that help set up and help serve communion on the first Sunday of the month
- Pastor Howie and his small group for delivering tables to the rooms hosting crafters for the Craft Sale
- Darlene Matlock for changing the seasonal flowers in the planters in the front of our church





## Congregational Care Team

December 2019



The dedicated group of men and women from our Congregational Care Team continue to call upon the members of our congregation who enjoy a visit once a month. As we enter this holiday season, please give the office a call if you know of someone that could use a visit "full of holiday cheer". We always have room to add one more visit to our schedule.

If you would like to be part of this caring group of people, we would love to add you to our visitation team. This time of year, shut-ins with memories to share would love to have a visitor to listen. Consider giving it a try!

Blessings to each one of you.  
Mary Louise Muench

### Soup's On!

On Sunday afternoon, November 10th, Sisters in Christ had a wonderful time making vegetable beef soup to be delivered by the Congregational Care Team as they make their visits and also to those who are "under the weather". A special thanks to the master chef, Sharon Ruff, and to all of those who joined in to help: Judy Davis, Phyllis DeGraff, Erin Tamar, Suzanne Boomer, Christine Gustafson, Lori Oostendorp, Kathy Markley, Janet Bridgeland, Jerry Ruff and Dan Davis.



# Veterans Day

On November 10, 2019, our congregation recognized and honored those veterans that were worshipping with us that day. From left to right they were:

Bruce Muench, Phil Faivre, Roy Croisant, and Dan Davis.



## What's Up With the Building? December

Some of you may be frustrated that the Building Committee is taking so long to come up with solutions for our sagging sanctuary. What happened in November will serve as a good example.

At the beginning of November, we contacted Schmelling Construction, a long-time and respected firm in Rockford. They suggested an exploratory demolition which would open up parts of the ceiling so they (and, eventually, so could an engineer) could look at the covered joints and rafters and just generally examine the structure of the roof and ceiling. By the time we got their proposal, accepted it, waited for them to schedule the work, do the work, and write a preliminary report, everyone closed their offices for the holiday, and, well, November was pretty much over.

What we found out was that the roof structure was pretty much what the old blue prints said it should be and, except for some bowing of the rafters, was in better shape than they thought it would be. None the less, the ceiling still sags and the south wall still bows out much more than it should. They did confirm that the lighter ceiling materials, originally called for in the old blue prints, had been replaced with much heavier materials (most likely when the sanctuary was extended in 1967) which was what other engineers and an architect had suspected.

We're done with the exploration, the "what's wrong" phase, and now we will be working hard to sign on an engineer to get to the "what do we do now" phase. We've narrowed it down to a couple of engineers that will work with us and we'll be negotiating with them to see who has an approach we trust and can still afford. Once that's done, that person will need time to go over the structure and develop plans and do drawings for the contractor who will do the work. I'd like to be able to say that by the "What's Up January" report that has been done but, with the two major holidays in that period, we'll just have to wait and see.

John Carleton  
Chair of the Building Committee





## JOIN OUR OUR PRAYER TEAM IN DECEMBER!

This month, due to the Christmas holiday, we will have only one meeting date **10:00-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10th**. We will continue to meet at the home of Bruce and Mary Louise Muench, 6918 Saladino Drive in Roscoe.

### Let Us Pray For:

#### Recovering from health issues:

Judy Cunningham  
Pamela True  
Randy Campbell  
Gail Terry

#### Continued prayers for:

Charlie Cunningham

Prayer requests will appear for about 1 month after submission. Contact the church office to add or remove names. **For an urgent prayer request, call Sharon Ruff to start the prayer chain: 815-229-1932**

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 3 Dan Davis         | 24 Don Huett   |
| 4 Jill Huett        | Lisa Schultz   |
| Sherri Zimmer       | 25 Steve Abel  |
| 8 Jerry Weaver      | 28 Jerry Green |
| 9 Karen King        | Olive Samuels  |
| 11 Shannon Nygren   | 29 Sharon Ruff |
| 14 Suzanne Boomer   |                |
| 16 Bertha Stogsdill |                |
| 20 Laura Janes      |                |
| 21 Nancy Rick       |                |



### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 John and Sheila Bates
- 16 Jerry and Sharon Ruff
- 23 KC and Brenda Wulf
- 29 Dan and Judy Davis



# December 2019

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

<p>1 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)</p>	<p>2 Trustees 5:00 pm  Choir 6:00 pm</p>	<p>3 Worship Committee 10:00 am  Sisters in Christ Holiday Gather- ing 6:30 pm</p>	<p>4  Book Study 6:30 pm</p>	<p>5 Book Study 10:00 am</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)  Pulpit Exchange: Nicole Snyder to fill the pulpit</p>	<p>9  Choir 6:00 pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11  Book Study 6:30 pm</p>	<p>12 Book Study 10:00 am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)  Young Adult Small Group With Howie 5:00 pm RUMC</p>	<p>16  Choir 6:00 pm</p>	<p>17 Finance meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>18  Book Study 6:30 pm</p>	<p>19 Book Study 10:00 am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)  Food on the 4th  Snyder Christmas Open House 3-7 pm</p>	<p>23 Caroling at Highview in the Woodlands 10:15 am  Choir 6:00 pm</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm (at POP)</p>	<p>25 Merry Christmas  </p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)  Don Dexheimer to fill the pulpit ←</p>	<p>30  Howie on vacation</p>	<p>31</p>	<p> Happy New Year →</p>			

← Howie on vacation →