

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

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## The Rocktonian

### Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church February 2020

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

Email: [pastorhowiesnyder@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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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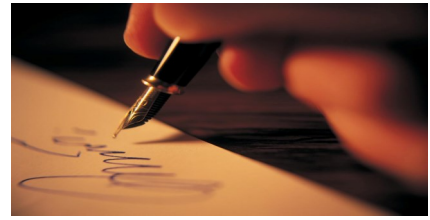
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# *From the Pastor's Pen*



I will be continuing my series "Created in God's Image" through February as we look at our Conference's goals for 2020 to encourage that racism is incompatible with God's Teaching. I will then transition in March with the "Created in God's Image" series with a focus on the LGBTQ+ issues that have been controversial within our denomination. We'll be looking to hear from our congregation on these issues by holding a Round Table Discussion Time, following our Worship Service, on March 22. We will meet in the *Prince of Peace Church* Fellowship Hall where a light lunch will be served as we begin discussions. With our Round Table discussion groups, we will be using an approach called World Café. This is a "structured conversational process for knowledge sharing in which groups of people discuss a topic at several tables, with individuals switching tables periodically". I hope people will make this time a priority, because we would like to hear from as many of our members in this experience as possible.

There are also several Conference "Conversations" about what is expected to take place at the General Conference, May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, MN. The following scheduled conversations are co-hosted by the NIC Exploration Team and NIC General/Jurisdictional Delegation along with the DCM/Cabinet:

Sunday, Feb. 2 @ 3-5pm: River Forest UMC

Thursday, Feb. 13 @ 3-5pm: Woodridge UMC

Thursday Feb. 13 @ 7-9pm: Schaumburg: Our Saviour's UMC

Sunday, Feb. 16 @ 3-5pm: Rockford: Christ UMC

Sunday, Feb. 16 @ 7-9pm: Sycamore UMC

Saturday, Mar. 7 @ 10am-Noon: Dolton: Faith UMC

Go to [www.umcnic.org](http://www.umcnic.org) to register for one of these events or contact the church office. I will be going to the conversation on Feb. 16 in Rockford at Christ UMC. There are others from our church going to that one as well. Space is limited, so please register soon if you would like to go.

I believe in unity in Christ, even in the midst of diverse opinions. I have been so appreciative that this has been a characteristic of United Methodism. And so my hope is that we can continue to discuss issues and encourage love and faith in one another in the midst of differences.

I am excited to see how God leads us in the coming months as we look to this series and beyond. My prayers are that God will grow our hearts and challenge us as we live to be more like Christ.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Howie Snyder



## Sisters in Christ Plan Day Trip to Sauk City



Back by popular demand, Sisters in Christ will be headed back to Sauk City, Wisconsin, on Saturday, February 8th. We will meet at and leave the church at 9 am, returning to Rockton late afternoon. We will need a driver for every 4 participants and drivers will have their lunch paid for by Sisters in Christ. Scheduled stops on this trip will be:

- ◆ Two places to view eagles on the Wisconsin River
- ◆ Lunch at the Blue Spoon.
- ◆ Clasen Bakery in Middleton,
- ◆ D'Marie's Yarn Shop
- ◆ Wollersheim Winery

If we have time on the way back, additional stops could be at:

- ◆ The Shoe Box in Black Earth
- ◆ Duluth Trading Outlet Store in Belleville.

If you did not sign up on the clipboard at church and would like to join us, please call the church office or Phyllis DeGraff and we will add you to the group.

If you have any questions, please call Phyllis DeGraff @ 608-368-1051

(Inclement weather date is February 15.).

*Thank You!*

A colorful rainbow brushstroke graphic with the words 'Thank You!' written in a cursive font above it.

**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:**

- All the people that collected bottle caps and lids to donate to the Shirland UMC Youth Group. They have reached their goal and no longer need any more caps.
- Howie would like to thank Gail Johnson for producing the Rocktonian each month.

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A colorful rainbow brushstroke graphic with the words 'Thank You!' written in a cursive font above it.



# The Two for Two Special!



(Two Meals for Two Congregations on back to back evenings!)

## "Fat Tuesday" Pancake Supper

We have invited the Prince of Peace congregation to join us as we come together and enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage! Create your own pancakes from the fillings and toppings provided as we begin this year's Lenten season.

**February 25  
6:00 pm**

**Prince of Peace Fellowship Hall**

Watch for the donation sheet on the clipboard on Sunday morning..

## Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

The Prince of Peace congregation has invited us to join them as we come together and enjoy homemade soups before the combined Ash Wednesday Service.

**February 26  
6:00 pm**

**Prince of Peace Fellowship Hall**

Watch for the donation sheet on the clipboard on Sunday morning.

Ash Wednesday service to follow at 7pm,

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Irene Ulferts        | 19 Janet Bridgeland    |
| 2 Donna Hellinga       | 20 Judy Schellenberger |
| 4 Hossein Safavinejad  | 22 Jim Johnson         |
| 7 Earl Tamar           | Jeremy Schulz          |
| Jennifer Vail          | 27 Peg Hayelan         |
| 13 Cassie Zimmer       |                        |
| Howie Snyder           |                        |
| 14 Darlene Matlock     |                        |
| 17 Christine Gustafson |                        |

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Jerry and Tina Schulz
- 14 Richard and Georgia Lee Colby
- 15 Troy and Jennifer Vail





## What's Up With the Building? February

We finally got both of the structural engineers that said they would work with us to look at the sanctuary and give us tentative approaches. Briefly, one would utilize pillars, the other would add a large beam anchored to the south wall with more and larger rods going across. Both would start with jacking up the ceiling which would, hopefully, pull in the wall. Both seem to be affordable at least as far as making it safe and sound. The Engineering & Contracting Group will be meeting to discuss all this during the last week in January and pick from the two approaches. From there we hope to consult with the whole Building Committee and the Conference Committee to reach a consensus of how to proceed. As this goes on through the levels of approval, we hope to, at least, get the process going to lift the ceiling back in place as the engineer with the accepted approach prepares the final drawings and specifications.

John Carleton  
Chair of the Building Committee



## Soup Kitchen



Happy New Year to all of you! I hope things are going well during this new year. I have received the schedule for the 2020 soup kitchen dates. Please check your calendars and plan to help us on our scheduled dates of the Saturdays of March 21 and September 26. More details will be available closer to the dates. This activity is a good opportunity for us to serve God's children in my opinion.

Thanks,

Donna Chambers

### Update for Charlie Cunningham

Charlie loves to receive mail. If you have a minute to write him a quick note, please remember to include a return address on your envelope or it will not be delivered to him. You may use the church address as your return address if you prefer.

Charlie Cunningham R70222  
Shawnee Corrections  
6665 State Route 146 East  
Vienna, IL 62995



## Congregational Care Team



February 2020

February 14th is around the corner, so Happy Valentine's Day to all of you. It is a wonderful time to let those around you know that you care about them. We who are on the Congregational Care Team do that every month. What joy we give and we receive each time we visit one of the members of our church who are not able to be out and about nor able to attend worship services on Sunday mornings. A smile is so appreciated!

Our list of shut-ins is growing. We could use one or two additional members who would be able to take an hour each month to go and visit another one of our members. Please call Pamela at the church office and give her your name and we will be thrilled and blessed to have you join our team.



Blessings to each one of you,

Mary Louise Muench  
Coordinator of the Congregational Care Team



**JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM  
IN FEBRUARY!**

Our Prayer Team meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month and would love to have you join our group. We will continue to meet at the home of Bruce and Mary Louise Muench, 6918 Saladino Drive in Roscoe at 10:00am.

### Let Us Pray For:

#### Recovering from health issues:

Gail Johnson

#### Continued prayers for:

Charlie Cunningham  
Dawn Miller

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**

# February 2020

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)	3 Trustees 5:00 pm  Choir 6:00 pm	4	5	6	7	8 Sisters in Christ Road Trip to Sauk City Leave RUMC at 9:00 am
9 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)  Young Adult Small Group With Howie 5:00 pm	10  Choir 6:00 pm	11 Prayer Group 10:00 am	12	13  Howie's Birthday	14  Valentine's Day	15
16 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)  General Conference Conversation At Christ UMC in Rock- ford 3-5 pm	17  Choir 6:00 pm	18 Finance meeting 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22
23 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)  Food on the 4th Young Adult Small Group With Howie 5:00 pm	24  Choir 6:00 pm	25 Prayer Group 10:00 am  Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper at POP dining room 6:00 pm	26 Soup Supper POP 6pm Ash Wednes- day Church Service 7pm	27	28	29