



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

February 2021



Rolland Hayag, Interim Pastor

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Contact Us

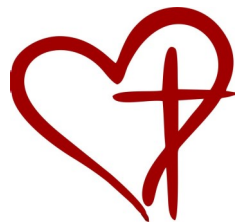
Rockton United Methodist Church
102 West Chapel Street
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Rockton, IL 61072

Office Phone: 815-624-7591
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Worship With Us on Sunday Morning

We are continuing to live-stream our service from the church on Sunday mornings. Please visit our website for more information.

**FEBRUARY 7th IS COMMUNION SUNDAY,
PLEASE READY YOUR COMMUNION ELEMENT, THANK YOU**



Mission Statement

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

Visit Our Website
www.rocktonumc.org

Breaking News (literally!!!!)
Church Parking Lot Sink Hole Situation
From John Carleton

Within the past few days, some of our members may have noticed the bench, tape, and cones in the West Parking Lot of the church. They are protecting a small sink hole that opened up while they were plowing the snow after this past Sunday's snow storm.

Luckily, no one was injured, nor any equipment damaged.

The Village Water Department has checked it out and it is *not due* to any water pipes or other utilities. It is most likely due to an old septic or whatever from the house that used to be there back in the 1960s. There was a depression in that area a few years ago that was repaired, so this may be a continuation of that. The contractor who has done our previous parking lot work has been contacted and we will receive a quote this week.

Additionally, Dan Barber of the Rockton Water Department came by and looked over the situation. He did confirm that it is not related to any Village water lines or whatever.

He did offer the suggestion that we dig out and around it to be sure that whatever is causing this is eliminated, which I think is good advice. For those of you who don't remember, there was a house there many decades ago, could be a an old septic or whatever. A classmate of mine in the HHS Class of 1964, Greg Schmidt, used to live there.

Does anyone recall what year we bought that house and put in the parking lot...maybe the latter half of the 1960s?

THANK
YOU!

A big thank you to Jared Janes for the church sidewalk and parking lot work he has done! He is on top of it!

Charles Cunningham R70222, 6665 Old State Route 146East, Vienna, IL 62995. He says "Thank you for the cards" he has received.

He is out of the Covid section now. Thank you!

Judy Cunningham, Ed.D.counseling, Eagala, Positive Psychology Coach



From the Pastor's Pen



February 2021

What are we thankful for?

By: Pastor Rolland B. Hayag



My wife and I just have a night of wonderful 25th wedding Anniversary, this January 27, 2021, and I am so thankful for her love and patience, for the many years that we have been together, and I am thankful to God for giving us talented children...and we know that they are all doing their best with God's help in molding their own futures. I am also thankful that in so many challenges that my family has experienced that God is always there for us.

It is good to have an attitude of being thankful, for it is our way to recognize God's gift toward us. It can be big or small. And being grateful gives us a feeling of a certain reward of satisfaction, of relief knowing that our needs are met.

However, there are things in life that we sometimes forget to be thankful for, because of the bitter experiences that we go through. Certainly, when an experience is painful, we would be sad, especially in times of a job loss for example. Most of all, losing a loved one ranks right up at the top.

But did you know that being thankful also helps us to get through the hardest experiences in our lives? It helps us to focus on what is ahead and makes our past an inspiration or a lesson.

In Paul's letter, 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, we are reminded to be thankful always, for it says *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing and Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

So therefore, let us all be thankful in all circumstances, recognize God in all places, in every person you encounter and be thankful for what the Lord has done for us. Amen

February: What's Up with the Building?

By John Carleton, Chair of the Building Committee



This month's article of "What's Up?" is a continuation of last month's, as work continues on the finishing touches (which are still a lot of work!). Thanks again to Ron and Dan for all their hard work on the pews which are now in place.

There will soon be a separate committee to develop plans for how to set up in-person worship in line with Conference restrictions. We're going to hold off putting the hymnals back in the pews due to infection considerations. Jim and Jerry are hard at work getting all the tech/sound back in place. The Worship Committee will have the piano tuned and organ repaired as soon as they are back in place and cleaning is done. Again, thanks to everyone who has put in their time getting things back in place.

More damage from the leaks around the Bell Tower were discovered in the north Bell Room and the adjoining closet. That is a work in progress needing plaster work and painting, which will be done early in the first week of February. When that's finished, the Sanctuary and adjoining rooms will finally be ready for a good cleaning.

Phyllis is organizing a plan to have a work day on February 20th beginning at 9:00 a.m. to put back all the small furnishings in groups that will be assigned areas to decorate. Please contact the church office if you are able to work and if you have a particular area of interest. Watch future Sunday Bulletins for more details.

We are also looking for someone to initially put up the dossal curtain and vestments as soon as the cleaning is done. The previous person will train you and its only done a few times throughout the year should you wish to continue, so please contact me or the office if you're interested. A couple of folks would be ideal.

Finally, if you worked on the Storage Group and are aware of where various things were stored...or if you took notes, we'd like to talk to you, please get in touch!

Hopefully, if all of this gets done as planned (and we don't discover anymore closets with surprises...), the health committee will have a plan for safe worship and we can move to having some of us worship in a finally-finished Sanctuary!

Welcoming Our New Pastor, as of July 1st! — Pastor Carolyn Lukasick

Bishop John Hopkins and the Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet are pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Carolyn Lukasick to Rockton UMC effective July 1, 2021, for the following reasons:

• Gifted in pastoral care and relationship building • Strong administrative leadership • Strength in assessing ministry and buildings • Lay leadership development

Pastor Carolyn's Biography

This summer will mark the beginning of my eleventh year in full-time ministry and my wonderful husband Mark and I will celebrate fifteen years of marriage. Our combined blended family includes five grown children and eleven grandchildren. Mark is retiring at the end of January and looking forward to spending more time with our grandchildren.

I was raised in a small farming community and although Mark grew up in the city, we both enjoy small town life. My passion is to journey with others in community, encouraging people to develop their unique gifts and live into their callings as Christians. I celebrate the diversity God infuses into our world and our congregations.

My leadership style is collaborative; I believe a pastor's role is to nurture and equip laity to fully participate in the ministries of the church so together we grow in new directions.

I enjoy teaching and preaching and I believe that worship - no matter what style - should be thoughtfully designed, meaningful, and inspirational for the congregation. I think some of the important work of ministry is to create safe space where people are encouraged to be honest about their challenges, doubts, and struggles. As we explore and question, we grow in faith. As we learn to both give and to receive, we grow spiritually and encounter God's presence more fully.

I also think of this process as an adventure: I believe that the Spirit of God invites us all beyond what is familiar and comfortable in order to help us reach our potential, put faith into action, and with God's help make a difference in our world. *

**(Please note: The original announcement with photos is attached to this newsletter!)*





Come Join Us on Zoom **for Sunday Morning Worship!**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th IS COMMUNION SUNDAY, PLEASE
READY YOUR COMMUNION ELEMENT, THANK YOU.**

"ADOPT A KITCHEN CABINETS/DRAWERS~

From Judy Davis: Thank you members who have come and helped spiffy up the kitchen drawers and cabinets! One of our helpers apparently left a woman's T-shirt while cleaning! I took a bundle of towels, cloths, and rags home to wash and discovered the shirt. The owner may claim it as it is now on top of the microwave in the kitchen! *A big thank you!*



Sisters in Christ

From Phyllis DeGraff: "In anticipation of being back in the church sometime this year please consider donating some of your crafts or goodies made during the pandemic to our Marketplace located off Fellowship Hall. We need to freshen it up with new stock and decorations. Thanks Sisters!"

Do We Have Your Latest E-mail Address?

There are several things that have all come together to make communicating with you, the congregation, more difficult. Covid-19 has meant that we see each other less and we have to depend on email or bulletins to keep you up-to-date on the latest church events. Our church office has been closed and we have been without an administrative assistant for several months so keeping track of everything has been done by volunteers (bless them) when they can find time. During the early part of the office closure the office computer had a problem (storm or power surge) and had to have a new hard drive. As a result, the mail and email lists for contacting everyone had to be redone and we suspect that some emails may be old or missing.

If you've been getting our Saturday Bulletins each week and the monthly Rocktonian by e-mail recently then you are fine and don't need to do anything.

But...if you used to receive those publications by email in the past and don't receive them by email anymore, we would really appreciate it if you would let us know by just sending a simple email to info@rocktonumc.org Also, if you are aware of anyone who might have mentioned they aren't getting emails from us then please let us know so we can try to contact them or urge them to send us an email or call so we can update our records. If you have any questions, call the office (Margaret) at (815) 624-7591...normal work schedule Tuesdays and Thursdays, hours, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**From The Rockton Herald, 1877,
Editor Edson Carr—**

Rockton had a sense of humor in 1877!

Newspaper items in the local newspapers during the 1870s tended to not only be informational but many times displayed some humor, as is the case in the following item concerning temperance, which was a big anti-liquor movement in this country following the Civil War. Rockton Herald editor Edson Carr noted that this article had been “picked up on the street.” The author of this piece certainly had a sense of humor and the following item was titled: “Stray leaf from the diary of a Temperance Man”

Carr noted, “There is no author’s name given and no clue to the writer’s identity but the hero cannot object to its publication.

“Monday, April 16th, Got a headache. Was invited two weeks ago to make an impromptu speech at the temperance meeting tonight. Consented. Went to meeting and speech a success. Felt good. Walked up to depot to see a man. Dark. Fence post maliciously got in the middle of walk. Collision. Back end of nose driven through back of head. Very dark but surprising number of stars visible. Broke into lumber office and got claw hammer to pull nose back into position. Puttied up hole in back of head.

“Tuesday, 17th. Asked by wife to ‘rise and explain.’ Forgot all about the hero of the little hatchet and said lumberman struck me. She said, ‘too thin’ and reached as usual for broomstick. Suddenly remembered that I wanted to see a man downtown. Found him. He asked, ‘What’s the matter with your nose?’ Remembering the good little boy who never told a lie, informed him of the truth. Didn’t believe me and asked where I got my whiskey. Whipped him.

“Noon. Conductor asked, ‘What’s the matter with your nose?’ Whipped him at once.

Encouraged by this, I tackled baggage man who inquired, ‘What’s the matter with your nose?’ Poor success. He had had too much experience in ‘smashing’ things.

(Memorandum. Go to Widderson’s and get another set of teeth cast.)

“Wednesday, 18th. Lumberman made an original observation. ‘What’s the matter with your nose?’ Whipped him.

“Eighty-seven men asked same question. Whipped 43 - was whipped by 44 of them.

(Memorandum. Buy a wig.)

“Whipped lumberman for bringing in a bill for use of hammer. Whipped him twice more for saying ‘I nose’ all about it.

“Thursday, 19th. Killed a telegraph operator for asking me, ‘What is wrong with your nose?’

“Same day. 240¾ men, women and children asked, ‘What’s the matter with your nose?’

“Friday, 20th. Hired lumberman to whittle out a wooden ear.

“Owner of fence post handed in a bill for damages. So large, I couldn’t whip more than half of him at once, so *bought* him off.

“Saturday, 21st. Joined license party and am happy.”

January

Communion Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
—Worship via Zoom

- **Sunday School meets every Sunday morning between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.**
—Mark Alcorn facilitating

*****2021*****

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

**HAPPY FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS!**

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

*Happy
anniversary*