

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

Don't want this newsletter? Write "REFUSED" on it and return it to your mailbox. We will pay the return postage.

The Rocktonian

Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church January 2020

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

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



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

January 2020



Rev. Howie Snyder, Pastor

Cell phone: 630-809-9419

Email: pastorhowiesnyder@gmail.com

Contact Us

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

Office Phone: 815-624-7591

Email: info@rocktonumc.org

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

Mission Statement

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

Visit Our Website

www.rocktonumc.org

Sisters in Christ Dinner and a Movie Night Tuesday, January 7th



On Tuesday, January 7, we are going to a movie (Little Women) at Beloit Classic Cinemas, followed by dinner afterwards at nearby Applebee's! Please join us on this fun outing. We will meet at the theater at 2799 Cranston Road, Beloit, at 4:00 pm and hope to see you there! If you have questions or need a ride, please call Phyllis DeGraff. 608-368-1051

Phyllis

Parishioners,

Thank you for all your support of Charlie Cunningham - mentally challenged, mentally ill, and addictions are very difficult to live with in a world where others like to take advantage of our Christian attitude. His address is:

Charles Cunningham R70222
Shawnee Corrections Center
6665 State Road 146 East
Vienna, IL 62995.

He loves to get mail and can only return letters if I put money in for him to buy write-outs and paper and pens. I do put money in as I can so he can return letters. Thank you again, Judy Cunningham

Thank You!

Thank You!

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 those who volunteered to light the Advent Candles this season and read the passages that went with the candles each week.
- Families who purchased poinsettias to adorn the altar area for Christmas
- Bell choir members that packed up all the handbells and equipment and moved them to POP for the Christmas Eve Service and then packed them up that night for the return trip to RUMC
- Nancy Bielema and Jim Johnson for taking care of the plant stands and remaining poinsettia plants



What's Up With the Building? January

As anticipated in December, things are moving, but slowly. We have identified two structural engineers and we are working with them to evaluate the problems with the sanctuary and propose potential solutions. One of those engineers, who helped the Hebron Methodist Church with its similar wall problems, looked things over with one of the firm's other engineers the week before Christmas. He's going to do some rough figures and propose his solutions, most likely either pillars like he did in Hebron or large beams on the same level as the present steel rods. When we first took him into the sanctuary and he got a good look at the south wall one of the first things he said was that, ". . . it was a good thing we were no longer using it." It was encouraging, however, that when he "ball-parked" a figure to make it stable and safe, it was well within what we could afford. Since it is a ball-park figure, its not going to be shared here and we'll wait until we can get a more solid amount. It bears noting this is to make it stable and safe and then what we have to do to get it looking good again will be an additional cost. As I walked out of the sanctuary after the engineer left, I noticed a square tile-sized piece of ceiling material Schmelling's had cut out to expose some rafter joints. I was amazed when I picked it up that it was two layers and quite heavy. I put it on the file cabinet in the office work room if you'd like to pick it up for yourself. Think about it spread throughout the ceiling.

The other engineer has been in California the past few weeks so it may take him a little longer to come out and make his visit and work something up for us. He also has experience with churches in Freeport, St. Charles area and St. Peter's in South Beloit. We had hoped for this to be done last week but it did not happen. Once we have those proposals, we'll meet to decide which one to go with and hire that person to finally complete the actual engineering. With the holidays in this period, it's probably going to be until sometime in late January before that gets done.

John Carleton

Chair of the Building Committee



Congregational Care Team



January 2020

Happy New Year to all of you! As we begin this new year, the dedicated people of our Congregational Care Team are excited about calling on those who need a visit in 2020. Please give the office a call if you know of someone that could use a visit in this new year. We always have room to add one more 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. Just call the church office and give Pamela your contact information. We would be delighted to give you a call!

Blessings to each one of you.
Mary Louise Muench



JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM IN JANUARY!

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:

Judy Cunningham
Randy Campbell
Gail Terry

Continued prayers for:

Charlie Cunningham
Betty McDougal

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**

**Christmas Eve
Service
7:00 p.m.**



A beautiful altar with all the poinsettias.



We are all set up for the handbell ringers to play during the service.



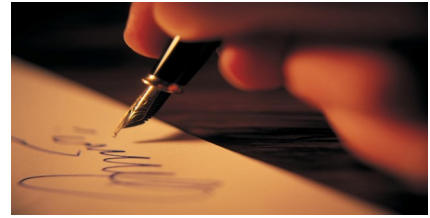
Special Music

- Vocals:** Gail Johnson
Sharon Ruff
Howie Snyder
- Flute:** Nicole Snyder
- Keyboard:** Christine Gustafson
- Bass:** Jim Johnson



Pastor Howie and his family

From the Pastor's Pen



I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season. My family and I did. There was a good spirit with the Christmas Eve Service and the music and worship were wonderful.

As we begin a new year, on January 12th I will be starting a new sermon series entitled "Created in God's Image". The Northern Illinois Conference has three new goals, and one is to live out the teaching that racism is incompatible with Christian teaching. As we are looking to the upcoming Martin Luther King Day on January 20th, along with Black History Month for the month of February, this is a good time to respond to this Conference goal and look at racism and how we are all created in God's image. I will be doing this series in conjunction with two other ministers in our Conference, Rev. Nicole Snyder and Rev. Violet Johnicker.

In case anyone is interested in looking at some of my resources, two books that I will be referencing for this series are [*The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*](#) by Jemar Tisby and [*Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*](#) by Drew G. I. Hart.

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jason Fogarty
Kendra Wulf
- 3 Bruce Muench
- 5 Seth Nygren
- 11 Donna Chambers
Don Miller
- 17 Margo Leden
- 22 Matthew Tamar
- 23 Brenda Wulf
- 26 Jerry Schulz
- 30 Matthew Alcorn

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Jim and Gail Johnson
- 18 Jerry and Darlene
Weaver



January 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)	6 Trustees 5:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm	7 Fellowship Committee 9:00 am Worship Committee 10:00 am Sisters in Christ Movie and Dinner 4:00 pm Beloit Theater	8	9 SPRC meeting 6:00 pm	10	11
12 Worship 10:45 am (At POP)	13 Choir 6:00 pm	14 Prayer Group 10:00 am	15	16	17	18
19 Worship 10:45 am (At POP) Young Adult Small Group With Howie 5:00 pm	20 Choir 6:00 pm	21 Finance meeting 7:00 pm	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 10:45 am (At POP) Food on the 4th	27 Choir 6:00 pm	28 Prayer Group 10:00 am	29	30	31	