



# The Rocktonian

Newsletter of  
Rockton United Methodist Church

January 2023



Rockton United Methodist Church  
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Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor

Worship With Us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.



## Sisters in Christ Fun Outing!

Mark the date, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (if bad weather, the event will be on January 28<sup>th</sup>). We have had a lot of fun on these outings so we decided to repeat it. We will leave the church at 9 a.m. and then travel to Clasen's Bakery in Middleton...and then on to Sauk City. We will first try the Dam's parking lot to view eagles, then lunch at a restaurant to be chosen later. Next, on to Wollersheim Winery for a quick visit. On the way home we may stop by the Shoe Box in Black Earth and/or Duluth Trading Outlet Store in Belleville. It's a full day so be prepared. We will need a volunteer driver for every four participants. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We hope you can join us!

—Phyllis DeGraff, (608) 368-1051



## *from the pastor's desk*

On New Year's Eve, John Wesley held a Watchnight Service, which provided an opportunity for Methodists to recommit themselves to holy living as they renewed their allegiance to God. We will hold an adapted version of this service on New Year's day (much shorter than the original 3+ hours!) I hope you will be able to join us in person or online.

In December's article, I provided some context for the increasing presence of The United Methodist Church in the news. Several regions of the UMC in America have recently determined pathways for congregations to disaffiliate in order to join the new Global Methodist Church or become independent.

The new denomination published a series of short videos which explain their thinking behind leaving the UMC as their most faithful option. Another series of videos was published soon after, offering alternative thinking or rebuttals to the original videos.

Methodists have a long history of questioning and thinking critically about what it means to understand the bible and follow the teachings of Jesus. Our denomination has a

tradition of embracing diverse theological opinions.

Starting January 8, we will meet after worship in the Library for a new discussion group. We will watch one video from each



**Sunday Morning  
Adult Study**

side and spend time discussing our reactions and faithful biblical approaches. My intention is to reinforce our commitment to respectful dialog (Methodists call this "holy conferencing"). I believe this information will help us better understand the decisions of our brothers and sisters across the denomination. We should be able to speak knowledgeably about these issues in our denomination, respecting differences while being able to clarify and communicate our own views.

I believe this series will also serve to highlight various elements central to Methodism. Even if the issue of human sexuality is of little interest to you, these discussions will broaden your perspective and teach you about how Methodists approach faith. This is a unique opportunity

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## Drop 'N Shop Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>!!!



We had a nice turnout for our “Kid’s Drop ‘N Shop” event in Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. The children made crafts and played games (and enjoyed snacks!) The kids had lots of fun...and parents had the opportunity to go Christmas shopping!!!



# What's Up with the Building?

January 2023

This month's What's Up? will be very brief. It's that time to look back over the year and count our blessings and give thanks. This year the Trustees are thankful for lifts that continue to work, sealed and striped lots, newly replaced and repaired roofs and (hopefully) heat radiators that will keep us warm to name just a few.

It was gratifying that the congregation was able to step up and support all of these projects to keep our buildings and grounds the way we'd all like to see them. We thank you for your patience as we know many of these projects end up taking longer than we'd like.

During the winter months we'll hope there aren't too many leaks or flickering tubes as we will try to take the time to do some long-range planning. We know there will be sidewalks to fix, bricks to tuck-point, and concrete to be replaced...and if you know of something that needs to be done, please share that with a Trustee.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and with hope for a peaceful New Year!

- John Carleton, Trustees Chair

## *from the pastor's desk*

*(Continued from page 2)*

to hear differing viewpoints and evaluate what it means to be a faithful Christian in our world today.

My hope for this class is that we will establish a safe space to explore differing viewpoints. I want to warn you there is a good chance you may find yourself challenged. I believe this is some of the important work in growing a stronger, deeper faith. An early mentor of mine used to say, "the day you find yourself sitting in an emergency waiting room is NOT the time to start questioning what you believe and why!" I look forward to exploring with you as we seek to better understand and respect the differences within our congregation and denomination.

Blessings,



*We are continuing with an explanation of what the various committees and groups within Rockton United Methodist Church do or how members are involved with the life of our church. This month we are talking about our Memorial Committee!*



## Memorial Committee

The RUMC Memorial Committee meets several times during the year to discuss requests and opportunities to honor loved ones whose families and friends have donated to the church in honor of their loved ones who are no longer with us.



The committee decides how donated funds are used. Last year purchased included a new chalice and paten for communion, new offering plates, and banners for the sanctuary and entrance. Occasionally, memorial funds are used for repairs or repairs. In 2022, for instance, memorial funds were used to update the carillon so church bells once again can be heard on the hour! The front doors of our sanctuary were also refurbished with funds donated in honor of loved ones.

Some wonderful musicians are also provided for church services during the year thanks to memorial donations. Jim Hendricks and Dan Holmes led memorable and meaningful worship services. Last year a new flowering tree was purchased and planted in front of the church on Blackhawk Blvd. We also dedicated a beautiful framed print of Jesus' Great Commission which now greets people as they enter and exit the sanctuary.

As we start 2023, committee members are Nancy Bielema (chairperson), Paul Chambers, Donna Granath, Darlene Matlock, Pam Noel, and Peggy Wellnitz.



### **Gratitude to "Santa" and his Church Mouse**

Many thanks for the goodie bag at Christmas!  
Much appreciated! —Margaret Downing, office

## Tidbits of Our History

—Rockton Herald, Edson Carr, Editor—



1878

\*“The disgusting ‘gawkers’ were out in full force on Sunday evening last, completely filling the walk in front of the Methodist church in Warren, compelling every person who attended that church that evening to run the gauntlet of ‘gawking’ eyes and leering faces.”

\*“We are requested to say that the officers of the Baptist church have determined to have no more ‘gawking’ on the walk in front of their edifice and if it is persisted in, the guilty ones will be promptly punished. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend church and seats will be provided for those who may come but no more of the abominable behavior of staring church goers out of countenance, smoking cigars, and using profane language will be tolerated. We understand, though not officially, that the same rule is to be enforced at the M.E. church.

“It is a shame that enough of the young men of this vicinity have no more respect for themselves, their friends, or the Church of God than to congregate in front of our churches in such numbers as they did in front of the Methodist church last Sunday evening.--*Warren Sentinel.*”

\*“Personal - Will the young man in a blond overcoat and a liver colored hat, who sang ‘The heart bowed down with grease and hair’ out on West Hill at 1 a.m., please repeat his concert this evening at the same place, and stand a little away from the lamppost, so the audience can get a good crack at him with a lump of coal, without endangering the property of the gas company.”

\*“If you wish to aid a wounded soldier and a worthy citizen, support a man that fought and bled for your rights, and saved the Union without the loss of one star - such a man is A.W. Thompson, candidate for Sheriff.”

\*“About this time of the year every third man you see pass your window is carrying a slip of some house plant that he don’t know the name of, which his wife is going to keep next month, for the pleasure of seeing it freeze about Christmas.”

\*“Mrs. Philip Pfeifer of Seward has a splendid yellow chrysanthemum. It is nearly five feet in height and at the present time has eighty-three large double flowers upon it.



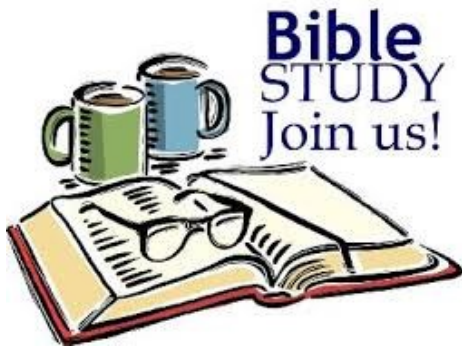
\*“Rockford is infested with gypsies.”

\*“It is said that smoke from the soft coal used at the court house in Rockford is destroying the beautiful appearance of portions of that elegant structure.”

(Photo, left: The newly built Winnebago County Courthouse, 1877, 400 block of West State St., Rockford)

# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day Worship featuring Wesley's Covenant Service 9:30a	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am	9	10 10 a.m. Small Group Prayer Team	11	12	13	14
15 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am	16	17	18  4 p.m. Trustees	19  7pm Admin Council	20  Feb. newsletter articles due	21  Sisters in Christ Outing
22 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Food on the 4th	23	24 10 a.m. Small Group Prayer Team	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am	30	31  7 p.m. Finance Team				



Starting January 8 after worship, join us online or in the Library for a new discussion group. We will be watching and listening to two perspectives on various issues facing The United Methodist Church today. Although this is structured as a discussion, at its core is the way we approach the Bible and what it means to be a faithful Christian today. This study will NOT be boring, but it will be worth the effort. Please make arrangements to join us for this 6-week study.

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