



# The Rocktonian

Newsletter of  
Rockton United Methodist Church

July 2020



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## Worship With Us on Sunday Morning

As the state and the NIC of our United Methodist Church begin to relax worship restrictions related to COVID-19, our Worship Committee will be evaluating and determining when it will be appropriate for our congregation to begin to return to worship in the sanctuary. At this time we are continuing to live-stream our service on **Sunday morning at 10:00am**. Please visit our website for more information.

### Mission Statement

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

### Visit Our Website

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

# **We Are Gathering Together!**

**Come and join us as we gather to share  
in the taking of Communion  
this Saturday night.**

**When: This Saturday - July 11th**

**Where: The parking lot at our  
own Rockton UMC**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**We will be using safe, pre-packaged filled communion cups with wafers included with the cups. We wish this to be a service where you feel safe in participating, so you will have the option to remain in your car or bring a lawn chair and practice social distancing outside your vehicle. Please remember to bring a mask!**

**Following the service we will be  
having an ice cream social - serving individually  
packaged ice cream treats.  
(ice cream cups, sandwiches, drumsticks, etc.)**

**Please plan to be with us to take communion and  
enjoy a time with church friends - from a distance!**

# From the Pastor's Pen



July, 2020

Our Worship Committee has continued to meet and look over the guidelines from the Conference ReTurn Team for considering options for in-person worship services. After deliberating and looking at the options, we are leaning toward going to Parking Lot Worship Services at Prince of Peace Church south lot, using an FM Transmitter, so that people can listen to the services on their vehicle radio. The plan is to start this on August 9<sup>th</sup>. We will live-stream these services to allow those to participate from home and we will be keeping them shorter than our regular services, shooting for 30-40 minutes. I am looking forward to being able to worship with you all in-person!

It has been interesting to participate and discuss our current study with many of you, ***Gospel Discipleship: 4 Pathways for Christian Disciples***. In reflecting on the last words of Christ from the 4 Gospels, it is interesting to see how different people and different churches have different approaches to discipleship. I pray that our deeper understanding of Christ's call to discipleship and view of different approaches will lead us to being more intentional about discipleship in our church. If you are interested in learning more about this study and approach, please contact me if you'd like to join a group. You can also take the assessment at this website to get a better understanding of how you fit into God's call for discipleship: [www.ministrymatters.com/gospeldiscipleship](http://www.ministrymatters.com/gospeldiscipleship)

And as a reminder, both now and after we start the parking lot services, you can still view the services via live-streaming, the link provided with our Saturday Email. By the way, if you have had any lag issues while trying to stream the services, one trick is to pause the service for a little while – maybe 10 minutes. Go get your coffee or something and come back, then hit play and the service should play smoother.

Instructions for joining via Zoom:

***To participate in the Sunday Services, Sunday School, Thursday Discipleship Study Zoom Meetings audio by phone call, call 1-312-626-6799 and when prompted enter code 820-556-5380.***

***Direct Link for computer, smart phone or tablet: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8205565380>***

For joining a Zoom Meeting with a computer or smart phone, read through this page and you can learn how to join with whatever device you use: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

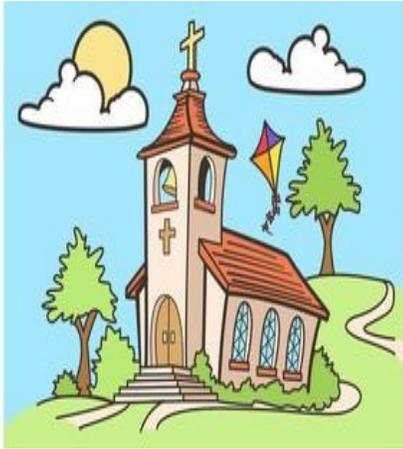
I'll leave you with one of my favorite scriptures for encouragement:

Psalm 145:18     *"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."*

May we call upon the Lord in truth to live and love as God's people.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Howie Snyder



## What's Up With the Building?

### July

Things have been moving much faster recently and we are one meeting away from possibly starting the repairs on the sanctuary. The RUMC Building Committee met via Zoom on June 28<sup>th</sup> after church and approved the bid from Sjostrom and Sons to repair the church. Most of the Trustees were also in on the same meeting or had expressed their intentions and they approved the bid as well. The proposal then went to a Zoom meeting of the Ad Council on July 1<sup>st</sup> where it was again approved. This may seem like a lot of meetings but we are following the steps laid out for us by the Methodist Conference for any major repairs to our church building. All the members had studied the quote so everyone at all these meetings was well prepared. With the approval of the Ad Council, the Methodist District Building and Location Committee was able to consider the bid at a July 7<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting. This group unanimously approved the bid and set a date for the final step - a lay meeting here in our congregation.

**That meeting to seek final approval from our congregation is set on Zoom for July 21st, at 6:30pm and will be a modified "Charge Conference" involving only the Ad Council bringing interests/ input to the table on your behalf.** After taking time to review and study the proposal included in this email with the Rocktonian, you, as a member of the congregation, will have this time from July 9th - 20th to communicate to any of the Ad Council members listed below your questions, approval, or concerns about the bid that the various committees have recommended. You may contact any of the following Ad Council members:

Dan Davis  
Alan Bridgeland  
Margo Leden  
Phyllis DeGraff  
Hossein Safanvinejad  
Karen Fysh

Bruce Muench  
Gail Terry  
Judy Schellenberger  
Brenda Wulf  
Roberta Hoover  
Earl Tamar

Mary Louis Muench  
Gail Johnson  
Jim Johnson  
Jeff Schultz  
Janet Bridgeland

Should that special "Charge Conference" also approve, then we can give Sjostrom and Sons the go ahead to begin work. After a couple of weeks to get the steel reinforcing parts made, *they hope to have the repair done in under sixty days.*

If this were the old days, a young boy would be holding up a Rocktonian and be screaming, "Extra, extra, read all about it! Special Ad Council to meet on sanctuary repairs!" Those who do not get the Rocktonian by email will have the information included in the envelope with the newsletter.

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What's Up With the Building? for July  
(continued from previous page)

As a part of all this, we will be having an **appeal for contributions** for the building repairs. This actually has been going on for some time as donations have already come in to support the project. Watch your mail/email for information on how to do your part to support the repair.

Depending upon what the contractor tells us, we may need to move/re-store where some of the pews were placed during our work-day last October. Please be on the lookout for help if needed to move some of the pews.

**Additional Projects:**

When you start fixing one thing, then folks start noticing other things that need to be fixed as well and, when you are having constant discussions about improvements, they come up. The things mentioned below are not part of the sanctuary repair but are improvements that have been talked about for several months or even over a year. They're being brought up here as some of them make sense to do as the sanctuary is being fixed. It's important to repeat that these are "extras", albeit important ones, that are not part of the repairs and don't need Methodist Conference approval.

**Carpeting**—No one involved with previous discussions seems to exactly remember when the last carpeting was installed but all agree it's been awhile. With the repairs taking place over the carpeting, some thinking that they'd like to eliminate the tile under the pews, there has been water leakage on the carpet in a couple of spots, and that it would make sense to replace the carpeting before the pews are put back (whew!), there has been much discussion that we should replace the carpeting in the sanctuary and narthex. As a result, a committee has been formed to explore how much and what type of carpeting we would need. And of course, this committee will tackle the biggest consideration of whether, with the repairs, we can afford the additional cost?

**Audio-visual**—The idea of using large screen TVs has been bounced around several times. After experiencing them at Prince of Peace, and with prices for flat screens going down, there has been renewed interest in replacing the projector. This is also being looked into. Especially if we went with a wireless setup, it would not be crucial that it be done now as with the carpeting and the pews. Again, can we afford this?

**The Lift**—There has been talk regarding various aspects of the lift over the past year. The conversation has varied from putting up a better covering over the present entrance to moving the lift down to the entrance of the education wing. So far, it has not gone beyond the conversation stage.

Again, these are all extras beyond the sanctuary repairs and are not being considered in any of the various approval meetings as they are "trappings" to the building and not a part of the building itself. As this is a column that discusses "What's Up with the Building?" they are included here so you are aware that these "additional projects" are out there and being considered/discussed.

John Carleton  
Chair of the Building Committee



Dear RUMC Congregation,

Last Sunday after the church service, a meeting was held to choose a contractor to begin the repairs needed to make our sanctuary safe to use again. The project was awarded to Sjostrom and Sons Construction, who submitted a bid of \$115,616 to complete the project.

The Resources Group, working closely with the Finance Committee, has been tasked with determining how to cover the cost of this project. At this time, the total assets at our disposal are approximately \$234,841, of which \$160,881 is in the bank and

\$73,960 is in an endowment fund. While we have enough money in the bank to cover the costs of the project, doing so would significantly deplete our funds to the point that our ability to fulfill the mission of RUMC may be impacted.

We have therefore decided to hold a capital campaign so that the members of the congregation may assist in supporting the project's costs. A number of people have already expressed an interest in doing so and some have already contributed. The goal which has been set is to raise \$50,000. You can expect to receive a pledge card/donation form which will be mailed to your home later this month. Please know that your support of this effort will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Earl Tamar  
Chair, Resources Group



## Congregational Care Team

July 2020



It is HOT, HOT, HOT!! And that makes us all slow down and take a slow and easy approach to life. That is exactly what our Congregational Care Team (CCT) has done for the months of June and July. We have written a few notes, made some phone calls to keep in touch with our shut-ins, but now are looking forward to resuming our visits in August.

As always, we continue to invite others to join our team. Please give me a call if you wish to be part of this important and inspiring mission work!

Mary Louise Meunch  
Co-ordinator for Congregational Care  
815-623-7556

# SISTERS IN CHRIST

The Biker Chicks say...  
“Where there’s a will there’s a way!”



Please notice the social distancing as the Biker Chicks enjoy their coffee after their Wednesday morning bike ride. On Wednesdays, upon returning to Rockton, they make their way downtown to Dee Dee’s Main Street Coffee & Décor. They purchase their beverages and walk back to our church parking lot where they set up their lawn chairs at a safe distance and enjoy stimulating conversations! Kind of makes you want to buy a bicycle and join the fun!

## Uganda Student Sponsorships

For \$25 you can supply one Uganda student's school uniform, supplies, and a year of education. If you would like to be part of this mission work, please contact Christine Gustafson at [cmguspt@yahoo.com](mailto:cmguspt@yahoo.com) or call/text @ 815/871-5888.

If writing a check for this mission, please make it out to the Rockton UMC and write Uganda in the memo line.

Thank you for your partnership in this venture! The children and their families are so grateful for our financial support as well as the prayers of Rockton United Methodist Church.

God bless you!!



## Church Yard Clean-up

During our absence from the church building, Laura and Jared Janes have graciously continued mowing the church property but not doing any of the weeding and trimming. We are looking for a couple of people that enjoy working in the yard and will take time to spruce up the mulch areas around the building - once the weather



cools off, that is! There’s no need to report in to anyone. Just feel free to grab a friend and “pull and snip” until those grounds look wonderful!



## ***A Few Delicious Thoughts About Those Fried Cakes!***

(from those that knew them well)

Last month we printed this photo of the ladies frying those famous Fried Cakes that made our church a popular destination a couple of Thursdays each month. We asked for you to share some memories about that part of the history of our church. We have printed the responses here. Enjoy!

Fried cakes! Yum! I don't remember much of the really early days of them but I was a fan in the early '70s when my boys, Greg and Gary, were young. One of our favorite things to do when school was out was to pick up a bag of freshly made fried cakes and go to Great-Grandpa Bloom's (Swan Bloom) for coffee and milk. This time with my grandfather and boys is a very special memory made even better with the thought of the delicious fried cakes to dunk in my coffee! Um-m-m good!

Donna Chambers

When I returned to Rockton after college and began my teaching career, the word quickly spread that I was a member of the church that sold those wonderful "donuts"! The Wednesday night before "fried cake day", teachers in the building would remind me that I needed to leave home early enough the next morning so I could swing by the church and pick up fried cakes, both plain and sugared. Those teachers couldn't wait for recess when they could enjoy their cup of coffee and that fried treat!

Gail Johnson

(When we went to choir practice on Thursday evenings you could always tell when it had been a fried cake day. You could smell it - everywhere!!)

## History of Rockton Methodist Famous Fried Cakes

The three ladies shown in the picture of the June issue of The Rocktonian were hard at work making the fried cakes that made our church very famous. Many years ago a group of our church ladies started the project that helped us rebuild after the building was destroyed by fire in 1934. These fried cakes were delicious and became so popular they started making them every other Thursday from October through March and sold 275-300 dozen each time. They would arrive at the church early in the morning and customers would soon appear to purchase some of the first batch. One member of the crew would peel the potatoes (yes, they used potatoes in the famous recipe) the day before. Before World War Two they made two kinds, plain and sugared. Because sugar was rationed, the sugared ones were discontinued during that time.

As a young girl, Lyle Liddle Shotliff, delivered the fried cakes with a pony and surrey to homes in Rockton. Her mother, Ratie Liddle, served as chairman for many years. They sold the fried cakes at McNeany's Department Store in downtown Beloit. They also delivered some to Radio Station WBEL and the broadcasters would advertise them all morning.

The fried cakes were famous throughout the area with people coming from Rockford and other locations and buying quantities for their freezers. They were also shipped to Alaska, Florida and Arizona by the buyers.

As this group of hardworking ladies started getting older and the younger women were employed, they discontinued the fried cake project approximately 1990. However, several ladies joined together to make the fried cakes once again for our 150th anniversary, 15 years ago.

In 1986 a church cookbook was published and it was dedicated to those persons who worked so hard throughout the years making the delicious FRIED CAKES. We honor all these ladies (plus three men who helped with odd jobs) for their dedication for many, many years to this project.

Ruth Alcorn, Cheryl Campbell, Helen Carleton, Dorothy Carter, Ethelyn Fisher, Marguerite Frye, Evelyn Granger, Shirley Hollister, Audra Holmes, Betty Homer, Maxine Johnson, Martha Kennison, Marty Knodle, Arlene Kocher, Rose Lovejoy, Betty Marshall, Dorothy Matson, Ruth McMakin, Dawn Miller, Esther Noller, Jean Norsworthy, Dorothy O'Brien, Lillian Phelps, Lois Shade, Lyle Shotliff, Mary Sprague, Sandy Stamm, Bertha Stogsdill, Vivian Sunleaf, Marjorie Tracy, Irene Ulferts, Joanne Walters, Marlyn Watts, Amelia Williams, and Brenda Wulf, Bob Cochran, Bob Lawhorn, and Bob Shultz

Submitted by Peg Hayelan

### **This is the recipe for the famous Methodist Fried Cakes:**

2 eggs	4 scant c. flour
1-1/2 c. sugar	1 tsp. soda
1 c. mashed potatoes.	1+ tsp. baking powder
2 Tbsp. melted lard	1 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. vinegar	1 tsp. salt
1 c. buttermilk	

Mix liquid ingredients together. Mix dry ingredients together. Mix everything together and roll out on a floured board and cut. Fry in deep kettle at 350 degrees in real lard until fork comes out of the cakes clean.

I have 74 years of wonderful memories as a member of the Rockton UMC. And... I WAS A FRIED CAKE LADY! When Lyle Shotliff decided it was time for her to retire, she taught me the skill of rolling out the dough and cutting the donuts. She was a Pro and I knew I had to do it just right. If you added too much flour when you kneaded the dough, the cakes would be too tough. If you didn't add flour, they were too runny and hard to handle. The fry ladies would send them back to the rollers! So they had to be just right!

My mom, Amelia Williams (one of the hardest workers in the United Methodist Women) would get up at 4:00am, drive into Rockton and start up the old stoves and get her kettles filled with lard!! She was a fryer for many years. Dawn Miller was our leader and another hard worker. She would peel the potatoes the day before and her job was cooking them and putting them through the ricer. She had to keep up with the mixers. She also was the "go to lady" with questions or problems. Rose Lovejoy and Betty Marshall were my partners in rolling. Rose always had flour on her nose and we'd laugh about that!

One time we had such a busy day and by afternoon we were all tired - but then we realized we had telephone orders to fill! What a ruckus that caused! We got silly and laughed - what fun we had! We made good money for years and kept our church in good shape. We pledged a sizable amount to Rockford District missions each year besides the pledge to our own church each year. I wouldn't have changed those days for anything!!

Irene Ulferts

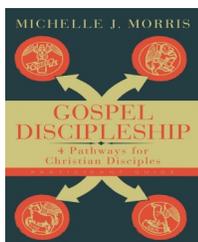
## JULY 2020

**Saturday, July 11, 6:00pm** COMMUNION SERVED in the Rockton UMC parking lot (Individually packaged ice cream treats available afterwards)

There are no regular monthly meetings or any social activities being held by our congregation at this time, so no need for the regular calendar.

These events are happening every week using ZOOM:

Study Group every Sunday morning at 8:30am - 9:30am  
with Mark Alcorn facilitating



Study Group every Thursday morning at 10:00am - 11:00am  
with Pastor Howie facilitating

The combined church service with Durand United Methodist Church streaming live each Sunday morning at 10:00am

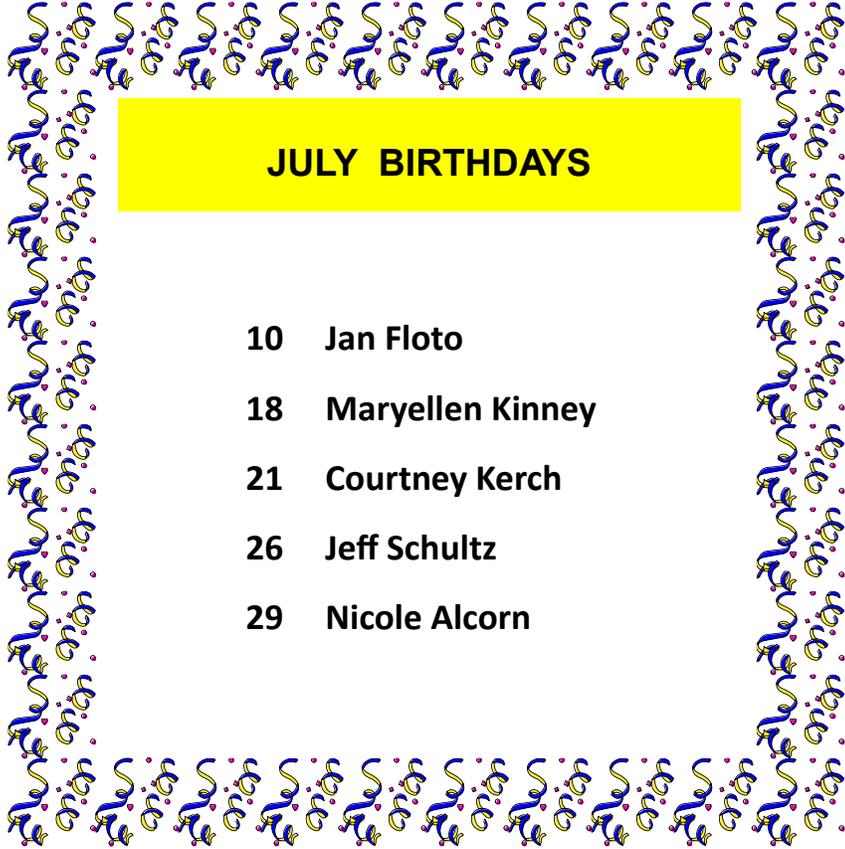


Our friend JoAnn Medernach celebrated a milestone birthday in June -

**90 years!!**



It makes no difference how many years you are celebrating on your birthday, it is always fun to receive a birthday card! Let's make this a special birthday and shower JoAnn with birthday wishes!



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 10 Jan Floto
- 18 Maryellen Kinney
- 21 Courtney Kerch
- 26 Jeff Schultz
- 29 Nicole Alcorn

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

9 Don and Sue Miller

