

The Rocktonian

Newsletter

Rockton United Methodist Church
102 W. Chapel Street Rockton, IL 61072

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Office Hours by appointment
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Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor
847-271-2733 (call or text) 9am-9pm



Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

"Tell Me A Story..."

We are grateful for those who participated in the Story Time at the Parsonage gatherings in late June. We value the fellowship and sharing that you so graciously shared.

Christine Gustafson, Dave Wellen,
and Dan Enderle



Financial Treasurer Wanted

Laura Noel has been our Financial Treasurer since 2022. She has done a wonderful job paying our bills, running payroll, and entering those transactions into our database. We celebrate with Laura a recent promotion at her work, but are disappointed that this means she can no longer be our full-time treasurer. We are looking to hire someone for a few hours a week. Accounting or bookkeeping experience will be helpful. Please contact Dan Davis or Christine Gustafson if you know anyone who might be interested in the position.



Our Leadership Team had a special meeting in June to discuss finances. Our expenses had recently begun to outweigh our income, and we wanted to be proactive.

Our budget has been pared back to the bare minimum, but when we met to discuss our options, I came away pleasantly surprised at how this church is able to address a challenge with flexibility, resilience, and creativity.

When we met, pledge cards were still being returned, but the tentative result of our pledge drive is an expected increase in giving by almost \$7,000. This alone might solve our immediate financial needs, but we want to ensure our church can remain healthy and has the ability to grow in the months and years ahead, so we shared ideas about how we might strengthen our finances.

We discussed a variety of options, including the possibility of sharing our building space with another organization who might help with utility costs. One of the suggestions is to hold a concert as a fundraiser, perhaps featuring the Hallelujah Quartet. We might revisit the chili supper or host a chili cookoff. We could look into a barbeque dinner or brat sale using outside vendors to provide the food. Other fundraiser ideas are being explored. If you have experience with successful fundraisers that do not require lots of young energy, please speak to anyone on the Leadership Team, or if any of these

ideas sound particularly good to you, please let us know!

We noticed that the church building's utility costs are pretty high, costing up to \$1000 a month in the winter. We are looking into the possibility of installing programmable thermostats in the building.

During the week, there is very little activity at the church. Most weeks I am alone in the buildings during Tuesday and Thursday morning office hours. We decided to discontinue office hours and publicize that I will be available by appointment on a trial basis for the summer to see the difference it might make on energy costs.

I generally take Fridays as a day off and spend Saturdays editing and finalizing my sermon. My cellphone is published in the newsletter and bulletin and I am available between 9am-9pm daily, and of course I am available any time for emergencies. As a reminder, *please* let me know when anyone is hospitalized or would like a pastoral visit.

While we are trying these changes, calls coming to the church phone will be forwarded to my cellphone. This will allow better responses than manually checking the answering machine twice a week.

As always, we welcome input from everyone and will keep you informed if things change. Enjoy your July!

Blessings,

What's Up with the Building?

July 2024

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

I don't know about you, but I think the grounds at RUMC are looking beautiful! While the frequent rains have helped, it's the work of Brenda Wulf and her grounds crew and Mark Lukasick and his lawn mower that really have the grounds radiating the beauty of God's creation. When folks pitch in, everything looks better and this "What's Up?" will have several opportunities where all RUMC folks can pitch in to help.

Speaking of the rain, we are watching some areas where we have concerns about our roofs and gutters. We've had repairs done to several trouble spots on the Education Wing Roof and we're watching the North Room of the Sanctuary to see if we have any new spots on the plaster or if, what's there, is a leftover from when the gutters got clogged a few months ago or there's something new. You may recall that the roofer who sealed up some spots for us a few weeks ago cautioned that our Education Wing roof has, at best, two or three seasons left and, unfortunately, the main church roof is probably in the same situation. Since there's not as many folks in the building these days, if you should see a place where it appears there's a new leak, please let a Trustee know ASAP. We have some spots under where the roof has been fixed that still have streaks that need to be painted. We're waiting to be sure the leak is fixed to do that so you may need to take a second look to be sure a suspected leak is new.

Anyone need a couple of big sheets of glass? We have two sheets of tempered glass left over from the old lift that are six foot long by about thirty-one inches wide. We'd love to get rid of them but, nowadays, most windows are pre-made in factories. We've tried finding a glass company or a charity like Habitat for Humanity that could use them but, so far, no luck. If worse comes to worse, we'll have to put them in the dumpster but it sure would be nice to be able to give them to a good cause. One problem is that they are tempered glass which means they're stronger but will shatter in a bazillion pieces if scratched. They would go great on either side of a door like they were on the old lift.

So, if you know someone who'd like them, please let us know!!

We're running low on the new keys. We're not out yet and it's great that folks are checking them out and using the building. However, if you do have a new key, and you find that you're not using it, please contact Pastor or a Trustee to make arrangements to turn it back in.

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Finance Team

by Dan Davis, Finance Chair

We would like to provide an update on our finances as the year progresses. The recent pledge drive has so far provided a positive indicator in terms of our annual revenues meeting this year's fiscal budget. There are still pledges filtering in, so we are holding off making a comparison of the annual revenue verses the annual budget until late July.

As we approach the end of June, the midway point for the annual budget, our current expenditures are less then projected, which is a good thing. Meeting our expenditures has required us to tap into our reserves this year. Again, we are hopeful that once all pledges are in, our annual revenue will be more closely aligned with the budget.

We thank you for your continued support as we go forward in our service to God and the community.

Thank you all.

God's love and blessings to all.



(Trustees Continued from page 3)

Finally, we'd like feedback on the carillon. For awhile we thought it wasn't working. I had a couple of afternoons when I didn't hear it chime the hour. Since then, I've had the opposite experience! It chimed right on time for me last Friday and a couple of other folks have heard it at various times as well. We'd like to see if there was just a temporary glitch or if it doesn't go off at just a couple of times. So, again, if you happen to be in or around the building, please take note if the chimes go off on the hour. Also, it should play brief song at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM. No chimes after 6:00 PM until 8:00 AM to help the neighbors. I'm told the kids at the pool have come to depend on them....



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
<i>Office Hours by Appointment</i>						
7 9:30am Worship 	8	9 10am Small Group Prayer Team	10	11	12	13
14 9:30am Worship	15 3:30 pm Trustees 4:30 pm Finance	16 10am Retirement Home Worship 4:30 pm Ad Council	17	18	19	20 Newsletter articles due
21 9:30am Worship	22	23 10am Small Group Prayer Team	24	25	26	27
28 9:30am Worship Food on the 4th	29 Preparing and serving dinner at Veteran's Drop-in Center	30 6pm Leadership Cohort Coaching Call	31			