



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

June 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.

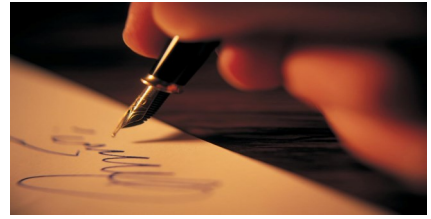
Mission Statement

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

Visit Our Website

www.rocktonumc.org

From the Pastor's Pen



June, 2020

Our Worship Committee has been going over the guidelines from the Conference ReTurn Team for considering options for in-person or continuing online-only worship. Because we are currently in Phase 3 that does not allow gatherings of over 10 people, requires masks for gatherings and prohibits singing, we will not be looking to meet in person again until we move out of this phase. We will be continuing to hold Live-Stream online-only services through at least mid-July, but will continue to meet to evaluate on a regular basis. And the plan is that once we do begin in-person worship services, that we will continue Livestreaming our services for those not able to join us in person.

You may have seen the emails about it, but I am excited about our new study that we are doing as a church that is reflected in our Sermon Series on ***Gospel Discipleship: 4 Pathways for Christian Disciples***. We have a few groups that will be meeting for this study, including the Prayer Team and the Sunday School group with Mark Alcorn on Sunday mornings at 8:30AM via Zoom. I will be leading a group for the study on Thursday Mornings at 10AM via Zoom that will take the place of our previous Thursday Zoom Check-In time.

Several have commented to me that the assessment is really eye opening in understanding different approaches to discipleship. So I encourage everyone to take the assessment to get a better understanding of our differences in this. Here is where you can find the assessment:

www.ministrymatters.com/gospeldiscipleship

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.

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>

2020 has thrown a lot of things at us that have been challenging and we're not even halfway through the year yet! But as we continue to live out our faith in these trying times, be comforted by these words of Jesus:

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20.

I look forward to connecting with you online this week and through prayer!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Howie Snyder

What's Up With the Building?

June



Last month the engineer finished the drawings/plans for stabilizing the wall and we sent those out to various contractors for bids to do the work. The project has three basic phases and a phase must be completed before the next one begins:

- 1) Erect temporary supports and then slowly jack the ceiling up to as close to its original height as possible (hopefully pulling the wall in with it).
- 2) Install a beam across the top of the wall and hardware to connect bigger and better rods to stabilize the wall and roof.
- 3) Repair/cosmetic work to patch up the wall and return the interior to how it originally looked.

We received bids from three general contractors that bid on all three phases and one additional group of three individual contractors that will work together and bid separately on each phase. All of the three general contractors made inspection visits and were comprehensive but their bids were higher than expected. The group of three individuals has undergone some changes so we are still waiting for one of the bids to be submitted. As it looks now, this group will have the lowest bid due to some of the work being donated so we are waiting to see how this all works out. Once we have a clearer picture of all of the bids, the Engineering and Contracting Group will study them and make a recommendation to the entire Building Committee. They will also need to approve that recommendation or send it back for more work. The Resources Group has done its job to determine what we have to pay for the project and will set up a funding campaign once they have a clear picture of how much it will cost.

Thanks to Ron Zoeller and Pastor Howie for their help with letting contractors in for visits. Thanks to Mark Alcorn for working with the group of three. Once we have a clear picture of who we want to do the work, and if we can afford it, then we'll go to the Northern Illinois Methodist Conference Building and Location Committee to seek their approval to hire the work done.

Before the work can begin, we will need to have some of the pews relocated and covered up. We'll need to coordinate that with the selected contractor. The Storage Group will put out a call when that needs to be done and it should take less time than back last October when we moved everything out of the sanctuary. Praying that will happen in early July.

John Carleton
Chair of the Building Committee



Congregational Care Team



June 2020

May was a quiet month for our Congregational Team. No visits have been made since the middle of March to our shut-ins. Phone calls –yes... Notes-yes... Visiting-NO Sad, but as you know, visiting is not being allowed in any of the independent living or assisted living facilities. We are once again asking you to be temporary members of our Care Team! We are including a list of people that might enjoy a card, letter, or even a phone call from you in the next couple of weeks as our team awaits the chance to begin visitations.

And speaking of being a member of the Care Team... We are continuing to look for additional members for our visiting team. It isn't a large time commitment, but truly a commitment of love. Right now that means writing a short note or making a phone call. But soon it could mean a personal visit. If you should choose to join the CCT (Congregational Care Team) our shut-ins will know that we are a church that "*cares enough to send the very best*" - YOU!

Please give me a call if you wish to join our Care Team. In the meantime, we will continue to pray for peace and good health for all!

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

Dorothy Carter
Grand Victorian of Rockford
3495 McFarland Road
Rockford, IL 61114

Bob Lawhorn
410 Betsy Ross Lane
Rockton, IL 61072

Janice Thompson
14221 South Bluff Road
Rockton, IL 61072

Charlie Cunningham R70222
6665 State Route 146 East
Vienna, IL

Pauline Lawhorn
410 Betsy Ross Lane
Rockton, IL 61072

Ann Hardy
5294 Wedgewood Drive
South Beloit, IL 61080

Peg Hayelan
1037 E. Main Street
Rockton, IL 61072

Lavonne Rice
%Fair Oaks
1515 Blackhawk Blvd.
South Beloit, IL 61080

Rose Lovejoy
1000 Falcon Point Place #128
Rockton, IL 61072

Jim and Sandy Stamm
939 High Point Drive
Rockton, IL 61072

Frances Koehmstadt
855 Gartner Court
Beloit, WI 53511

Thanks for considering helping us out! Also, let us know if you have someone else we should be keeping in touch with.

Uganda Student Sponsorships



You still have time to consider your support for children's education in Uganda. The cost remains \$25 for one student's school uniform, supplies, and a year of education. If you previously sponsored a student and wish to continue, please notify me. If you have not sponsored a child in the past but would like to in the coming year, I encourage you to contact me.

My email is cmguspt@yahoo.com or I can be reached by phone or text @ 815/871-5888.

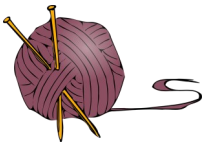
If writing a check for this mission, please make it out to the Rockton UMC and write Uganda in the memo line.

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!!
Christine Gustafson

SISTERS IN CHRIST

We are looking forward to the time that we can gather with our "sisters in Christ" and enjoy a time of fellowship and activities. When that time comes, I want to be sure that anyone who wants to participate is receiving my email announcements. If you have not been getting emails about Sisters in Christ and would like to be included, please give me a call at the number listed below. We would welcome your presence among us.



Want to start a knitting or crocheting project? Need supplies?

We have bins of yarn, skeins for the taking.

There are many sets of knitting needles available to borrow as well as crochet hooks. Look through the various types and sizes you might need, use for as long as you need, and return them when you are finished. All supplies are at the lower level, turn right at the bottom of the stairs, and enter the first room on the right. Happy hunting!

Phyllis DeGraff

608-368-1051

Church's 165th Anniversary in October

Since last fall there has been discussion about our upcoming anniversary this October. We collected men's ties to be used to make two new banners. We've talked about celebrating with a great meal/potluck after the morning service. Laughed about making fried cakes and who really wanted to tackle that project!! You get the idea. Well, all festivities were put on hold with the quarantine and the unpredictability of when we could actually return to our own building, since that would be the best place to hold the celebration. So, time to change plans.

That familiar hymn says...

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place, the church is a people!

Let's begin to look back in our history, and your memories, and celebrate our people! John Carleton and I will be working together to build your knowledge of our church as we approach the anniversary date. Here is your assignment:

I have started looking through the old scrapbooks in the church library. Below, I am printing a photo from one of the scrapbooks. If you know anything about our church history related to the photo, please write down your comments or memories and send them to my email.

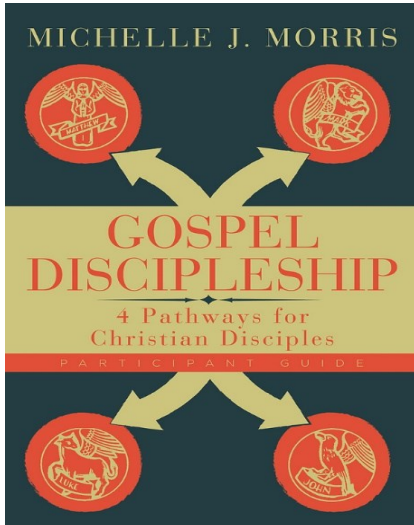
johnsong755@gmail.com

John and I will choose a couple stories to print in the next Rocktonian and all the remaining memories will be printed on the website for you to enjoy. Pick up that pencil and start remembering!



June 2020

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 at www.facebook.com/DurandUMCommunity/live

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Don Edwards
- 3 Ron Zoeller
- 4 Diane LaForge
- 5 Tyler Kerch
- 8 Cheryl Campbell
- 12 Jessica Zimmer
- 15 Gail Terry
- 16 Nancy Bielema
- 18 Barbara Bishop
- 27 Tom Hilgeman

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Jeff and Lisa Schultz
- 12 Greg and Margo Leden
- 14 Bob and Pauline Lawhorn
- 15 Scott and Donna Hellinga
- 22 Paul and Donna Chambers
- 28 Roy and Melinda Croisant

