



# The Rocktonian

Newsletter of  
Rockton United Methodist Church

June 2019



## Rev. Howie Snyder, Pastor

Cell phone: 630-809-9419

Email: [pastorhowiesnyder@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@rocktonumc.org)

## Worship With Us

### Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am

Children dismissed for Sunday School at 9:15 am

Enjoy fellowship downstairs following the service  
with coffee and treats!

### Saturday Evening Fusion Service 5:11 pm

An informal service with small group discussion  
held in the lower level of the education wing.

Coffee and water available during the service.

## 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)

# Report on Annual Conference by Karen Fysh, Lay Member

## Memorial Service

We honored and remembered those who have touched our lives and passed away in the last year with a message from Bishop John Schol from the Greater New Jersey Conference. We especially remembered the lives of Rev. Bruce and Eugenia Johnson, who were killed 50 years ago on September 29, 1969, in their parsonage at Armitage Avenue United Methodist Church in Lincoln Park. Their murders remain unsolved. During the service, participants signed names of loved ones and friends on pieces of fabric, which were then tied together and placed on a large loom in remembrance of them. CAROL KINGERY WAS ONE OF THOSE NAMED AND WE MADE A FABRIC REMEMBRANCE FOR HER.

## Legislation Passed

Much of the legislation that passed at Annual Conference reflected the disapproval of the Traditional Plan adopted at February's General Conference Special Session, which emphasizes the current policies around homosexuality in the Book of Discipline for ordination and same-sex marriages while strengthening enforcement of those rules. The strengthening enforcement includes monetary penalties and exclusion of offenders if found in violation of the discipline code. Approved legislation included suspending payments to the General Administration Fund until changes are made to the structure and practices of General Conference. Also, a call to form a task force to explore a way forward for the NIC, including the possibility of a new Methodist expression, was approved. If you want more information on this let us know.

## Bishop's Appeal

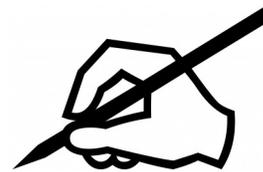
Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's annual conference Bishop's Appeal for the NIC youth camps. Contributions totaled \$53,437. The Aurora District came in first for most giving per capita, edging out last year's winner, the Elgin District, to take back the coveted traveling trophy! With this money, we will be able to help send many kids to camp!

## Mission Truck Filled!

NIC's Secretary of Global Ministries Rev. Shirley M. Pulgar Hughes said the Annual Conference mission challenge to collect dignity kits for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center was a huge success. Again this year, districts went above and beyond their goal. With nearly 50% of NIC churches participating, we packed about 50,000 items or 5,271 pounds on the truck, an increase of 200 pounds from last year! The only snag in this friendly competition: this year there was a tie! Rather than take it up for a vote on the electronic keypads, the title of the mission challenge winner will be shared between the DeKalb and Chicago Southern Districts! Thank you to all the churches for their generosity.

## *Thoughts on the Annual Conference*

### *From the Pastor's Pen*



Nicole and I experienced a good spirit of unity and love at our first Northern Illinois Conference Annual Conference. In the midst of some trying issues that are going on in the denomination, I was encouraged to hear words from the Bishop and others to "do no harm" to others and to not provoke one another to anger but to "...consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds," (Hebrews 10:24). We worshipped and were lifted up in our spirits in fellowship with our fellow ministers and lay members. We also were challenged to press on in faithfulness in ministry and love. I am so thankful to be a part of such an inspired movement as the Northern Illinois Conference and am excited and eager to continue the work that God has called me to as I begin this new year as the appointed pastor here at Rockton UMC!

Pastor Howie Snyder



## Sisters in Christ

Our last meeting of the church year will be a campfire at the home of Phyllis DeGraff at 12552 N. St. Lawrence, Beloit, WI. Please plan to join us on Sunday evening, June 9th at 7:00 pm. Everything you need for this fun filled gathering will be provided, so just bring yourself and enjoy this time with your friends in the faith! Our regular meetings will resume in the fall.



## Mark Your Calendars

### Holiday Potluck Picnic

Sunday, July 7

immediately following the church service.

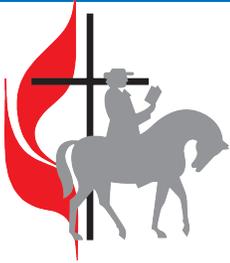
#### We will provide:

Bar -B-Q

Beverages

Table Service

You bring a dish to pass!



## New Membership Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of Rockton UMC, we invite you to attend our upcoming new member class. Class will be held on

Sunday, June 23

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

This class is not only open to those new members, but also to current members wanting to renew their knowledge of the history and theology of John Wesley and the Methodist movement. Please email or call Pastor Howie if you plan on attending.

# Missions Committee - Upcoming Events



June 21st  
Veteran's Dinner



Our church will once again serve a dinner at the Veteran's Drop in Center in Rockford. There are no additional supplies needed at this time, but if you would like to learn more about this mission project, please contact Judy Schellenberger .



**CARITAS - JULY is HAIR CARE MONTH-**

**Let's get a "head" start!**



This is the time that we ask for folks to donate hair care products for Caritas. These products are not provided by the organizations that provide the food to Caritas. This is the only time during the year that we ask for your contributions to fill the Hair Care Shelf. From Sunday, July 7 - Sunday, July 28, there will be a large blue tub in the narthex for your donations. Watch the sales, purchase shampoo, conditioner, combs and brushes, and let's work to fill that tub!



## Congregational Care Team

June 2019



I, too, cannot believe it is June already. We must be having fun if time is flying by so quickly. If you have your May Upper Room close at hand, open it to May 1st and read VISITING WILLY again. When I read it a month ago, I couldn't help but think about each of the people on our Congregational Care visiting team here at Rockton United Methodist Church. What a difference they are making in the people they visit. I smile and thank God for this wonderful, dependable team of members.

We don't want to miss anyone who could use a visit. Please call the church with names of members who are not able to attend worship services for one reason or another. We would love to drop in on them during the month. We always call first to make sure it is a convenient time to visit with them.

Blessings to each one of you.  
Mary Louise Muench

## Special Music Scheduled for Services in June

**June 9:** Sarah Landerholm will provide a piano solo. She is the niece of Mark and Nicole Alcorn.

**June 16: The Basin Street Boys**

Teke Heinschel Clarinet/Tenor Sax (Son of Judie Heinschel and grandson of Bob and Pauline Lawhorn)

Tim Ekenberg Trumpet/Piano

Chase Pebworth Guitar

Eric Murphy Sousaphone

Dan Vale Trombone

Simon Bognar Drums

**A love offering will be taken for the group.** Baskets for the offering will be on the altar rail and in the narthex.

### 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  
Bradley and Tina Reich
- 14 Bob and Pauline Lawhorn
- 15 Scott and Donna Hellinga
- 22 Paul and Donna Chambers
- 28 Roy and Melinda Croisant



## **A Weekend Of Looking Back**

**By Bruce Muench**

I was trained as an aviation radioman/gunner during WWII (1944-1946). The aircraft I was to be a crewman in was the Grumman Avenger Torpedo Bomber (TBF).

A person in our church told me a month or so ago that he heard they held a convention yearly at the LaSalle/Peru Airport for people who were experienced with this aircraft. He said they would probably like to have me show up for the one they were holding in May. I didn't realize that anyone was still flying this old plane.

To make a long story short, someone organizing the convention got a hold of me and wanted me to show up. He added that if I did I could probably get a ride in one of the aircraft. I figured it must be a few old guys like me sitting around a hanger swapping lies, but I decided to go anyhow, so Mary Louise and I went down last Friday and Saturday to check it out.....What a surprise!

The regional airport was larger than what I anticipated, with long runways, and there were a bunch of different World War II planes parked there including five TBF's, all owned by private collectors. The person who had contacted me showed us around and introduced us to various people associated with the convention and told us what was going on, which turns out to be a big deal. They even provided us with a free hotel room nearby Friday night.

Saturday they held a big parade and about a thousand people were there. They were able to find three of us World War II veterans living in the Midwest who had flown in this particular plane and came to the reunion. One was a radio man like myself and the other was a Marine gunner, who had a lot more experience than I did. A storm was blowing in from the northeast, so they hastened to take me up in one of the two TBF's flying side by side. The photo I am enclosing I took through the canopy of the plane where I was a passenger. We flew for about half an hour, never going above three thousand feet, then landed and joined the parade that was forming. Fortunately, they were able to complete the parade in the hour before the storm hit. Us old vets got to sit in carts and ride through a parade of a couple hundred flags. Fun was had by all.



**Additional photos from Bruce's Weekend at the LaSalle/Peru Regional Airport Reunion of WW II TBF Crewmen**



## RUMC Roadside Cleanup

After church on Sunday, May 19, members of our congregation participated in clean up efforts along Hononegah Road from the Hononegah Forest Preserve to Walgreens in Roscoe. A picnic lunch was provided for the crew by Judy and Dan Davis. Sharon and Jerry Ruff shuttled folks to their work stations and back to their cars, (hoping to beat the storms closing in), as well as took pictures of the dedicated clean up crew. Missing from the photo gallery are workers Brian Zimmer, Judy and Dan Davis and Sharon and Jerry Ruff.





## We Welcome Overnight Guests Sunday, June 23

We are opening our doors to cyclists from Firehouse Youth Ministries of Clay Church, a United Methodist congregation in South Bend, IN. This bike group is in its 11th year, having ridden three times across Michigan, twice through Wisconsin, the length of Illinois and twice East from South Bend all the way to Niagara Falls – and last year for their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ride they added a 2<sup>nd</sup> week extension and rode on from Niagara Falls to Kennebunkport, Maine!! That was over 1,000 miles total for their veteran riders!!! They have grown from a pioneering group of 11 to the current number of almost 30.

Their group is made up of upperclassmen and adults, men and women, with riders spanning from beginners to the very seasoned riders, almost competitive strength. The riders begin training in early April, always riding as a group, building relationships; physical strength and endurance; along with a deeper faith in God & their Savior, Jesus.

Their mantra is taken from Romans 5:3-5, developing Perseverance, Character & Hope with each rotation of the pedals, reaching the top of every hill with the encouragement of those traveling along side and praising God for another day of relishing in the Glory of Creation. These students and adults experience growth within a small group as they focus on developing moral and spiritual character. The actual trip is like a ‘mobile camp’.... a spiritual retreat - nurturing mind, body and soul.

This group generates excitement as they ride “off the beaten path” through the country side and small towns on their route, this year circling through Wisconsin & Minnesota. They heartily welcome the fellowship opportunities with the congregations, youth groups, and commercial residents who host them along the way.

Rockton will be their “take off” point this year, so they will be arriving at our church ‘by car’ sometime around 5 pm on Sunday evening. Bikes will be unloaded and put together, readied for the 1<sup>st</sup> day’s ride & then stored indoors for the night.

Our congregation will be serving them an evening meal at 6:00 pm on Sunday and breakfast at 7:00 am on Monday. There will be clipboard sheets circulating during our worship services, giving you opportunities to help supply funds for purchasing the groceries or to sign up to help prepare food after the June 23rd worship service or serving the meals.

Firehouse Youth Ministries welcomes the opportunity to interact with our members and has invited our congregation to join them for their evening worship service in our sanctuary on Sunday night, June 23rd, at 9 pm. Also, cyclists from our congregation are welcome to ride with them for a while as they begin their journey from our parking lot on Monday, June 24th, headed for their next overnight stop in New Glarus, WI. If you have any questions, please contact the church office, or Gail Johnson, chair of Fellowship.



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:

- ◆ Laura and Jared Janes for maintaining the church lawn and putting down new mulch around the church
- ◆ Jerry Weaver for mowing the parsonage lawn
- ◆ Judy and Dan Davis for organizing the Roadside Clean-up along Hononegah Road and providing lunches to the workers
- ◆ John Carleton for taking care of issues in the women's bathroom
- ◆ Those that assisted with the clean-up and re-setting of the table on communion Sunday
- ◆ Darlene Matlock for planting the summer flowers in the planters



### Come and be part of our church Prayer Team

The Prayer Team meets the second and fourth Tuesdays each month at 10:00 am. They are now meeting in the home of Bruce and Mary Louise Muench at:

### Let Us Pray For:

#### Recovering from health issues:

Judy Bradac  
Judy Cunningham

#### Continued prayers for:

Family of Carol Kingery  
Charlie Cunningham  
Jack Sine (Phyllis DeGraff's nephew)  
Dawn Johnson (Jim & Gail's daughter)

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**

# June 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		Boy Scouts in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday at 6:30				1 Fusion Service 5:11 pm
2 Worship 9:00 am	3	4 Fellowship Committee 9:00 am	5	6	7	8 Fusion Service 5:11 pm
9 Worship 9:00 am Church Conference 10:00 am Sisters in Christ Campfire 7:00 pm	10 Office Closed Trustees 12:30 pm	11 Prayer Team 10:00 am	12	13	14	15 10:00 am Visitation 10:30 am Memorial Service for Norma Bloom Fusion Service 5:11 pm
16 Worship 9:00 am	17	18 Finance meeting 7:00 pm	19	20	21 Veteran's Dinner at Drop in Center	22 Fusion Service 5:11 pm
23 Worship 9:00 am Food on the 4th Membership Class 10:30-12 ← Bikers Overnight →	24	25 Prayer Team 10:00 am	26	27	28	29 Fusion Service 5:11 pm
30 Worship 9:00 am						