



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

June 2021



Rolland Hayag, Interim Pastor

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Worship With Us on Sunday Morning

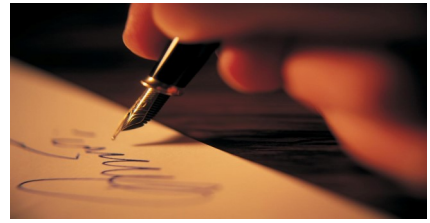
**Worship is at 9:00 a.m. or participate through Zoom.
Sunday mornings. Please visit our website for more information.**

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 2021

By: Pastor Rolland B. Hayag



Greetings, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! It has now been a little over four months since I started my work as your interim pastor, and with a joyful heart I have served God the best I can. Surely, it's not enough...and indeed, I have moments of failures, but I have had a good experience working and worshipping with you all. This is my last pastoral article for you in preparation for my move in June to my new church appointment, the United Methodist Church of Pecatonica. Your new full-time appointed pastor, Carolyn Lukasick, will be starting here July 1st, so I suggest preparing a welcoming team for her coming!

I am taking this opportunity to say thank you to Dan Davis, John Carleton, and Peg Hayelan who were constantly in communication with me to make things possible. To Dan, who has been there for me in-person when I needed a co-host for Zoom, and for other things to make our worship service available for everyone. He is always on alert when need arises, and the same with John and Jerry, thank you for all your help to prepare the sanctuary and the Media room, to Peg who communicates to me when there are concerns in our members and worship services that need attention.

To all on the worship committee, the Choir and music leaders, thank you for bringing your enthusiasm to lead and to serve God in your own way. To the Choir members...I am surely going to miss our moments of singing together. Please continue to bring the Joy of music to all, for music is also an expression of our faith, it is a form of Petition, adoration, and praise toward God. In Paul's letter to the people of Corinth, he said, "Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" —Ephesians 5;19. To Margaret Downing, who has been faithful to serve the Church with her best to care for the needs in the office work and who has assisted me in my work and errands, thank you. I may have missed some of the names here, but please accept my apology, gratitude and thanks to all the Church Members and the Council Chair. Thank you again for welcoming me and for your support and prayers, it was my honor to serve God through your Church. Until then, God bless you all.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

From Pastor Carolyn



June 2021

From Pastor Carolyn Lukasick

Although I don't become the pastor of Rockton UMC until July 1, your Trustees have graciously agreed to allow my husband Mark and me to move into the parsonage in late May. This allows us to get moved in before my first day on the job, and it also helps the church where I currently serve in Ottawa, as they are hoping to rent their parsonage by June 1.

We are grateful not only for the flexibility of Trustees and their hospitality, but we are humbled by the enthusiastic response we have received from Rockton.

Once your parsonage was available, volunteers started working on various repairs and updates and disposing of items no longer needed in the home. A fresh coat of paint is already on the walls and a cleaning crew is scheduled to come on May 22 before our moving truck arrives with our furniture on May 24.

I have scheduled renewal leave for the month of June. Part of that time will be spent moving into our new home. We will also spend time vacationing with family and relaxing at our home in Wisconsin.

Mark and I are looking forward to living closer to family. My mother lives in Huntley, IL part of the year and one of our daughters lives in Silver Lake, WI. We have five grown children and eleven grandchildren (seven are under 6 years old).

Mark retired this year and is looking forward to caring for our beautiful, large yard. I expect he will also find opportunities to spend more time with grandchildren!

I am excited about this transition and I look forward to arriving in Rockton refreshed and ready for ministry! I look forward to meeting everyone and learning the history of Rockton UMC and the surrounding community.

Blessings, *(Col 2:6-7)*

(Pg. 4)

June “What’s Up with the Buildings?”

By John Carleton, Trustee’s Chair

As you read this, Pastor Carolyn Lukasick, will be putting the finishing touches on moving into the Parsonage. After taking a month to transition and move in, we’ll all look forward to her shepherding us in our worship and mission beginning in July. This could not have happened without the hard work of many of you cleaning, putting down floors, putting in gutter guards, mowing, pulling weeds, moving out old stuff and the number of donations was wonderful (many of those from Pastor Carolyn herself). We needed something and, in most cases, a day or two later, it showed up (or we didn’t need something and it was soon moved out)! The list would be very long and they advise us not to use full names in documents that end up on the website, but we hope all these folks know that the labor of many made the labor of each of us so much easier.



Check out the Happenings Page on our RUMC.org website and you can see some of these folks in action.

After fixing a church wall, preparing a Parsonage, repairing the roof, and filling in a sink hole, hopefully, the Trustees can begin to just deal with the more routine jobs needed to keep the church and Parsonage running...or explore new projects, such as finishing the installation of flat screen TVs to guide our worship. The TV project will probably take a while as we explore the options and wait for Pastor Carolyn to get up to speed so we can get her input. We also may take on putting mulch around the church as a group project early this summer, stay tuned.

There is still one major repair job left, the lift. This is still an ongoing project as we wait for repair contractors to visit and prepare bids to fix the door to allow the lift to work safely. We are in our third approach to fixing this, and unfortunately, some of the hardware needed is proprietary (you just can’t go buy it Rockton Hardware) and safety codes mean you can’t just put anything in the way you want. Hopefully, there will be better news to lift us up (sorry, pun intended) in the July Rocktonian.

(Pg. 5)

Thanks to Our Volunteers!

From Judy Davis

I want to thank the following people for helping with the Hononegah Road clean-up day last Sunday, May 16th. Pictured are volunteers Margo Leden, Phyllis DeGraff, Darlene Matlock, Darlene Weaver, Donna Chambers, Brenda Wulf, Kelsey Wulf, and Dan Davis. We picked up trash first then we enjoyed a picnic lunch at the Forest Preserve.



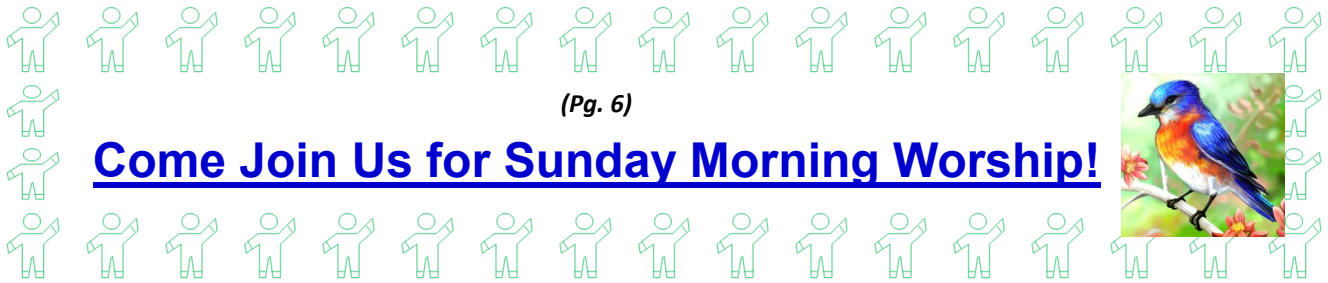
Update on Charlie Cunningham

From Judy Cunningham

Charlie has two black eyes and a broken nose from inmate assault on him. You can send him notes and even postcards of Rockton, Beloit, Rockford at R 70222; P.O. Boc 1000; Menard, IL 62259.

—An Open House—EAGALA (Transforming Mental Health Through Horses)
From Judy Cunningham, Ed. D. Counseling, Eagala, Positive Psychology Coach

Lucky's Farm Inc.
10748 Patterson Rd.
Durand, IL 61024
1 mile south IL 75; 6 miles North Route 20
Call (815) 248-9242 for information
Open House June 5, 2021



(Pg. 6)

Come Join Us for Sunday Morning Worship!

BEST WISHES TO PASTOR ROLLAND!

By Margaret Downing, Office

It has been a real pleasure working with Pastor Rolland. He is very dedicated to his profession within the Methodist Church family, and we were very lucky to have him, if only for a few months. As has been noted, he is now moving on to United Methodist Church of Pecatonica, another area Methodist church and town with a long history.

Rolland has been a pleasure to work with...and considering both of us were new to the job, we managed to make our way with the help of church members and are both very grateful for their help and knowledge! Rolland, we hope to hear from you periodically in the future!



Celebrating Our Graduates June 6th!

*****Matthew Alcorn** graduated from Hononegah High School and plans to attend Rock Valley College.

*****Ashton Melaas**, granddaughter of Tom Hilgeman, graduated from Rock Valley College. She is relocating to Stoney Creek, N.Y. with a career as a lab researcher.

*****Hannah Bridgeland** received a Doctorate at the University of Washington to be a Family Nurse Practitioner; Doctorate of Nursing Practice with a specialty of Family Nursing Practice.

*****Cole Davis**, grandson of Bruce Muench, graduated from Marengo High School and is planning to attend North Dakota State University.

*****Karl Hellinga** graduated from 8th grade at Roscoe Middle School.

*****Timothy Schultz** received a degree in Interactive Media and Game Design from The University of Wisconsin, Stout.

We are so proud of all of you and wish you many more successes!

*****TIDBITS OF LOCAL HISTORY*****

The History of Rockton — Winnebago County, Illinois 1820-1898

(By Edison I. Carr, 1898)

“To prevent, as far as possible, the history of Rockton from being lost to coming generations has been my chief motive in writing this book. Aside from the information obtained from various records, the author is greatly indebted to a number of old settlers, who have furnished very many facts which would have been lost to the next generation.

“In order to gather all this material from a great variety of sources, has taken much time and some expense, but it has been undertaken more as a labor of love, than from any pecuniary benefit the author may derive from the sale of the book. If the citizens of Rockton and those who have formerly lived here appreciate the effort to faithfully preserve the history of the town and its people, the author will be very thankful.

“Rockton, one of the northern tiers of townships in Winnebago county, Illinois, is beautifully located in the famous Rock river valley, and unsurpassed for its fertility of soil and the intelligence and integrity of its inhabitants. Little was known of this desirable section of the country prior to the Black Hawk war of 1832. After the close of that war in 1833, the men who had composed the army of some 3,000 soldiers, mainly drawn from the southern part of the state, very readily acquainted their neighbors of the rich and desirable lands of the north part of the state, and quite an emigration thereto was stimulated, and also from the eastern states.”

Respectfully submitted, Edison I. Carr

A Historic Look Back at Methodist Churches in Winnebago County

**(Taken from "Past and Present of the City of Rockford and Winnebago County Illinois,"
By Charles A Church and H.H. Waldo, 1905)*

“...The Methodists were the most active church-starters in those days (1830s).

“Enterprising followers of John Wesley founded 15 churches in Winnebago County over 24 years.

“Besides First Methodist Episcopal in Rockford, these included congregations at Roscoe in 1836, at New Milford and Winnebago in 1839, at Durand in 1840, at Harlem and at Shirland in 1847, Court Street M.E. Church in 1853, and congregations at Pecatonica in 1853, Cherry Valley in 1854, and **Rockton in 1855.**

“The Third Street M.E. Church in Rockford was formed in 1858, and after the great Swedish influx, the Swedish M.E. Church, now (as of 1905) Bethany Methodist Church, was founded in 1861.

“An interesting story is told about Pehr August Peterson, who is connected with the history of the Swedish M.E. Church and became known throughout the country as the “Rockford Furniture King.”

“It was said that as a boy he was deeply religious, and he would walk barefooted from his home in Cherry Valley to Rockford to attend church, carrying his shoes to save leather.

“These two traits, dating from his childhood; reverence for the church and thrift, remained guiding influences in the life of this young Swedish immigrant who died in 1927 a multi-millionaire, after having been president of nine companies and with a financial interest in more than 50 firms.

“An interesting story is told about the once familiar ringing of church bells--not so common anymore. It seems that in earlier days, pastors of some churches owned the bells in their churches and would take the bells along when they left for another town.

“One church had walnut pews with doors to them so when all the family got in they latched the door and shut out intruders.”

**Worship on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
...or via Zoom**

**Sunday School meets every Sunday morning
between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. — Mark Alcorn facilitating**

**Jan Floto has advised us that former long-time
RUMC member, Ed Jones, passed away in
North Carolina on May 19.**

We offer our prayers for his family.

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS



- Don Edwards, June 1;*
- Ron Zoeller, June 3;*
- Diane LaForge, June 4;*
- Tyler Kerch, June 5;*
- Cheryl Campbell, June 8 ;*
- Jessica Zimmer, June 12;*
- Gail Terry, June 15;*
- Nancy Bielema, June 16;*
- Tom Hilgeman, June 17;*
- Barbara Bishop, June 18.*

**HAPPY JUNE
ANNIVERSARIES**



- Jeff and Lisa Schultz, June 3;*
- Greg and Margo Leden, June 12;*
- Scott and Donna Hellinga, June 15;*
- Paul and Donna Chambers, June 22;*
- Roy and Melinda Croisant, June 28.*