

**Rockton United
Methodist Church**
PO Box 293
Rockton, IL 61072

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The Rocktonian

**Newsletter of Rockton United Methodist Church
March 2019**



Worship With Us

Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Children's Sunday School 9:15 am

Enjoy fellowship after the service downstairs
with coffee and treats!

Fusion Service 10:45 am
(An informal service with small group discussion.)

Visit Our Website
www.rocktonumc.org

Rev. Howie Snyder, Pastor

Cell phone: 630-809-9419
Email: 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

Mission Statement

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



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Don't Forget...

Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour this coming weekend (March 9—10) so you don't miss church Sunday morning!

The fire department suggests you change those batteries in the smoke detectors this weekend, too!

From the Pastor's Pen



Dear Rockton UMC,

Most are aware of the General Conference Special Session that took place in February in St. Louis and that the One Church Plan that was put forth by the Board of Bishops was defeated. Following which the Traditional Plan won by 53%. While the result of this Special Session has left many stunned and hurting as a rejection of the LGBTQ ones in our denomination, I encourage all to take heart and to trust in God during this time. There is much judicial work and planning and meetings to be done before we see any kind of outcome from this vote. The next step is that the Judicial Council will look at the constitutionality of the different parts of the Traditional Plan at its next scheduled meeting April 23-25 in Evanston, Illinois. Please be in prayer for this meeting. Then we shall also see what the reverberations and further plans and motions that would be brought forward at the next General Conference, which will be May 05-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, MN.

My encouragement to us all is to continue to trust in God and pray for our denomination for these continual processes; that God's Kingdom come and that we will endeavor to love and care for those who are in the margins and downtrodden. Ultimately I am encouraged because we are in a good Conference with strong leadership that we trust and believe in. If any move is made in the future regarding the issue at hand, we can trust that our Conference Leadership will help lead and direct us. So take heart! And be of good cheer! For the Lord is with us!

Pastor Howie Snyder

Soup Kitchen Coming Up Saturday, March 30th

It is once again our turn to provide a meal at the Jubilee Center, Emanuel Episcopal Church, Park Ave., Rockford. We anticipate feeding 175-200 people and are asking for donations of:

Store bought cookies
Milk
Mostaccioli or Penne Pasta
Spaghetti sauce

All items must be at the church kitchen by 9:00 am on that Saturday. There will be a sign-up sheet on the clip board Sunday mornings to make your choice of donation. There will be an additional envelope if you should want to make a monetary donation for our meal. Please check your calendars to see if you are free on the 30th. We will be needing at least 10 workers to prepare and serve the meal. Details will be on the sign-up sheet.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Chambers: 815-904-4646

Join us at the Retreat!

The Rev. Howie Snyder
and
The Rev. Dr. Nicole Snyder

Will be facilitating a retreat entitled
DEVELOPING CREATIVE MINISTRY

You will discover how to:

Practice Presence
Listen to Inner Wisdom
Listen to Other's Wisdom
Cultivate Creative Vision
Promote Gifts in Love

March 23, 2019

9:00am - 3:00pm

Bishop Lane Retreat Center

7708 E. McGregor Rd.

Rockford, IL 61102

\$20 Suggested Donation



Join the congregation at the **Shirland United Methodist Church** for their **St. Patrick's Day Supper**

Sunday, March 17th 4:00pm—7:00pm

Menu:

Corned Beef or Roast Pork
Parsley Potatoes
Cabbage and Carrots
Cottage Cheese
Roll and Butter
Assorted Desserts
Beverage

Cost:

\$10.00 for adults
\$5.00 for children (5-12)
Under 5 eat for no cost
Carry Outs Available



Questions? Call Carolyn Green at 1-815-218-6160
or the Church 1-815-629-2049

Sisters in Christ

Dear Sisters:

Just a few notes about upcoming events this month.

The Missions Committee is hosting a Veterans Drop In Center meal on March 15. Margo Leden has been busy knitting scarfs for this Center. If anyone would like to contribute a knitted or crocheted scarf, it would be appreciated. She already has 10 scarves ready to go. Feel free to use the yarn in the marketplace for this project.

The church is also preparing for the Soup Kitchen on March 30. Please contact Donna Chambers for details. She will definitely need volunteers on that day and also food contributions.

Because of the above events and because I am running out of ideas for meeting topics, we are not going to meet in March. How about for the April meeting we make cookies again to restock the freezer? Let me know.

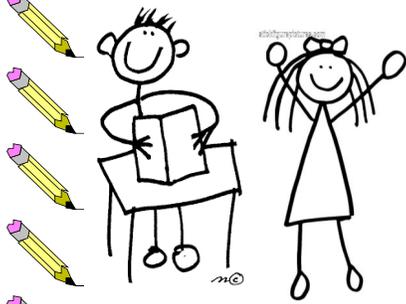
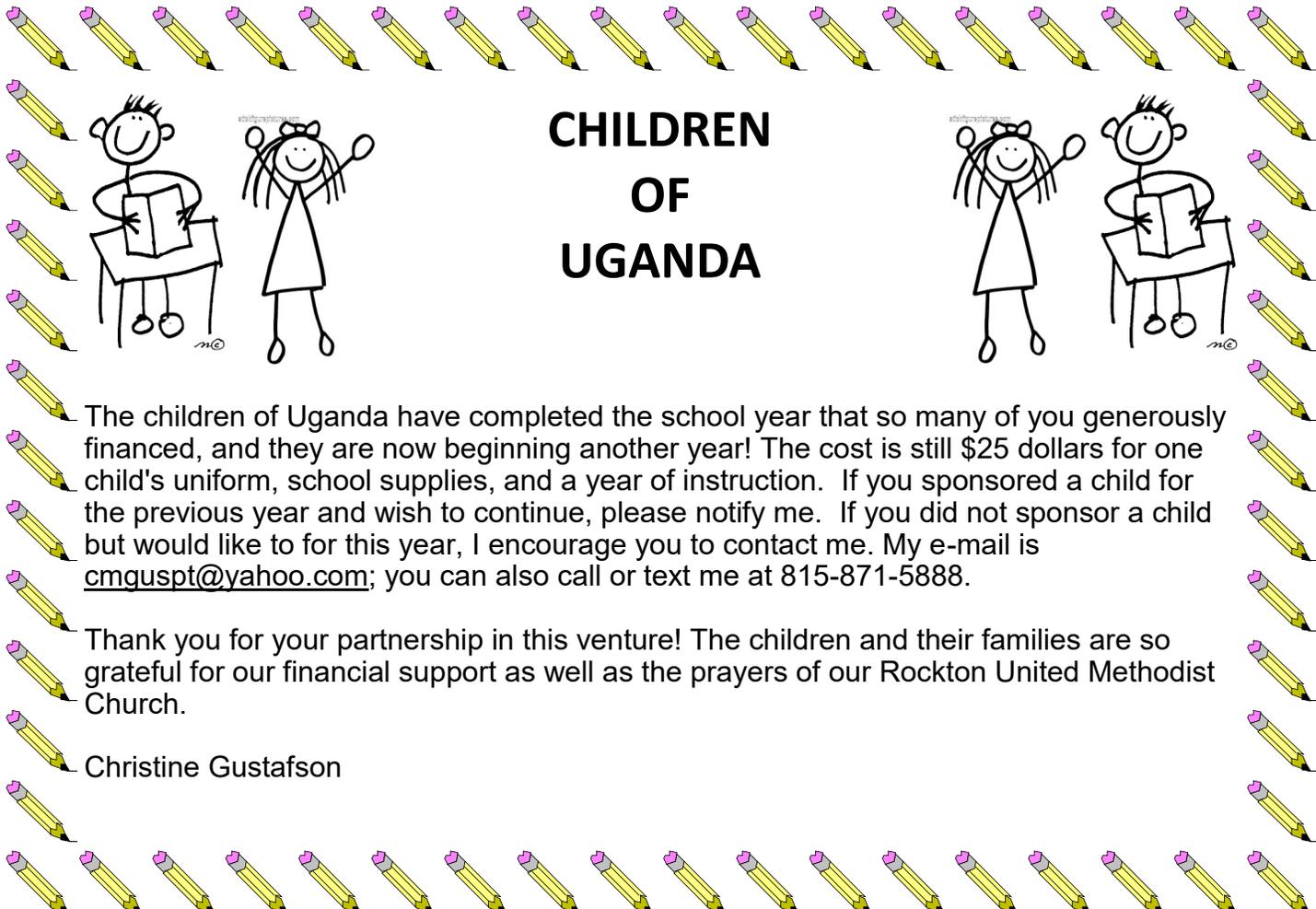
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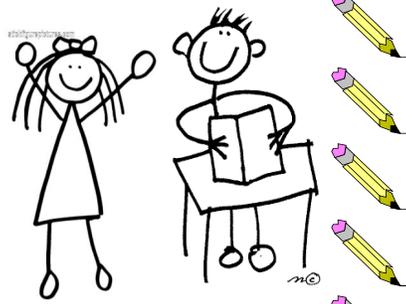
Sisters in Christ (and some brothers, too!) made soup to deliver to church members in need and some of our shut-ins.



And the cooks enjoyed some, too!



CHILDREN OF UGANDA



The children of Uganda have completed the school year that so many of you generously financed, and they are now beginning another year! The cost is still \$25 dollars for one child's uniform, school supplies, and a year of instruction. If you sponsored a child for the previous year and wish to continue, please notify me. If you did not sponsor a child but would like to for this year, I encourage you to contact me. My e-mail is cmguspt@yahoo.com; you can also call or text me at 815-871-5888.

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 our Rockton United Methodist Church.

Christine Gustafson



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
ROSE**

Rose Lovejoy will be celebrating her 90th birthday this month. Her family is requesting that her church family participate in this event by being part of a card shower. Please take time to mail a birthday card to Rose so it would arrive during the week of March 25 - 30th. The address is:

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

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

DONNA GRANATH'S 80th BIRTHDAY

Donna Granath will be celebrating her 80th birthday on March 31, 2019 under the sunny skies in Weslaco, Texas.

We know that she would love to receive birthday cards from her church family members and friends. Please mail your cards to the following address so they will arrive by March 30, 2019.

The mailing address is:

Donna Granath
715 North Westgate Dr. #153
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dan Holmes to Lead our Service on March 31st

Dan Holmes, an outstanding acoustic guitar player and singer from Belvidere, will be our special guest musician and worship leader on Sunday, March 31st. He will provide a “message in music” as well as other music.

Dan first picked up a guitar when he was ten years old. Even though Dan was the son of a United Methodist minister, he wasn't too interested in church and religious music. Instead, he learned guitar by playing along with James Taylor, Paul Simon and Jim Croce albums. Dan's musical career really began to grow during his college years at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. But it wasn't until he was attending Chicago Theological Seminary that Dan learned he had a gift for writing and performing Christian music. Dan played professionally on the east coast and was once the opening act for Jimmy Buffet, Arlo Guthrie and Pete Seeger.

Dan has a wonderful family and has maintained an active performance schedule while teaching theatre full time at the high school level. He has performed at hundreds of churches in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, and the Illinois State Fair. He has also written theme music for the Appalachia Service Project based in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Dan Holmes brings a gentle Christian message to his music. He sings about the events and experiences that happen along life's way. Dan has a gift for reaching and moving people with his down to earth Christian message and his unique blend of musical styles. His music will move you, inspire you, make you smile, and touch you! Dan is an old school singer/songwriter who has written heart-felt ballads, great blues tunes, and joyous sing-alongs. No matter the song, you will enjoy and remember a worship service by Dan Holmes!

A “love offering “ will be taken for Dan and his CDs will be available for purchase after the service. We hope to see you on the 31st!

Peg Hayelan



Thank You!

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all of the members of our congregation that participated in the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. Thank you for all the contributions of ingredients and toppings, for those who volunteered to set up and clean up, and to those who worked the griddles frying those delightful flapjacks! We fed close to 50 people, nearly running out of pancakes and sausage. What a great evening!



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:
6918 Saladino Dr. Roscoe, IL

Let Us Pray For:

Recovering from health issues:

Judy Bradac
Nancy Bielema
Judy Cunningham
Laura Janes
Jim Stamm

Continued prayers for:

Carol Kingery
Charlie Cunningham
Family of Warren Markley
Family of Jean Norsworthy
Family of Mary Green

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**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Ruth Melles | 20 Melinda Croisant |
| 6 Donna Hayenga | 22 Jan Kerch |
| 10 JoAnne Hanson | 24 Judy Bradac |
| 12 Laura Noel | 25 Dorothy O'Brien |
| 14 Anita Stiffler | 27 Heather Fysh |
| 18 Judy Davis | 29 Darlene Weaver |
| Troy Vail | 31 Donna Granath |
| 19 Karen Fysh | Rose Lovejoy |
| Jason Knoespel | |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 25 Jim and Sandy Stamm



Congregational Care Team



As we all are aware, this past month has brought bitter cold and slippery weather. Our Congregational Care Team had a difficult time setting up meeting times with the shut-ins of our church. Some were able to make their calls, while others had to use the telephone instead of visiting in person.



We are in need of at least 3 more people on our Care Team to go to visit those who can not make it here to the church. The process is simple. Please call Pamela at the church office, leave your name and phone number and a team member will contact you with the name and address of a person who needs our love this month. You pick the time you are available, so the one hour visitation time will conveniently fit into your schedule.

Some of our team members prefer to visit in pairs, feeling it makes the conversation easier. If that appeals to you, we can arrange for a partner to join you for your visit. Or better yet, pick a friend to join you and you both will be surprised at the love you will be receiving from your visit.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Louise Muench.

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:



- ◆ Christine Gustafson and JoAnn Medernach for continuing to provide music for our weekly services while Judy Bradac is recovering from surgery.
- ◆ Mark Alcorn for managing the rental of our parsonage. We are happy to have renters!!
- ◆ Members of our congregation that caringly help others maneuver the ice and snow to get into the building.
- ◆ The Fellowship Committee for organizing a successful Pancake Supper on Fat Tuesday.

March 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	4 Trustees 12:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30	5 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30pm	6 Ash Wed. Service 7:00 pm	7	8	9 Mary Green's Funeral Visitation 9-11 am Service 11:00 am Luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall
10 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45 am	11 Choir 6:00 pm Daisies 6:00 pm	12 Prayer Team 10:00 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	13 Book Study 6:30 pm	14 Book Study 10:00 am SPRC meeting 6:00 pm	15 Veterans Dinner at the Drop in Center	16 Jean Norsworthy's Memorial Service 6:30 pm Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall
17 Worship 9:00 am Fusion 10:45	18 Choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30	19 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Finance meeting 7:00	20 Book Study 6:30 pm	21 Book Study 10:00 am Ad council meeting 7:00 pm	22	23 Creative Ministry Retreat 9am-3pm Bishop Lane
24 Worship 9:00 Fusion 10:45 am Food on the 4th	25 Choir 6:00 pm Daisies 6:00 pm	26 Prayer Team 10:00 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 9:00 am DanHolmes will fill the pulpit and provide special music						

← Howie on vacation March 25 - 31st →