



The Rocktonian

**Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church**

March 2021



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Worship With Us on Sunday Morning

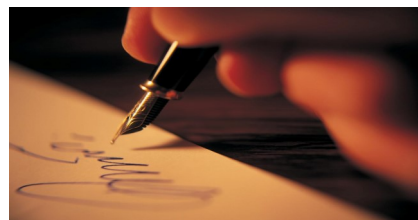
We are continuing to live-stream our service from the church on Sunday mornings. Please visit our website for more information.

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



March 2021

What are you ready to give up?

By: Pastor Rolland B. Hayag



The month of March is here, Palm Sunday is coming up soon, and we are still in the Lenten season, which is a time of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. Lent is a season during which Christians mimic the temptation of Jesus Christ in the wilderness, in which Christians fast for 40 days and abstain from the cravings that our physical body wants. Have you done fasting yet? What are you ready to give up? This is a question that most of us are not ready to hear, and try to avoid, because we don't want to challenge the call of flesh and we think that the call of the flesh is stronger than our will.

When my wife asked me which one would I give up? I jokingly answered her, saying "Can I give up my self-restraint from food and eat more?" This is a half-truth when I say that to my wife, because in the back of my mind, I always crave for food, and a small portion of that says, "Do not crave."

Imagine, when Jesus fasted in the wilderness, what might have been going on in his mind. Remember, he did not fast for just one day. It lasted for 40 days and 40 nights...without food, which is in the Gospel of Luke and Matthew and detailed this temptation of the flesh (Luke 4:1-13 and Matthew 4:1-11).

There are three temptations recorded in the Bible:

- 1) At first, the devil offered Jesus a relief for his hunger, but Jesus rejected the offer.
- 2) The second temptation was that the devil commanded Jesus to jump from the highest point of the Temple.
- 3) In the third temptation, Satan offered the world if Jesus would bow and worship him.

These three temptations are summarized and well explained in 1 John 2:16, "For everything in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--comes not from the Father but from the world." This scripture gives understanding of what is important in our lives, we know that the world offers physical pleasure, and we crave to acquire more of everything that we see and having pride with our successes and possessions can be so addictive and could lead to failures of others or even death.

Thinking about this Pandemic that we are all in, it seems that we have forcibly went through a fasting. Many of us have to push back from our normal and daily routine, and we somehow learn to deal with the changes in our daily life. But the question is, "How did we really confront this pandemic?" What is our mindset when we face a very hard decision in our lives that involve our families?" This is a question that I will leave you with, and you can do a reflection on this as we prepare ourselves and our souls for the coming Easter season.

You all have a blessed week, and may God bless us all.

March: What's Up with the Building?

By John Carleton, Chair of the Building Committee

After two very successful work days the weekend of February 20th, the Sanctuary is physically ready to host worshipers. Thanks to Phyllis DeGraff for getting things organized on Saturday (Feb. 20th) and to all those who worked! There were too many to list here but if you go to our church website and then to the Happenings Page you can see a slide show of them working and what the Sanctuary looks like after they were done. Some photos are also in this issue of the newsletter.

Thanks also to the scouts of Troop 619 and their leaders who came in and cleaned pews the next day. The vestments are up, the bells are back in their closet and most of the furnishings are back in place. There still may be some things missing but we'll need to wait until we're back in worship to figure out what those may be. The only things left to be done are to get all of our sound and AV equipment working. Those things may be done or close to done by the time you read this. However, when we can begin to worship in the Sanctuary it is no longer a "building" issue. It is now up to our committee working with the Conference directives which deal with how congregations can begin to worship safely under the present conditions of the pandemic in our area. At long last then, the work of the Building Committee is completed so future *What's Up?* articles will talk about things that are being handled by the Trustees (we pray for the day there's nothing to write about...).

You read in last month's *What's Up?* about the sink hole in the parking lot. That project is on hold until the ground thaws to where our parking lot contractor can do some exploratory digging. The renter in the Parsonage is slowly in the process of moving out and we hope he will be done by the middle of March. There's plaster and painting work to be done due to an old water leak, we'll probably have to do some cleaning and there is always the unforeseen repair. We hope to have it in good shape so the new pastor can check it out sometime in early April.

A new concern has just come up in the last week or so. The lift is having issues with the outside door not shutting tightly enough so it causes the inside door to open and close. We have contacted the lift company and hope to have them out to work on it sometime in early March. This could be a somewhat expensive fix depending upon what they find as they may have to replace the outside door. While the door problems are annoying, the lift was inspected and is safe to use.

Work Day a Success (Feb. 20)!

Thank you to Roy and Melinda Croisant, Peg Hayelan, Loren Floto, Gail Terry, Ron Zoeller, Dan and Judy Davis, Alan and Janet Bridgeland, Christine Gustafson, Ron and Phyllis DeGraff. Judy and Dan are also having Boy Scouts in on Sunday to wash down and clean ask if the pews.

Job well done everyone!!! —*Phyllis DeGraff* *(More pictures can be found on Facebook.)





Come Join Us on Zoom **for Sunday Morning Worship!**

Jubilee Soup Kitchen Mission

RUMC is scheduled to serve meals for the Soup Kitchen on March 6 and September 18, 2021. Due to Covid19 limitations imposed by the health department, we will be providing lunches via brown bags again (at least in March).



Since the foods included make most food donations ineffective, we are asking for four things: commercially made cookies, bottles of water, monetary donations, and/or notes of encouragement. The plan is to put a note of understanding, prayer, or support in each of the 70 lunch bags we will prepare.

I also need one or two more people on the Sat. morning to assist in food prep and packing starting at 9:30 a.m. We will need to have the cookie and water donations at the church no later than Friday, March 5. Contact Donna Chambers at (815) 904-4616 if you have questions/concerns.

A big thank you from the Missions committee for any help you can provide!

Message from Judy Davis

I want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped clean the kitchen. It is sparkling! All the cabinets, drawers, appliances, and dishes have been cleaned. The floor got cleaned twice- once with a mop and once on my hands and knees, so it is clean enough to eat off of! (Well, almost...).

I want to personally thank these people who helped: Gail Terry, Phyllis DeGraff, Janet Bridgeland, Sharon Ruff, Jerry Ruff, Donna Granath, Darlene Matlock, Margo Leden, and Dan Davis. If you helped and forgot to sign on the helper sheet, thank you as well! Every bit helped! I was curious how long it would take and the answer totaled about 54 hours. THANK YOU AGAIN!!!

**From Dave Hilton, UMM Rockford District President,
e-mail (dvohilton@yahoo.com)**

The District UMM is hosting a communion Service March 13, 2021. This service will be held at Grace UMC (3555 McFarland Road, Rockford)—both live from their website GraceUmcRockford.org and in-person in the Sanctuary. Our guest speaker will be Gil Hanke.

Mr. Hanke serves as general secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. He will be speaking on "Why Men's work is Important."

From The Rockton Herald, Editor Edson Carr—

Some Methodist Church News 1879 — "John Lemley has been found guilty of lying and turned out of Rockton's Methodist church. If he had only had his trial in Rockton under the administration of the Rockford District, according to precedence, he would have got off without being censured in the least."

Other 1879 news:

— "Last Friday afternoon the residence of Mr. C.B. Martin caught fire from the kitchen stove, and it was only by being discovered in time that the building was saved. Mrs. Cardell, with great presence of mind and a vigorous application of water, had the fire nearly extinguished before any help arrived. Half of the town was out promptly at the alarm office but with nothing but their empty hands to render assistance. ***Every man who goes to a fire ought to carry a pail.***"

— "Hiram Y. Reese died recently at his home in Franklin County, Pa., aged almost ninety-two years. He was the father of twenty-five sons, twenty of whom are yet living, the eldest being sixty-six and the youngest twenty-four years old. His first wife had six sons, his second had eleven and his third had eight. Six of the children were twins.

"He was a soldier in the War of 1812 and had nine sons in the Union Army during the late war, two of whom were killed at the first Battle of Bull Run, a third at Ball's Bluff, and a fourth was drowned during Banks' ill-starred Red River Expedition. He was a remarkably robust man and never but once during his life did he take medicine."

— "An eleven-year old boy named Willie Zeigler, committed suicide in Philadelphia on the 13th by hanging himself in the cellar. He lived with his grandmother, who was absent from home at the time the deed was committed. ***The reason assigned for the suicide is a disturbance of mental balance caused by reading religious books.***"

— From the Herald, 1903:

"The Methodist people are planning a 'Pillow Fair' the 25th of the month."

-- The following dessert recipe was printed in the Herald that year:

"Maple mousse is a delicious dessert and is made this way: Whip a quart of cream until quite thick. Into another bowl break the yolks of three eggs and beat until light; then add gradually one cupful of maple syrup.

"When the two ingredients are thoroughly blended, whip them into the cream. Pour the mixture into the freezer after removing the dasher, cover and pack in ice and salt. Let it stand for three hours."

March

Communion Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
—Worship via Zoom

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

*****2021*****

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

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

MARCH ANNIVERSARY

March 25 — Jim and Sandy Stamm

Happy anniversary