



# The Rocktonian

Newsletter of  
Rockton United Methodist Church

March 2023



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Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor

**Worship With Us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**



## ***Mark the Date: Palm Sunday Potluck Planned***

The Fellowship Committee is planning a brunch potluck after the service on Palm Sunday which is April 2. The committee will provide egg casseroles and cinnamon bread, coffee and juice. We will have sign-up sheets in the Narthex beginning in a few weeks. We need to have a count of how many people will be at the brunch so we know how many egg casseroles to make; so when signing up, please include the numbers who will attend.

Also choose a category for your dish to pass; veggies/potatoes, fruit, breads/rolls and dessert. It would be great to have a full house so please put it on your calendars...a nice opportunity for fellowship!

—Submitted by Gail Terry



The focus for Christians during Lent has changed over the years. I remember my confusion as a child that my neighbors “had” to eat fish on Friday because they were Catholic. The confusing part was that no one seemed to be able to explain the tradition or its significance.

I believe Lent is meant to be a meaningful season of preparation, similar to the ways Advent is meant to be a season of preparation to celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and anticipation of Christ’s return.

Traditions and rituals can add depth and meaning to our spiritual practices. They can also become meaningless and feel like a chore. I believe Lent provides an opportunity for Christians to nurture their spiritual journeys. Some might revisit or start up habits or spiritual practices that have fallen by the wayside. Others might ask the Spirit to help them recognize what anything creating a blockage or barrier in their relationship with God.

In the years I have been a practicing Christian, I have experimented with various spiritual habits. Many are meaningful for a time, but then seem to become a chore. I have learned to explore variations or even give myself permission to let go of a practice when that happens.

My focus this Lent is trying to take a solitude day once a week. This is the practice which most helps me feel connected to God. Taking time to focus only on God allows other practices to rise to the surface. In this context, they feel more like an invitation than a duty or obligation. Prayer, reading scripture, rest, seeking God in nature, reflection, and even fasting might be incorporated in a solitude day.

What are the practices which God is asking you to explore or experiment with this Lent? You may try to add something, but it could just as easily involve letting go. Do you need to work on ending a habit that is not serving you? Sometimes we need to face a temptation which has taken up too much space in our heart or life. Are there resentments you need to release and entrust to God so you can experience the freedom of grace?

As we ask the Holy Spirit to lead us forward on our spiritual journeys, we can trust the right next step will be revealed when we ask. I pray you are experiencing a holy Lent and finding renewal for your soul.

Blessings

# What's Up with the Building?

*By John Carleton, Trustees Chair*

**March 2023**

Trustees are continuing to discuss and research a wide range of projects in preparation for the upcoming “work season” later this Spring as mentioned in February’s What’s Up. I was going to publish some of those in this article but they are in a sufficient state of flux that I will hold off on that and just say that if you’re interested in what we’re discussing or have something you’d like added to the list then feel free to contact me at [jcarle@charter.net](mailto:jcarle@charter.net) and I’d be glad to share it with you.



It can be kind of frustrating as, just when you think you’re getting ahead of things, then an ice storm comes along and damages the brand-new Parsonage roof and it’s back to calling insurance companies again.

I’m sure we can all relate to that after Wednesday the 22nd... In all cases, if you’d be willing to volunteer to help with some of our up-coming projects that don’t require specialized tools and skills, we’d love to hear from you. Having said that, if you do have experience with certain kinds of projects we’d love to hear from you as well and know what your skill(s) are that might be useful around the church. We have kind of a list of folks we know that can do stuff but we’re always looking for those with God’s gifts.

One discussion a group of us is having is that we’d like to hear from you regarded the cleaning of the building. As activities got curtailed during Covid, we stopped having all the building cleaned regularly. Right now, only the Sanctuary, narthex, hallways, bathrooms, offices and entry ways are cleaned once a month. That seems to have worked rather well and saved us money. We’ve held off on cleaning the Fellowship Hall and kitchen and any classrooms that aren’t in regular use.

We’re beginning to think, however, that the Fellowship Hall and kitchen could use a good cleaning and maybe it should be set up on some kind of regular schedule as it does cost more if the cleaning company has to make a special trip.

So, what do you folks think, clean those rooms once every other month, every month or some other plan? Please let a Trustee or the Office know what you think. Finally, our tech work continues for Sunday services. We think we’ve got everything worked out but we’re still having difficulty with the sound feed from the Clavinova so there has been no music on Zoom. Jerry Green has spent many hours on this so please thank him if you see him, he’s getting close.

# Tidbits of Our History

—Rockton Herald, Edson Carr, Editor—



## 1909

"One of the peculiar ordinances in the village code is the one which will not permit W.V. Graves opening his barber shop on Sunday because he has pool and billiard tables in the place. It is all right that he should not operate the tables on Sunday but why not do barber business? The ordinance is all right but was not made to regulate a business like one

\*"The M.E. church ladies are to hold a homecoming at the church on Friday of next week. Invitations have been sent out to a number of former residents and many are expected to come. Chicken dinner will be served at noon for which a charge of 25 cents will be made. This also entitles the buyer to free admission to the program which will be given in the afternoon at 2:30. The admissions to the program alone is ten cents."

\*"Monday's weather was of the winter variety. Early in the morning there were some snowflakes in the air and during the afternoon some hail and rain. It all helped the coal man. And Tuesday was some more or less the same thing, only worse. Wednesday night there was a freeze. Thursday the weather became fine and now we can hope for more good weather."

\*"Richard Jenkins through his attorney, Ernest C. Gridley, has brought suit for \$10,000 damages against the village of Rockton for personal injury. Jenkins claims in his declaration that he was injured last October when thrown from the wagon of Olney Shufelt at the corner of Washington and Main Streets.

"Jenkins claims that a ridge one and a half feet high and a ditch of about the same depth which were left in the center of Washington street by the workmen who placed water mains in July caused the accident. He landed under the seat and a heavy case of lampblack. He claims to have been badly injured."

\*"Clare Bingham, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Bart Bingham, had a narrow escape Monday noon. While playing about the cistern at home, one of the boards gave way and he would have fallen into the cistern had he not caught the other boards and held to them until help came."

*Photo: The Rockton Herald ran an ad for B.B. Hill's Harness Shop on Main Street in 1909.*



# March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 9:30am Bible Time 1030 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	13	14 Small Group Prayer Team 10 a.m.	15  4 p.m. Trustees	16	17 	18
19 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	20 April Newsletter Submissions Due	21 10 a.m. Retirement Home Worship	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 9:30am Food on the 4th Sunday 10:30a Bible Time	27	28 Small Group Prayer Team 10 a.m.  7 p.m. Finance Team	29	30	31	