



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

May 2020



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Worship With Us on Sunday Morning

Due to the state imposed COVID-19 quarantine, we will be live streaming our service on **Sunday morning at 10:00am**. Please visit our website for more information.

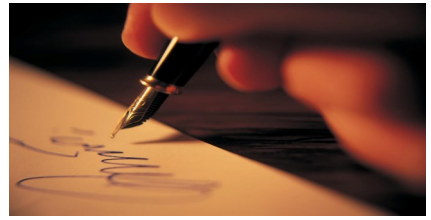
Mission Statement

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



May, 2020

As we continue in this unusual season of the quarantine and worldwide pandemic, I continue to be grateful. Grateful that our church community and families have been staying relatively safe. Grateful for being with my family through this time and for our health and love. But grateful most of all for the love and blessings of our Savior, who died for us and in whose resurrection we can celebrate victory over sin and death and ultimately anything that the world throws at us. And even in my struggles and doubts, I am grateful that the Lord honors even faith as small as a mustard seed. So take heart, our Savior has overcome the world!

John 16:33 New Living Translation (NLT)

³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

As we follow the lead of our governmental leaders, we will continue with our statewide quarantine and do our Livestreaming services on Sunday mornings, along with our Zoom Meeting Gatherings for Sunday School and weekly gatherings through the end of May. Keep in mind that the lifting of the quarantine will be gradual and in steps with the least vulnerable populations coming out of quarantine last. Being that many in our congregation would fall under that category, I imagine that as we look to start in-person services back up at some point, we will start with a fairly small gathering of people that would help to put on our service with the majority of our congregation continuing to join us via Live-Stream.

We want our Live-streaming services to be collaborative and for our churches to get a sense of connection to the rest of our church body. So with that in mind, please consider musical talents that you might have that you can video or audio record yourself and send them on to us that we may use them for prelude, postlude or offertory music. In the virtual environment, we are not bound by distance, so if you have a child or grandchild with musical abilities, have them send to us a recording of sacred music by instrument or voice that we can use. Or if you have a testimony or would be willing to read Scripture or other creative endeavors, please let me know. It is a way we can connect and bless others in our congregation for Sunday morning services.

And let us think creatively about ways that we can function as a church in this situation via Zoom meetings or what have you. We can continue meeting with teams even for prayer or music through Zoom. I am happy to help anyone that would need help learning and setting this up – so please let me know.

Join us for one or all of the following opportunities to stay connected with your church family. Hop-in and join us with your iPads, Smart Phones, Tablets, Computers or even with a phone call!

From the Pastor's Pen - continued on next page

From the Pastor's Pen - continued

Sunday School Class from 8:30-9:30 AM Sunday morning via Zoom

Sunday Services with Rockton/Durand at 10:00AM LiveStreaming on Facebook

Thursday Church Check-In Gatherings via Zoom at 10:00 AM

Tuesday Prayer Team Meetings via Zoom Meeting at 10:00AM.

To participate in the Sunday School, Sunday Services, Tuesday Prayer Team, Thursday Check-In Zoom Meetings audio by phone call, refer to the email you received from Pastor Howie, or call/email the church.

For joining a Zoom Meeting with a computer or smart phone, read through this page and you can learn how to join with whatever device you use: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

I look forward to connecting with you all in these mediums and through prayer!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Howie Snyder



What's Up With the Building?

May

The Structural Engineer from Larson & Darby has told us to expect his work to be sent to us by the first week in May. At that point, after our Engineering and Contracting Group has reviewed what he's sent, we will begin to seek bids to jack up the ceiling and then install the new hardware to stabilize the roof. He mentioned that it is a good time to be seeking bids as contractors are looking for work, i.e. a buyer's market (pray he's correct). Once the bids are in, we'll have to seek approval from the Methodist Northern Illinois Conference. Many of us have talked about the weight of the ceiling but he feels that with his fix we can keep the old plaster. Replacing the old plaster and putting up new dry wall would, in his opinion, add a significant cost to the project, even as much as \$50,000. Which brings up the idea of fund raising. I've asked our Resources Group to, once again, check our available funds and consider a fund-raising campaign for the sanctuary. Some of you have donated already without a campaign and we are thankful for your support! We will also consider some additions that make sense to be done as a part of this. For example, it has been suggested that we add new carpeting to the whole sanctuary. It makes good sense to do this after the fix and before the pews are re-installed if this is something the congregation feels is worth it. Others have talked about not using a projector and using flat-screen TV's like at Prince of Peace. Is there enough interest in an "extra project" such as this to make it worth doing now? Can we pay for it with the construction costs? As always, we ask our Building Committee folks to check their email daily so we can keep everyone up to speed.

John Carleton
Chair of the Building Committee

A WORD FROM FINANCE

Greetings to all.

The Finance Committee would like to report that our finances are doing well. Funds being received are lower, yet consistently enough to help maintain a functional balance at this time. A long-term financial impact will be the eventual building repairs. This will be addressed once the Building Committee receives repair costs from the engineering firm and the company that will be selected for actual repair.

This past month, we were informed of our eligibility for the Small Business Administration's payroll protection program. Hossein compiled all of the necessary financial reports, receipts, and calculations which, supplemented with other administrative documents provided and located by Pastor Howie, were submitted to our bank. We were just notified on Thursday, April 30, that the Church meets all requirements and has been selected to receive \$10,000 in the form of a loan/grant. There will be documenting requirements and a timeline that we will have to work with in order to meet the potential conversion of the loan to a grant. Our staff is well prepared and up to the challenge. We intend to meet the necessary requirements to qualify the loan as a forgivable grant in total.

We thank you all for your continuing giving considering the current COVID-19 circumstances. We would just ask that everyone continue to give as they are able and we thank you all. Stay safe! Stay healthy! But most of all, stay blessed!!

Dan Davis
Chair of Finance



Uganda Student Sponsorships



It is once again time to consider your continued support for children's education in Uganda. Currently, just as in the US, their schools are not in session, although our church would be wise to collect needed funds so that money may be shipped to their country once school has opened.

The cost remains \$25 for one student's school uniform, supplies, and a year of education. If you previously sponsored a student and wish to continue, please notify me. If you have not sponsored a child in the past but would like to in the coming year, I encourage you to contact me. My e mail is cmguspt@yahoo.com; I can be reached by phone or text @ 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 Rockton United Methodist Church.

God bless you!!

Christine Gustafson



I'm offering a **Puzzle Exchange** daily from about 8 am to 6 pm on my front porch at: **428 N. Prairie Street in Rockton** Feel free to come and get a jigsaw puzzle or a few. If you have some you don't want, leave them. You may keep the puzzles you choose or return them when finished, it's up to you. This is similar to what the Talcott Free Library has, but of course they are now closed. As of April 30th, there are 20 puzzles available, including adult and children's, from 46 to 1,000 pieces. Which one shall I choose???

Now that's the "puzzling" question!!

Loren Floto



Congregational Care Team

May 2020



Happy May Day to each of you reading the Rocktonian. Do you remember when you were a child making baskets out of colored construction paper and filling them with any and all kinds of flowers including dandelions then hanging them on the front door of neighbors and friends? I have such happy memories of May Day. Lots of flowers were in bloom and we were able to pick them for this beautiful time of year.

Actually, with this self-quarantine that we are all experiencing, I must say life has changed for most of us. Our wonderful dedicated Congregational Care team has not been able to call on members and friends from church. They are not able to telephone some of them either. For many that personal contact is not allowed during this pandemic, isolating them even more. Many of the things we want to do have been put on hold for now.

For this reason, I am asking you, members of Rockton United Methodist Church, to help us out. Could you find a way to drop a line to one or more of our members and friends listed below and let them know we care about them during this pandemic? These people could use a "Hello" or "Miss your smile" or whatever your heart feels like conveying. This would be appreciated by many!

Mary Louise Muench
Coordinator of the Congregational Care Team



Dorothy Carter
Grand Victorian of Rockford
3495 McFarland Road
Rockford, IL 61114

Bob Lawhorn
410 Betsy Ross Lane
Rockton, IL 61072

Janice Thompson
14221 South Bluff Road
Rockton, IL 61072

Charlie Cunningham R70222
6665 State Route 146 East
Vienna, IL

Pauline Lawhorn
410 Betsy Ross Lane
Rockton, IL 61072

Ann Hardy
5294 Wedgewood Drive
South Beloit, IL 61080

Peg Hayelan
1037 E. Main Street
Rockton, IL 61072

Lavonne Rice
%Fair Oaks
1515 Blackhawk Blvd.
South Beloit, IL 61080

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

Gail Johnson
755 Loomis Drive
Rockton, IL 61072

Jim and Sandy Stamm
939 High Point Drive
Rockton, IL 61072

Frances Koehmstadt
855 Gartner Court
Beloit, WI 53511

Thanks for considering helping us out. Also, let us know if you have someone else we should be keeping in touch with.



JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM IN MAY!

Our Prayer Team is meeting using Zoom every Tuesday morning in May at 10:00 am and would love to have you join our group. Please keep checking emails from the church for the link and code to use for joining our Zoom meeting - and continue to pray for those listed below.

Let Us Pray For:

Judy Davis
Derek Polzin

Peg Hayelan
David Dach

Jeff Schultz
Darin Davis

Charlie Cunningham

The families of: Fred Peterson, Anni Kress, Bill McCorkle, and Jon Weberpal

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**

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7 12:00 pm

Because of the precautions being taken concerning COVID-19, this years National Day of Prayer observance will be done by telephone. Area pastors and chosen community members have been given a specific area of concern to pray for and will begin praying with the conference call at noon. Those that wish to listen can join the call by dialing:

605-472-5563

and then entering the code:

9 8 8 6 7 6 #

Adult Sunday School on Zoom this Sunday at 8:30am!

Mark Alcorn is excited to start a Sunday School opportunity on Zoom using the same log-in as we use for our other gatherings. There will be a reminder invitation sent that will include basic instructions on how to click on the link and join the group. So grab your Bible and your morning beverage, sit in front of your electronic device, or join us by phone, and be part of this group. Great book, great classmates, great discussion and always a great message! You will be glad you checked it out!

Thank You!

Thank You!

Thank You!

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:

- ◆ John Carleton for copying and mailing the Rocktonian this month and getting congregational giving set up through PayPal
- ◆ Those who have volunteered to read scriptures for the Sunday morning worship services
- ◆ Howie and Nicole Snyder for providing music for the worship services
- ◆ Christine Gustafson for playing the postlude on Easter Sunday
- ◆ Dan Davis and Hossein Safavinejad for all their work on getting us qualified for the Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Program
- ◆ Mark Alcorn for getting the Adult Sunday School Class restarted using Zoom
- ◆ The prayer team for expanding their schedule to include EVERY Tuesday morning at 10:00am on Zoom

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 9 Tina Reich | 26 Jan Thompson |
| 11 Judy Cunningham | 27 Mark Alcorn |
| 16 Linda Martin | John Carleton |
| 18 Roberta Hoover | Gail Johnson |
| 20 Tim Schultz | 31 Richard Colby |
| 22 Lindsay Stott | Stephen Noel |
| 24 Ruth Ann Wecker | |
| 25 Jeff Carleton | |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Seth and Shannon Nygren



You will notice that this month's calendar is slightly different than those in previous Rocktonians. Since there are no new church activities to put on the calendar, this is a calendar of RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS. Do the suggested act on the day where it's printed or switch them around. Do only the ones you are comfortable with or be adventurous! Do only the ones suggested or think of some of your own. It's all up to you... Just be kind to yourself and others!

May 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 Combined Worship Services with Durand UMC online 10:00am	4 Give a compliment to a friend	5 Tell silly jokes to make someone laugh	6 Leave a happy note for someone to find	7 Join National Day of Prayer 12:00 pm	8 Do a chore for someone in your family	9 Pick up litter in your neighborhood
10 Combined Worship Services with Durand UMC online 10:00am	11 Donate food to a local food pantry	12 Join the Prayer Group with Zoom and pray for a friend 10:00 am	13 Give a thank you gift to your mail carrier	14 Join Stay in Touch With Zoom at 10:00 am and say hello to your church friends	15 Give a thank you gift to a school teacher	16 Send a hug made from paper to someone you love
17 Combined Worship Services with Durand UMC online 10:00am	18 Smile at everyone you see today	19 Take supplies to an animal shelter	20 Call a far away relative to say hello	21 Buy a meal and have it delivered to someone special	22 Sit with your favorite beverage and relax for 20 min Be kind to yourself.	23 Offer to pick up groceries for a neighbor
24 Worship Service online 10:00am Video provided by the Bishop. Howie Absent from pulpit	25 Make something red, white, and blue and give it away as a Memorial Day Gift!	26 Feed the birds	27 Pay the bill for the person behind you in the drive-thru	28 Be kind to your body and go for a walk with a neighbor	29 Drop off flowers to a friend	30 Call a Confined friend
31 Combined Worship Services with Durand UMC online 10:00am						