



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

May 2019



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Worship With Us

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am

Children dismissed for Sunday School at 9:15 am

Enjoy fellowship downstairs following the service
with coffee and treats!

Saturday Evening Fusion Service 5:11 pm

An informal service with small group discussion
held in the lower level of the education wing.

Coffee and water available during the service.

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



Dear Rockton UMC,

I had shared in our March Rocktonian some thoughts following the General Conference Special Session that took place in February in St. Louis and how the Traditional Plan was approved with a 53% majority. I had shared that the next step was the Judicial Council's review of the constitutionality of the different parts of the Traditional Plan at its meeting on April 23-25. You can find news about this from sources such as the Chicago Tribune and on the internet, but by and large, the Judicial Council basically reaffirmed everything they had previously ruled constitutional and unconstitutional. Those in the more Progressive camp were hoping that potentially more or all of the Traditional Plan would be ruled unconstitutional, but that did not happen. Those who support LGBTQ in the church may find this disheartening.

For those who may be feeling disheartened by this, I offer these words of Jesus from John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Remember who we are and whose we are! Ultimately we are in the palm of our Savior's hand and are covered and redeemed no matter what happens! Also be encouraged that we have a good Conference and good leadership. There is much to find out how things shake out between now and next May's General Conference in Minneapolis. So I encourage trust in the Lord and patience in this time. And please be in prayer for our denomination and, as I shared last time, pray that God's Kingdom comes and that we will endeavor to love and care for those who are in the margins and downtrodden. Personally, I feel we are in good hands with our conference leadership and they will help direct us in the future. So again, take heart! And be of good cheer! For the Lord is with us! Amen.

Pastor Howie Snyder



RUMC Roadside Cleanup

We will be cleaning up Hononegah Road from the Hononegah Forest Preserve to Walgreens in Roscoe on **Sunday, May 19, after the 9:00 am service**. Please come to church wearing your jeans. There will be a picnic lunch of sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies, and a bottled water for you to enjoy after the work is done. We provide gloves, safety vests, litter tongs, and strong garbage bags for you. We will also have somebody driving as a "shuttle service" so you only have to walk one way. Our driver will pick you up and bring you back to Hononegah Forest Preserve for a picnic lunch or to your car. If we have a good number of people, it doesn't take long!! There will be a clipboard going around in church to sign up. Please consider this as it is a mission in our community!

Thanks! Judy and Dan Davis

A Soup Kitchen Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated food items, money and/or time and effort to our Soup Kitchen mission project. On Saturday, March 30th, ten hard working individuals set up the room, prepared and served the meal, and cleaned up at the Jubilee Center in Rockford. We had approximately 125 people go through the serving line and heard lots of appreciative comments from our guests. It couldn't happen without the help of all of you! Mark your calendar and plan to be part of our next scheduled soup kitchen on October 5th. Thank you very much!

The Mission Committee

Rockford Urban Ministries Night at Culvers! (North Main at Riverside)

Sunday, May 5, Noon -3:00 pm

Rockford Urban Ministries gets a percentage of each item purchased during those hours. Board members will be there serving and cleaning up.



Sponsor a School Child in Uganda

If you are considering sponsoring a child for the school year in Uganda, please submit your \$25.00 to the office or place in the collection plate by May 19th. Please make checks payable to Rockton UMC and write Uganda on the memo line.

Sisters in Christ



Sisters in Christ will go hiking on May 7 at 6:30 at Nygren Preserve. Please meet in church parking lot for carpooling to Nygren. It isn't too long of a hike and it's so pretty there. Afterwards, how about ice cream at Dairy Haus? See you on May 7.



We'll have a campfire at my house for the end-of year celebration in June. See you all soon!

Phyllis



Have Dough, Will Bake

This lovely crew assembled at our April meeting to bake cookies to fill our church freezer. These will be used during coffee hour when there is no host signed up. We are sure they had to sample as they baked!



Calling all "Organizers"

It is time for Spring Cleaning and we would like to work on cleaning, organizing, and weeding out our church library. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please give Pamela in the church office a call. We will be picking dates for this project as soon as we have a couple of volunteers!

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Dr. John David Ulferts, son of long time parishioner Irene Ulferts, on the publication of his book Always Remember - W.W. II Through Veterans' Eyes. In his book, the veterans he corresponded with "speak again, their stories of heroic sacrifice kept alive, never to be forgotten." John is currently the principal and superintendent of the Shirland School District. His book is available to borrow from our church library and is for sale on Amazon.





BISHOP'S APPEAL

Giving Abundantly, Generosity Overflowing

Bishop Sally Dyck is pleased to announce this year's Bishop's Appeal will go toward the Northern Illinois Conference Outdoor & Retreat Ministries, which operates two camps and retreat centers in Dixon, Illinois and Williams Bay, Wisconsin. The money raised will help support two urban summer week-long programs and provide opportunities to children and youth who otherwise may not financially be able to attend camp. One of the goals in this initiative includes launching a new Rockford District Camp.

This year's Mission Challenge at Annual Conference will be to collect bulk items for Dignity Kits for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, our United Methodist disaster relief supply center just south of Springfield, Ill. Each district will be responsible for designated items and for the churches in the Rockford District, that will be

1 Gallon Sealable Plastic Bags & **Bar Soap (3-4 oz.)**

During the month of May, please bring either or both of these items to church and place them in the containers placed in the narthex. Karen will be taking them to Annual Conference.

Congregational Care Team

HAPPENINGS IN APRIL, 2019



care

This past month with the warm spring weather, it has been so nice to drive to see our members and friends that are not able to come to church to see us. The Congregational Care

team looks forward to making their monthly rounds. However, this past month our hearts were touched with the loss of Norma Bloom. Loren Floto called on her with regularity. They shared fun times talking of the old days here in Rockton. They enjoyed Norma's cat and also were blessed to visit with Rose Lovejoy, Norma's sister. They ate popcorn at times and Loren was entertained with Norma's opinions - some happy and some not so happy. But her conversation always brought smiles to each of them. Our love and prayers go out to Norma's daughter Donna and her husband Paul Chambers.

Our trips continue to others awaiting our visits. Let us know if you know of someone who would like some cheering up. We have many smiles we each are willing to share.

Mary Louise Muench



care

A Joyous Easter!



**Preparing
Easter Breakfast**



**A Beautiful Altar
and Great Music**



**Enjoying Brunch
and Sharing Fellowship**



We Say Thanks!



We would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and well wishes. It has been a rough few months with Jim's and my falls and me receiving a pacemaker. We pray and have faith that we are now headed in the right direction. We feel so blessed due to our church family, our other family and dear friends. We give thanks to the Lord above!

Jim and Sandy Stamm

THANK YOU for the cards during my recovery from ankle reconstruction. It has been 7 weeks and I still am not allowed to put weight on it! This means I stay in the house and move about on my office chair. Your cards are much appreciated during this time!

Judy Cunningham

Thank you so much for your cards, visits and phone calls for my 90th Birthday. The bouquets of flowers were very much appreciated too! All of you made my day extra special and one I will remember for a long time.

Rose Lovejoy

I want to thank all the members of Rockton UMC for sending birthday cards to me while I was in Texas! It was so much fun getting cards for almost two weeks! While I am always in Texas for my birthday, when I get back home there are always more birthday cards.

Thanks for making this birthday a "Special One"!

Donna Granath

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:

- ◆ The Fellowship Committee for preparing soups and serving them at the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper
- ◆ Jennifer Vail for arranging the altar flowers for Easter Sunday
- ◆ All those who furnished baked goods, cooked and served, or stayed to clean up for the Easter Breakfast
- ◆ Darlene Matlock, Pam and Laura Noel, Peg Hayelan, and Gail Johnson for spending their Saturday preparing the quiches for Easter Breakfast
- ◆ Mark and Matthew Alcorn for changing the altar curtain and hanging the Easter banners
- ◆ All who bought flowers to adorn our altar for Easter



A Gathering to Celebrate the Life of Jean Thompson

The family of Jean Thompson invites her friends and acquaintances to a celebration of her life at the Stone Shelter at Sugar River Forest Preserve on May 18, 2019.

Jean was born November 30, 1924 and died in Minneapolis on December 8, 2018. She lived in the Rockton/Beloit/Rockford area from 1971 through 2003 and attended Rockton United Methodist church and First Congregational Church of Beloit. She is survived by her sons Don, Doug and Steve and their wives.

Event details: **Gathering at 10:00 am, celebration at 10:30 am.**

Sugar River Forest Preserve is at 10127 Forest Preserve Road, Durand, IL 61024, 9 miles west of Rockton, IL. Take Rockton Road to Forest Preserve Road, preserve is at dead-end of Forest Preserve Road.

Best regards,
Stephen Thompson

On Maundy Thursday I brought some very easy to make Apple Dumplings as the dessert for the Soup Supper. So many people asked me for the recipe, someone finally suggested that I put it in the Rocktonian to share. (I received this recipe from Gail Terry's sister when she was here and will let her know how much we liked it!) If there is anything about this recipe that you don't understand, please contact me. Happy Cooking!
Gail Johnson

Mountain Dew Apple Cobbler

Ingredients:

- 4 Granny Smith Apples (peel, core and cut into quarters)
 - 2 cans crescent rolls (separated into 16 triangles)
 - 2 sticks butter (not margarine)
 - 1 1/2 cups sugar
 - 1 tsp. cinnamon
 - 1 tsp. vanilla
 - 1 12 oz. can of Mountain Dew
- Chopped pecans as desired

Directions: Wrap each apple section in a crescent roll triangle. Place in lightly greased 9x13 baking dish. Melt butter and mix with sugar, vanilla, and cinnamon. Spread over apple rolls. Pour Mountain Dew over apples. Sprinkle chopped nuts and a little cinnamon over the apples. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for approximately 45 minutes until rolls appear to be baked and it is browned. Serve with ice cream if desired.



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
Sandy Stamm
Jim Stamm

Continued prayers for:

Carol Kingery
Charlie Cunningham
Family of Norma Bloom

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**

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 | Gabriella Lefevre |
| 24 Ruth Ann Wecker | Stephen Noel |
| 25 Jeff Carleton | |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Seth and Shannon Nygren



May 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4 Fusion Service 5:11 pm
5 Worship 9:00 am	6 Trustees 12:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm	7 Worship Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship Comm. 11:00 am Sisters in Christ 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	8	9 SPRC 6:00 pm	10	11 Fusion Service 5:11 pm
12 Worship 9:00 am	13 Daisies 6:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm	14 Prayer Team 10:00 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	15	16	17	18 Fusion Service 5:11 pm
19 Worship 9:00 am	20 Choir 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm	21 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Finance meeting 7:00 pm	22	23 Hononegah Womens Club 6:00 pm Ad Council 7:00 pm	24	25 Fusion Service 5:11 pm
26 Worship 9:00 am Food on the 4th	27 Choir 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Daisies 6:00 pm	28 Prayer Team 10:00 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	29	30	31	