



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

May 2021



Rolland Hayag, Interim Pastor

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Worship With Us on Sunday Morning

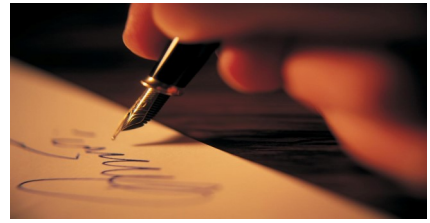
**Worship is at 9:00 a.m. or participate through Zoom.
Sunday mornings. Please visit our website for more information.**

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



May 2021

By: Pastor Rolland B. Hayag

Trusting God but not in our own understanding



When we received the news about unmasking, many still have doubts about it and maybe some are debating with their own family...and some are wondering if it is true. Yes, in these confusing and uncertain times there are doubts and fears, and sometimes we have no control over it, but I know, and I am certain who holds the present and future time.

Why do we pray? Is it not that we pray because we trust in the power of God to protect us and that he will strengthen our spirit to face the unknown, and we believe that when we pray miracles can happen?

In the time when Jesus was in Jerusalem, he came to a place called Bethesda, and he found a great number of disabled people...the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed. One who was there had been an incapacitated for thirty-eight years. Jesus came to him and he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" the invalid man replied with uncertainty, and Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. (John 5:2-6) the man was hopeless in his response and Jesus' compassion to his situation made him well. Here is what Jesus said while he was with the crowd doing healing ministries, he said **"Do not fear, only believe."** (Mark 5:36). Yes, in moments of uncertainty and hopelessness God is with us, for he loves you and me, and when things get rough, God will be there to protect us, to heal us and to comfort us.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I encourage you, when we are in doubts lean to God and pray, do not fear, only believe and trust in his goodness and mercy. As it says in Proverbs 3: 5-6 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

(Pg. 3)

May “What’s Up with the Buildings?”

By John Carleton, Trustee’s Chair

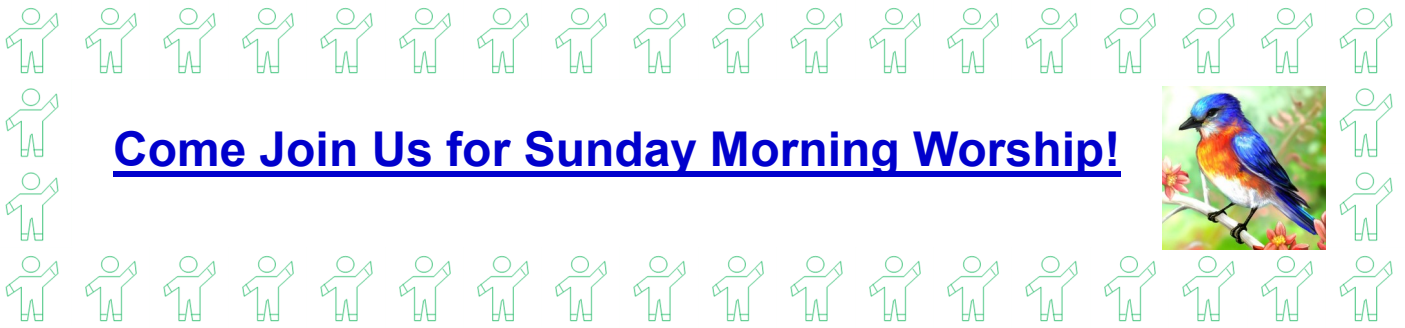
You’ll notice that this month’s “*What’s Up?*” is about buildings (plural) as we will soon have our new pastor living in the Parsonage, so there’s lots to be done in both places!

As anticipated, Tim Stewart did a nice job on the parking lot using recycled asphalt to top it off until fall so it looks good and is nice and level. The lift is still a work in progress but after many weeks of having difficulty getting the lift company to work with us, we are now talking and hope to get somewhere soon. It’s been kind of frustrating.

Another frustration has been the roof again. During the last rainy period it leaked in around one of the windows in the office so we are, once again, trying to get a roofer to get it fixed. An inspection has been done but we’re waiting to hear from them. Thankfully, it’s been a dryer than usual spring. As you can tell if you’ve read previous *What’s Up?* articles it seems like we’ve had more than our fair share of expenses these past few months. We are going to have to set some priorities and some things around the church may have to be put off as things like the roof, lift, and Parsonage prep demand our attention and our funds. There will be more about this in the next “What’s Up” for June.

We are working on the Parsonage to ready it for Pastor Lukasick to move in. While she won’t start until July, she would like to mainly move in during late May. A lot of repairs have been completed already and Sisters in Christ will give the place a good cleaning May 22nd. The Campbells have been keeping the yard looking nice but we still need to decide what to do about a lawn mower. No one seems to know what happened to the one we had so we’ll have to look into getting another one. We’ve checked out some options already but good ideas, or a donation, would be greatly appreciated.

We have a large vinyl couch and a refrigerator (freezer works, fridge is questionable) that we need to move out so let us know if anyone’s interested in providing a new home or transportation to a final demise. We will need some folks with good backs to help get them out. The Pastor will be using her own washer and dryer so we’ll be storing the old ones already there unless someone would like to buy them. Finally, we are looking for ladder capable folks to install new gutter guards on the gutters at the Parsonage. Let us know if you are available to help with this project. The gutters will need cleaning in the process.



Come Join Us for Sunday Morning Worship!

Looking for “Counters”

Karen Fyhx Request

Counters are needed to do the offering every Sunday (once a month). One of our counters has indicated she cannot continue to do counting and another counter is needed to team up with a second counter.

Please contact Karen at pfeffer43@charter.net if you would be able to give some of your time to this task! Thank you.

Karen Fysh, Financial Secretary

Sisters in Christ “Work Day” Set at the Parsonage!

Date: Saturday, May 22nd, from 9 a.m. to noon

We would like to clean up the parsonage for our new minister, Pastor Carolyn Lukasick, who takes the RUMC helm at the beginning of July.

Projects include:

- *Cleaning windows
- *Replacing one bedroom’s mini-blinds...and cleaning the others
- *Cleaning ceiling fans
- *Wiping down cupboards
- *Cleaning the oven
- *Washing kitchen flooring
- *Moving the couch out of the laundry room --
(Is anyone able to arrange having the couch disposed of?)
- *Taking down and washing the living room curtains?

--Carpets will be professionally cleaned just prior to the move-in date.

--There will probably be some other clean-up projects as we discover

Masks will be required. Please let me know if you can assist.

As always, thank you for any help you can give. If you have ideas or questions please call me, Phyllis DeGroff, (608) 368-1051.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

Judy Bradac and JoAnn Medernach have both retired from their many years of musical careers at our church. No words can ever express our appreciation for their service.

JoAnn was hired as our first full-time church secretary and organist in the early 70's and remained in those positions for at least twenty years. She also volunteered to play for a few worship services recently when we began live-streaming in the sanctuary. She was also accompanist for the choir all those twenty years or more. JoAnn started organ lessons at age eight with the famous Paul Waters at the Court Street UMC in Rockford.

She was secretary and organist at Grace UMC in Rockford before they moved to Rockton in the early 70s.

Judy was our musician and accompanist for the choir for approximately the last thirty-five years. She had an organ and piano in her home which was a great benefit to work on her music. She was mostly self-taught. Judy was very reliable providing music for our worship services and choir rehearsals.

As a pianist, I think of all the time I spent practicing during about nine years of lessons and also the cost to my parents. Being a church musician is not an easy task. Some people think the organist/pianist just sit down at the instrument on Sunday, open a music book and pick something to play. That is so misunderstood! I remember JoAnn spending her noon lunch hours planning and practicing her music.

I think thank-notes are in order for these two musicians!

--Peg Hayelan, Worship Chairman



**2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
— THE 182ND NORTHERN ILLINOIS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD JULY 16-17 ONLINE
THROUGH A ZOOM WEBINAR.**

**THEME: JESUS MAKES A WAY —
IMPORTANT DATES:**

2020 Ordination and Commissioning Service - Rescheduled to **April 24 at 3 p.m.**
Limited in-person/Invite-only service.

*Due to COVID-19, health and safety guidelines,
in-person attendance is strictly limited to ordinands, candidates, participants
and invited guests. (Livestreamed on NIC YouTube channel and Facebook page.)

Online registration opens **June 1 and closes June 30. Cost: \$30** (covers video
production, voting technology, worship planning and other administrative expenses.)

Clergy Session - **June 28, 10 am - 12 noon** via Zoom.

Legislation and Historical Documents due **May 3.** (no exceptions) 2021 Ordination
Service - **Oct. 1.** Limited in-person service - Fall Session - **Oct. 2.**



Tidbits of History from The Rockton Herald, Editor Edson Carr

Some Methodist Church News, 1909: *"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, which will have a charge of 25 cents"*

Other News:

1879

*"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."

*"The post office has recently been greatly improved. The rickety old front door has a new latch."

(Rockton P.O. — vintage photo on right)

*"We notice that the everlasting dead beat L.L. Woodville has got around to Rockford. He is great on patronizing the press but never pays his bills."



1889

*"Monday evening's temperance lecture was given by Prof. Kyle in the M.E. Church where he gave 'a Phrenological lecture' and also gave notice of another on Tuesday evening but during the day he left town without paying his board bill."

*"General Joshua Chamberlain of Maine, will deliver his famous lecture on 'Gettysburg, the Greatest Battle of Modern Times,' at Rockford Oct. 31."

1903

"Mrs. Henrietta Dunn of Kent Island, Mo., recently gave a party in honor of her two sisters, Mrs. Eliza Brown and Mrs. Margaret Weeks. Mrs. Dunn is the mother of twenty-five children. Mrs. Weeks has twenty-one and Mrs. Brown has eleven, making a total of fifty-seven children, all of whom are alive. Fifty-one of them were at the party."

"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."

1912

*"The Ladies Aid of the M.E. church gave an ice cream social on last Saturday evening. It was quite well attended and the ladies realized about \$5.00 from the event."

**Worship on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
...or via Zoom**

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

A Graduation in Your Family?

Please advise the office if you or a loved one are graduating this spring (i.e. grade school, high school, college, professional, etc. as we would like to acknowledge them!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY MAY
BIRTHDAYS!**

*Tina Reich, May 8
Judy Cunningham, May 11
Tim Schultz, May 20
Jeffrey Carleton, May 25
John Carleton, May 27
Mark Alcorn, May 27*

**MAY
ANNIVERSARY**

May 20, Seth and Shannon Nygren

*Happy
anniversary*