



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

October 2021



Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor

Contact Info:

Rockton United Methodist Church
102 West Chapel Street
P.O. Box 293
Rockton, IL 61072

Office Phone: 815-624-7591
E-mail: RocktonUMC@gmail.com
Website: www.rocktonumc.org

Church News: Annual Conference

Please mark your calendars for Rockton UMC's annual Church Conference on Sunday, October 31 immediately after worship. Please make arrangements to attend this important annual meeting of the church. Our District Superintendent Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer will lead the meeting.

At this meeting the members of our congregation formally approve leadership positions and our budget for 2022. We will celebrate where God has been at work in the past year and look forward together to where we notice the Spirit leading our congregation to serve our larger community in Christ's name.



Jesus taught his disciples to not worry about the future. “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” *Matthew 6:34 NRSV*

Some of us are worriers. We fret and fuss, and our concerns are never far from our thoughts. Others do not worry in such a traditional sense, yet we are all impacted by the divisive political posturing which has become the new normal in our country. We continue to wait for resolution to our denomination’s ongoing struggle to reconcile differing views on what it means to be faithful Christians in today’s world. On top of all this, a worldwide pandemic has upended literally everyone’s sense of stability and security.

And yet Jesus insists that our focus should be on today, not the future. The Message translation of this verse says, “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”

This is what we have been considering over the past weeks in

our worship series highlighting various spiritual practices which help strengthen our faith. Staying close to God helps us face our circumstances, even when they are difficult. Focusing our attention on where and how God is at work helps us stay grounded. I like to remind myself that what overwhelms me does not overwhelm God.

God knows what we are facing, and God knows our needs even before we ask. (Matt 6:8) It pleases our Lord when we draw near in prayer, seeking the strength and wisdom and comfort that come only from our Maker.

I am grateful for the ways we have been sharing our experiences in worship, and I pray we will continue our faith journeys together, learning from one another along the way.

I am grateful to be on this adventure with all of you, and I am excited about where God will lead us. Let us continue to draw near to God, celebrating and giving thanks for all God has done, is doing now, and will do for us in the weeks and months to come.

Blessings,

October: “What’s Up with the Building?”

By John Carleton, Trustee Chair



I had to re-write the first paragraph of this month’s “What’s Up?” article as it was all about using the lift which had been running fine for several weeks. Unfortunately, the day I was going to turn this article in, I got a call that it was acting up again and running intermittently. So, we need to continue to *not use the lift* until we can find out what’s causing this latest problem. Once we finally get it fixed, we hope to be able to construct an open shelter around the outside entrance to the lift to provide better protection against snow and ice that has been a problem with the automatic door working properly in the past. An extra benefit here is that it will also protect anyone using the lift as they prepare to use it.

There have been a few minor repairs and we replaced the 23-year-old water softener in the boiler room that was leaking. There’s lots of cosmetic work that needs to be done to the outside of the church but we’re waiting on the Finance Committee to help us balance our priorities with what the church community can afford. We’ve also been working with the AV Techs to try to improve the worship experience both for those in attendance and those online. The Trustees and AV Techs would appreciate your feedback on our efforts to make worship easily accessible and meaningful to everyone.

We are still missing items from when we had to empty the Sanctuary for the wall fix. I’ve written before that we cannot find the plaques that used to hang in the north overflow room that were dedicated to former hand bell players. You’ll remember that one of those plaques actually had half of a hand bell on it. We also are missing the individual receivers that are used for those who are hard of hearing. We found the box for them but it was filled with lapel microphones. While the consensus is that we did not take them over there, does anyone remember if those were ever used when we were at Prince of Peace?

As the large transmitter is still in its normal place in the AV Booth, that seems unlikely but we are at a loss to know where the receivers have gone. They each look like an old transistor radio with an ear piece and there should be about half a dozen of them. Please let us know if you come across any of these items or if you remember taking them down or how they were stored.

If you ever end up with a day with nothing to do then, please, pick a room and start going through boxes to see where these items may have been stored. Let us know where you’ve looked.

And finally, our website still needs pictures! Pictures of your group in action and our Sanctuary with folks in the pews and Pastor up front would be nice for the home page. Get out your phones and start clicking!

*****TIDBITS OF HISTORY*****

From the Rockton Herald:

When News was Interesting to Read!

— as noted in the Rockton Herald over the years

***1879** -- "Rev. H.L. Jordan of the Bridge street Methodist church at Roscoe has been holding revival meetings every evening for some time past. The attendance has been large. There were, as always, some 'fools who came to scoff' among those who came to pray. One of the scoffers, for his manifest zeal in serving the devil by disturbing the meetings, got sentenced by Justice Rogers to twenty days in the county jail.

***1888** -- "From an exchange: 'The other day Reverend Barton H. Cartwright, one of the oldest members of the Rock River Conference, was reading the words of Dr. Brooks in which that gentleman said, 'I thank God I was never a Republican.' The old gentleman threw down the paper with a good deal of feeling and exclaimed: 'Yes! And I thank God that the Devil was never a Republican either.'"

***1888** — "The Rev. T.J. Cooper of Aurora, Ill. and former pastor of the M.E. church at Rockton, who while insane, made an attempt to commit suicide two weeks ago, escaped from his attendant early Wednesday morning, burned down his house and hanged himself."

***1912** -- "Is Marriage a Failure?' At the ME church next Sunday evening, the pastor will lecture on that subject. He has been making a close study of the problem in Illinois, and will present some sensational facts and figures. At the morning service, he will speak on, 'Why I am not a Christian Scientist.'"

***1918** -- "Only one woman voted in the town election Tuesday."

***1918** — "The Ladies Aid of the M.E. church gave an ice cream social last Saturday evening. It was quite well attended and the ladies realized about \$5.00 from the event."



***1945** -- "**March, 1945. Missing Flier Escapes Nazis, Reported Safe** Eighteen days after his Flying Fortress was forced down on a bombing mission more than 500 miles behind the enemy lines in Austria, Second Lt. Stuart Rasmussen, an area pilot reported missing in action, showed up at his airfield in Italy, safe and well but with a 'heinie' haircut acquired somewhere enroute. Word of his escape from a Nazi prison camp has been received by his wife, the former Barbara Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown of Sycamore.

"A week ago Rasmussen's wife and parents were notified by the war department that Lt. Rasmussen was missing in action but a letter from the chaplain ended their anxiety. They have not yet heard from him direct. The chaplain in his letter told how, just before the evening chapel service, Lt. Rasmussen and two members of his crew knocked at his door and reported they were back safely. The chaplain wrote that he was unable to give any details of their escape from the Nazis because of military restrictions, but it is presumed the men received aid from the underground working behind German lines in Austria and Italy. 'The chaplain wrote, 'They are well, and though tired by their trip they are in fine shape. They had acquired short haircuts during their trip, despite which I was able to recognize them all,' the chaplain said in his letter.'

"Lt. Rasmussen, pilot of a Flying Fortress with the 15th air force, has been overseas since last September. He enlisted in April 1943, and was commissioned in February 1944. An uncle, Pfc. Harvey Wilder with the field artillery in the Philippines, has been overseas since 1942."



10/03 Hillary Tamar
10/04 Ed Miller,
10/04 Jillian Stevens
10/08 Melissa Schellenberger
10/10 Merle Sprague
10/11 Rose Marie Thomas
10/16 Tyler Lovejoy
10/18 Laurie MacMartin
10/21 Nick Abel
10/25 Janet Turner



10/14 Alan & Janet Bridgeland
10/18 Dale & Lisa Leden
10/24 Keith & Jill Knoespel



Please be aware:



If you get a call/text/e-mail that looks like it's coming from the church or the pastor, we will NOT be asking for money that way. Scammers can clone phone numbers and, unfortunately, this is becoming more common.