



The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

December 2020



Worship With Us

Sunday Worship 9:00 am

via ZOOM Meeting

(contact the church for information)

Rev. Howie Snyder, Pastor

Cell phone: 630-809-9419

Email: pastorhowiesnyder@gmail.com

Contact Us

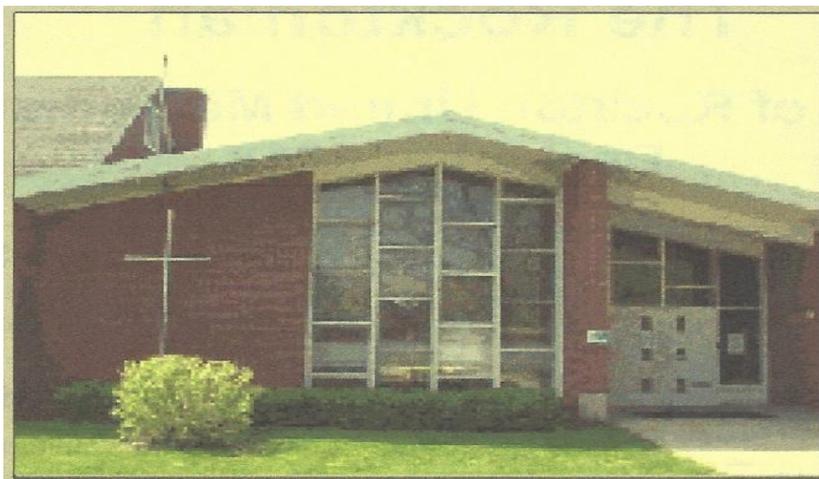
Rockton United Methodist Church
102 West Chapel Street
PO Box 293
Rockton, IL 61072

Office Phone: 815-624-7591

Email: info@rocktonumc.org

Visit Our Website

www.rocktonumc.org



Mission Statement

Grow FAITH in Jesus Christ.
Share LOVE with others.
Give SERVICE to our neighbors.

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**Rockton United
Methodist Church**

PO Box 293
Rockton, IL 61072

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Pastor's Pen

Upcoming Services:

- Dec. 13th - May Those Who Sow in Tears Reap With Shouts of Joy - *Advent Week 3*
- Dec. 20th - A Peace That Passes All Understanding - *Advent Week 4*
- Dec. 24th - Rockton/Durand Combined Christmas Eve Service, SPM
- Dec. 27th - District Clergy Video Service



It is with both sadness and expectancy that I write my final Newsletter Article for the Rocktonian. Sad to say good byes, but also joyful expectancy at how God will lead both my family and the RocktonUM Church into the future. Almost like the Advent Season that is now upon us; with Joseph & Mary, the Shepherds, the Wise Men and even all of Israel waiting in expectation for how God would enter into their lives and deliver them. My family will be entering a new chapter, but so will the church in both leadership but also with the joyful expectations of worshipping in a revitalized building with the structure repaired, fresh paint and new carpet. Just as Romans 8:22 says, "*We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time,*" we think of the parallel of Mary in the pains of childbirth but also in eager expectation for her child along with the Israelites for their Messiah, we also await for Jesus to be revealed in new ways in our lives going forward.

I am also reminded once again of the verse, "*We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us*" (I Thessalonians 2:8). This verse has become more and more true for me as I have grown in love for you over the past 2 and a half years. Being a part of Christ's family in ministry is about being a part of each other's lives in indelible ways as we imprint our love for Christ and for each other in worshipping, serving, loving and communing together. And I am thankful that our good byes are but temporary as we have the hope and belief of eternity together, worshipping our ever-loving Savior.

New Administrative Assistant – The SPRC are pleased to report that we have made a new hire! Her name is **Margaret Downing** and she writes articles for the Rockton Herald, so you may have heard of her or read her stuff. We are pleased to have her join us, especially to help in the transition to our Interim Minister in January.

You may contact her by the church's email at info@rocktonumc.org or by calling the church office. Hours to be determined.

In the ever present Love & Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
Pastor Howie Snyder

New Things & Transitions

We are all living out a way of being unlike any most of us have known. Thanksgiving just now behind us, for most of us was not the kind of feast and celebration that we're used to, and likely blanketed with loss. Now, the onset of Advent near, we approach the season with the same adjustments and challenges. Yet none of us do this alone! We are the community of saints, the Body of Christ, the living embodiment of the Spirit of the Living God—and it is a privilege to be in it with you.

Our family is in the midst of another change—quite significant. Nicole and I have accepted Co-Pastor positions with a church in Lakewood, Colorado. My ministry at RocktonUMC has been a blessing, but the DurandUMC will be going through a transition in the future where Nicole would have concluded her time there. And due to our family needing to make the transition away from the Durand parsonage which could have potentially affected my appointment as well, we started looking into opportunities to co-pastor. With those opportunities not available in our conference for us currently, we were presented with an opportunity with a Free Methodist Church in Colorado and after prayerfully considering the opportunity, we have accepted the co-pastor positions which begin January 1, 2021. We will be able to minister together, be closer to family, and provide a better environment and educational fit for our youngest son.

The Conference will provide an interim minister for RocktonUMC to transition until conference time for a new appointment to the church. I am excited for God's leading in a new way in our lives but also saddened to leave behind our Rockton Church family with so much potential for God working in new ways here as well. So I lay it all at Jesus' feet and trust the Lord both for his provision for my family and I, but also for provision for our Rockton Church family as well. And know this; I know God more fully by knowing you, and have become more like Jesus by being church with you these past 2 ½ years. Each appointment shapes us in unexpected and beautiful ways, and you are indelibly etched on my hearts.

The peace of all peace be yours this day, and may you walk at the pace of grace through Advent, Into the New Year and where God will lead you personally and as a church family!

Pastor Howie

"Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3: 13-14)

We wish you well Howie

WIMPY'S FUND

Hi everybody, Here is an update on our Wimpy's Fund project:

We were given 20 names, and 15 of them have been taken. Thank you!

These are the names that still do not have a sponsor:

Baily, girl age 12, Taylor, girl age 3; Lizabeth, girl age 18; Allison, girl age 5

Jocelyn, girl age 16. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these children, please let me know. Lions Club would like to have the gifts by Dec. 15. Please drop them off at my house before then. Call or text me to plan a time. (Info below) I will have a spot in my garage for this. I will wear a mask. You may drop off, or I can remove from your trunk if you'd like. I have the tags for the gifts--from Lions Club, Please tape something on your gift with child's name, age, your name. I will remove this as I add tags. Hopefully, this will go relatively smoothly. Thanks so much for helping,

Margo Leden 815-624-7925; cell 815-543-1225 13956 Sunrise Circle, Rockton

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Bishop Sally Dyck and the Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet are pleased to announce the appointment of PASTOR ROLLAND HAYAG as an Interim Pastor to Rockton UMC effective January 1, 2021 for the following reasons:

- **Heart for Pastoral care**
- **Compassionate**
- **Community minded**
- **Good preacher and musical gifts**

Rolland Bardoquillo Hayag, 49 years old, is originally from the Philippines and married to Joy De Leon Hayag who is currently working as Children's and Family Ministries Director at Christ United Methodist Church in Rockford. They have 3 offspring namely Christine Julia Hayag, who currently stationed in McConnell Air force Base in Kansas City, Frenz Joshua Hayag who currently working with Swedish American Hospital as IT, and Samuel Seth Hayag who is a senior student of Hononegah High School

Rolland is graduated as Master of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary of the Philippines, in 2009; graduated with a degree in Marketing and Business Administration in 2001 at Holy Angel University in the Philippine; and Studied Computer Science at Rock Valley College in 2009-2010 but discontinued due to their move to Lyndon, Illinois in 2010.

He has worked as maintenance person of Camp Reynoldswood, Local Pastor at Lyndon and Leon United Methodist Church, Local Pastor at Lanark United Methodist Church, Tech Support for Comcast Cable and internet services, Temporary employee of Public works at Rockford City, and currently working as Quality Control Inspector at Me Curdy Tooling and Machining Services

In his pastoral ministry in the United States, he visited parishioners and parishioners at the nursing homes, officiated worship and offer prayers to the residents of the Nursing homes, invited people to worship at the Park, officiated weddings and funerals services, and led people to do mission work, such as feeding programs and render some song to the community at various places.

In his pastoral ministry in the Philippines, he was Youth Director at Church of the Savior, Bible Study Leader for Young people and adults, Worship Leader and mission Pastor Volunteer for 2 years as a teacher for the Computer Literacy program of the Food for the Hungry International of the Philippines (FHI). He also worked as Camp Counselor at Different Camps in the United States.

Pastor Rolland is very excited to serve as Interim Pastor at Rockton UMC.

The professional work on the building is winding down and pretty much done. The time is coming for the finishing touches and **that will be up to us**. If you read last month's "What's Up" article, most of what was in there has been done. The painting of the chancel walls is done, the tile where the pews sit has been stripped and waxed, and the Fellowship Hall carpet has been shampooed. There are pictures of the results of all this work (except for the Fellowship Hall) on the Happenings page of the website if you'd like to check it out. There's a very interesting picture of the chancel area that shows the dossal. Below the rag where Darlene and Nancy cleaned, the dossal almost blends into the wall. But above the rag it is dark and, well, just still really dirty. It's pretty obvious where they left off when it got too high to be safe. The only major thing left to be done is the installation of the new carpeting which is now scheduled to begin December 7th. So, after the carpet is installed, what's left?

With the carpet shampooed, a crew could begin **anytime** to bring out the white tables! chairs and anything else in storage to set up the Fellowship Hall. Any further work in the Sanctuary and narthex has to wait until the carpeting is done. Then we'll need to install the pews, railings, and put the organ and various other furniture back in place. At that point, everything will need a really good cleaning! **And during any of this work, whoever is working, will need to keep their feet clean to protect the freshly cleaned carpet downstairs and freshly installed carpet upstairs.** The dossal will take high ladder work and the dust and carpet fibers will be plentiful. We may consider having our regular cleaning service finish the dossal and give the sanctuary a professional cleaning since we haven't needed to use them for many months.

After that we'll need folks to take things out of storage and decide what goes on the walls and other places where there have been decorations in the past or someone sees a fresh look for the future. We'll also need a tech crew to set up the media and sound systems. And, of course, there will probably be some unexpected things that always just seem to turn up ...

It looks as though Covid will still be keeping us out of the Sanctuary for corporate worship for many weeks to come. Consequently, all the jobs mentioned above can be done safely by small groups working separately, observing safe distances, and masked up. There are some jobs that can be done by individuals but most would best be done with, at least, one other person. **Please watch the Saturday Bulletins and check your email regularly after the carpet is in for opportunities when you could help out.** Since we don't meet at the church, it's tough to have a great work day like we did a year ago on October 14th where lots of us got much done in a few hours. And, that's not safe or allowed by restrictions or the conference these days anyway. We will have to set up work days as we go. By that I mean, if one group finishes early then another can start early as well. If something takes longer than expected, another group may have to wait a few days. So again, **stay tuned!** We're getting close (and so is a vaccine!) so if everyone can hang in there for a few more months, we'll be singing God's praises altogether again soon!

John Carleton, Building Committee Chair

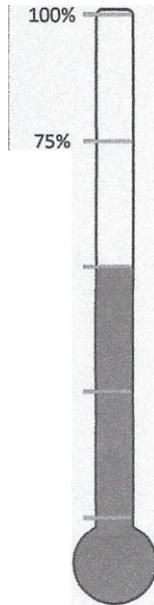


Report on the "Fund the Fix" Building Campaign

December 2020

Due to some church office computer problems, it's been difficult for the finance folks to keep up with the donations to the "Fund-the-Fix" pledges and contributions. They're catching up now and we're happy to report that we are half way towards our goal. As of the most recent report at the end of October, there was \$25,106 that was used to help pay the Sjostrom bill for the structural and cosmetic work.

Current \$25,106
Goal \$50,000



Thanks to those who contributed, that's \$25,106 that didn't have to come from other church resources! Here's hoping we can double that amount and reach our goal of \$50,000 in the coming months. Additional funds will help to pay for the new carpeting and go towards firming up our financial position so we can have the ability to support the church's mission.

December Birthdays

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Dan Davis | 8 Jerry Weaver | 20 Laura Janes |
| 4 Jill Huett | 11 Shannon Nygren | 24 Don Huett |
| 4 Sherri Zimmer | 14 Suzanne Boomer | 24 Lisa Schultz |
| | 28 Jerry Green | 29 Sharon Ruff |

Anniversaries

- 16 Jerry and Sharon Ruff 23 KC and Brenda Wulf 29 Dan and Judy Davis**

Note from Peg: Jim Hendricks who has performed here on the piano is as good as can be under the circumstances. Concerts have dried up with Covid. He hopes things are going well with us and looks forward to normalcy with the churches. His children are now 6 and 3 and doing well.

HEAR YE HEAR YE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH 1:00 PM - 2:00PM

DRIVE BY - THANK PASTOR HOWIE, MEET PASTOR ROLLAND

Tables will be set-up for each and proper social distancing will be in place. Pull up to the first table, give our thanks and best wishes to Howie, proceed to table 2 and welcome and meet Pastor Rolland. A basket or box will be on each table to collect cards, or gifts if you would like to offer any. Please follow CDC guidelines and wear masks as well.

Please proceed into the parking lot from the Chapel St. entrance and exit through the Blackhawk street entrance.





Christmas Rose Story: A shepherd girl wept because she had no gift for the newborn king. Then a miracle sprang forth from her tears. Each one began to bring forth a petal – so lovely born from each salty, tear to become the Christmas Rose. This simple flower reminds us of the true giving each year.

Judy's comments – from our isolation and tears what can we give to our Lord and Jesus Christ this year? Remember everything we give to the 'least of these' we give to our Lord in Jesus' name.

It is the time of our tithes for our church expenses and fixing the wall. Howie wants to remind us to complete our pledge form so the church activities can be planned and budgeted.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9 am Live-stream service	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9 am Live-stream service	14	15	16	17	18	19 1 pm Drive-by Pastor Greet
20 9 am Live-stream service	21	22	23	24 5 pm Live-Stream Christmas Eve Service	25	26
27 9 am Live-stream service	28	29	30	31	2021	