

The Rocktonian

Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church

September 2020



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Worship With Us on Sunday Morning in our Parking Lot

We are worshipping in our parking lot at **9:00am Sunday mornings**. At this time we are continuing to live-stream our service from the parking lot as well. 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

We have chosen the month of September to collect items needed to stock the shelves at Caritas in Beloit and the Old Stone Pantry here in Rockton. We can be a great support to these two missions - and our budgets - if we spread our contributions throughout the month. To help remind you of items they are most in need of, just follow the weekly suggestions below and bring them to church on Sunday. Items will be taken directly to the Old Stone Pantry after our service each week. There are more families than ever using the services of these two organizations. Please be as generous as you are able with your donations.

Caritas



Caritas is in need of full-sized bottles of shampoo and conditioner, so that is all we will be collecting for them in September. There will be a separate container marked Caritas for you to deposit your contributions. (A suggestion from Judy Schellenberger... "Dollar Tree is a great place to pick up these products!")

September Food Drive for the Old Stone Pantry

September 6



Dry Boxed Goods

(Cereal , Boxed Potatoes, Boxed Jello / pudding Stovetop dressing, etc.)

September 13



Canned Meals

(Chili, Stews, Soups, Chef Boyardee canned ravioli, spaghetti, etc.)

September 20



Paper Products

(Paper towels, Kleenex, Toilet paper 2-ply, Dinner napkins)

September 27



Canned Meats

(Tuna, Pink Salmon, Spam Chicken, etc.)

From the Pastor's Pen



September, 2020

Our Parking Lot Services have been going very well and it's been great being in the presence of so many of you over the past few weeks. We just don't know how long the quarantine situation will drag on but our church has done well to continue worshipping, ministering and discipling with each other in the midst of all of this craziness. We don't know what the future will hold, even just month to month, but we continue to "...press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). And for this, I am thankful.

I am thankful for our Sunday School class that has been meeting via Zoom, led by Mark Alcorn on Sunday mornings at 7am. I am thankful for our Thursday 10AM Gospel Discipleship discussions. I am thankful for our Congregational Care Team, continuing to reach out to our members who are home bound or in nursing care. I am thankful for our Prayer Team continuing to meet, discuss and pray. Of course we have all been thankful for the hard work of John Carleton and our Building Committee in getting things up and going with our repair team. And I am so grateful for those of you who have continued to be the church to each other and our community in this time.

Be sure to keep track of the building project with pictures taken by Ron Zoeller posted regularly at our church's website, at:

<https://rocktonumc.org/happenings>

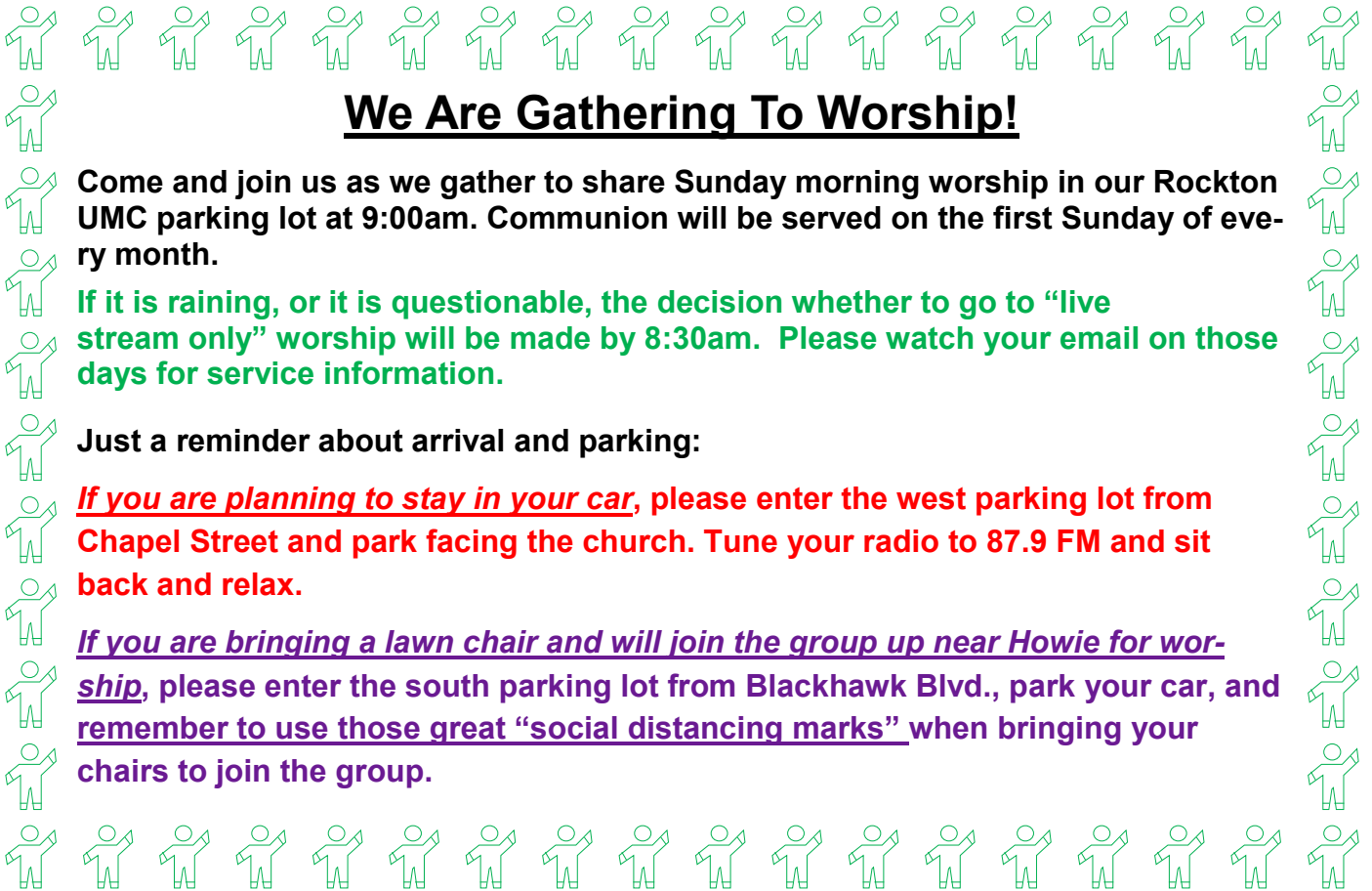
As I preached this past Sunday, our hearts are continually struggling and weary with the ongoing pandemics of COVID19 and Racism that are afflicting our country. Along with the weariness of the strife and divisions going on in the midst of our government and political parties and issues, it seems like the national mantra has been more about division than unity in the midst of those two paralyzing pandemics. So let us continue in faith and unity in the midst of our faith with each other and with Christ and be reminded that we carry the treasure of our Lord Jesus Christ in our midst, in jars of clay. Read these words from Paul and take heart!

⁷ But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹ For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.

-2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Blessings in the Love of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

Pastor Howie Snyder



We Are Gathering To Worship!

Come and join us as we gather to share Sunday morning worship in our Rockton UMC parking lot at 9:00am. Communion will be served on the first Sunday of every month.

If it is raining, or it is questionable, the decision whether to go to “live stream only” worship will be made by 8:30am. Please watch your email on those days for service information.

Just a reminder about arrival and parking:

If you are planning to stay in your car, please enter the west parking lot from Chapel Street and park facing the church. Tune your radio to 87.9 FM and sit back and relax.

If you are bringing a lawn chair and will join the group up near Howie for worship, please enter the south parking lot from Blackhawk Blvd., park your car, and remember to use those great “social distancing marks” when bringing your chairs to join the group.



All Church Conference Scheduled on Zoom

Mark your calendars for our Charge Conference coming at the end of the month. We will be meeting on Zoom on **Monday, September 28th**
SPRC 5:45-6:30 **All church members 6:30-7:30**

Rock River Sweep 2020



Our annual Rock River Sweep has become another victim of the COVID. Because we cannot gather as a group to clean up the Rock River environment, I am encouraging everyone to do individual cleanups on your own time. If you have any large metal objects or old tires from the river, please let me know so I can arrange for their disposal. 815-289-1152. Otherwise, dispose of your trash in your curbside pickup. If you have any stories to share, email me at flotowood@gmail.com.

Thanks for your participation!
Loren Floto



Puzzle Exchange Ending!

I am closing the puzzle exchange September 15th. Anyone who wants to take some or all of the puzzles, feel free to come over. They are on my front porch at 428 N Prairie St, Rockton, IL 61072. I plan to donate any leftovers to Salvation Army because the library has no plans to offer puzzle or magazine exchanges due to (you guessed it) COVID 19.

Loren Floto



What's Up With the Building? September

The scaffolding is up and as of Friday, August 28th, the ceiling is up by half an inch more than it was the previous day. Sjostrom is hard at work and it's hard to believe that last Friday was the tenth day of working on our sanctuary! Our Structural Engineer was out that day to inspect the scaffold and bracing and gave the go ahead to begin jacking up the sagging ceiling in the hope it will begin to pull in the wall.

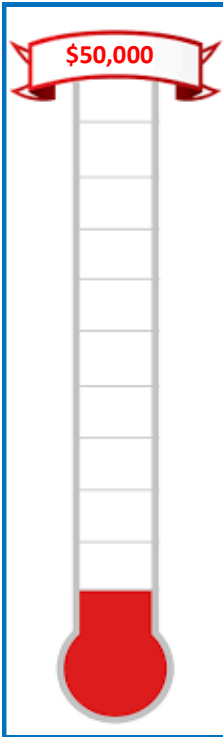
Trustee Ron Zoeller has been checking things out, taking pictures every other day or so and sending them on to be posted to our church website. Check out a couple of the pictures below. We encourage you to go to <https://rocktonumc.org/happenings> where you can see Ron's pictures and check in on what's up with the building each week. Ron had put in a semi-permanent plumb line last fall and when he checked it at the end of the work day on Friday, the wall had retreated by a quarter of an inch! Not much, but, as he said, "...in the right direction"! There will now be periods where they increase the tension on the jacks and then wait to see how the building responds so progress may not be as obvious as it has been in the past couple of weeks.

John Carleton
Chair of the Building Committee



Did you see us in the news? Both the Community Page of The Beloit Daily News and the front page of The Herald carried an article about our Sanctuary repairs last week.

Funding the Fix



The contract for the Sanctuary repairs is for \$115,616. You can play an important role in this project by helping to provide the resources to pay for the project and keep our church resources in a viable condition. With this in mind, the Resources Group has set a fund-raising goal of \$50,000. Your pledge or donation can be sent to the church. If sending a check, please make the check payable to RUMC. In the memo line, please include your envelope number and "Church Campaign Fund Drive".

Our campaign to "Fund the Fix" is progressing and a rough estimate is that we have reached around 10% of our goal or about \$5,000. If you have ideas for fund raisers then please share them and let's see if we can reach that goal.

We hope you will consider making a donation and it will be a blessing that will allow us to once again worship in our Sanctuary and continue God's work.



Congregational Care Team

September 2020



What a beautiful day this is as I write my update for each of you to read in the September Rocktonian. The weather is nice today. The sun is shining and it is comfortable. Not too hot. The air conditioning is turned off. Oh, how I wish we could once again visit our members and friends who are still not able to have visitors. Last month I asked for help from all of you to write or call these folks. This month I continue to ask for your help. This past month I read Jesus' words from the bible and thought of our church family.

"Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I, therefore command you, Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

It reminded me of the importance of caring for the needs of those around me. We each can reflect Christ's love through our actions. You friends and members of Rockton United Methodist Church can be answers to the prayers of those in need. God trusts that we will attend to the cries of others. Please make time to call or visit or write a letter to someone who needs your friendship.

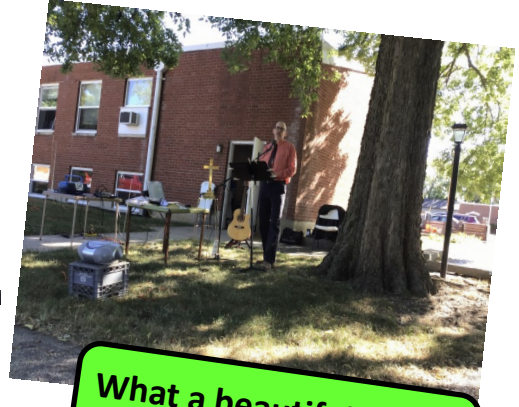
Thanks for being God's hands.

Mary Louise Muench
Co-ordinator Congregational Care Team
815-623-7556

Worshipping in the parking lot!



Stay in your car or bring your own chair



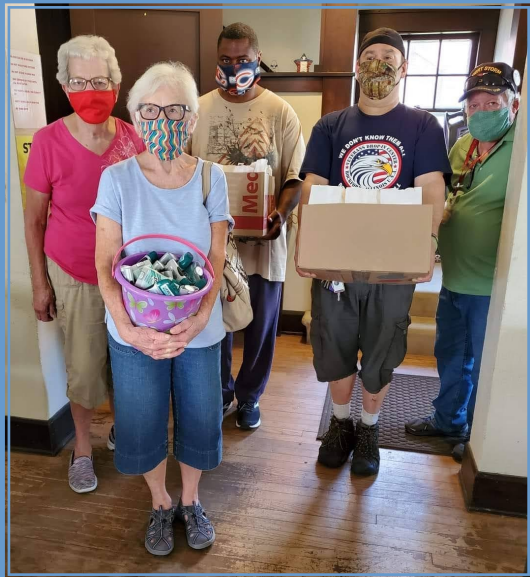
What a beautiful day to hear a sermon!



Find a dot and set up your chair - and don't forget your mask!



Do you see yourself in any of these pictures? Maybe next time!



News from Missions / Sisters in Christ

Thank you to Missions committee for putting together 20 sack lunches which were delivered to the Veteran's Center in Rockford on Monday, August 17 by Judy Schellenberger and Janet Turner. The lunches were gratefully received!

In addition to the sack lunches, we were able to provide deodorant for the Veterans, thanks to funds from Sisters in Christ. That item was much appreciated, too!

It was good to see the Veterans. We didn't stay to serve them due to the Covid virus.

Judy Schellenberger

THANK YOU!



To those who stayed after church to help clear out the sanctuary before construction began.



THANK YOU!



To all those taking on various responsibilities to make the sanctuary repairs get underway and move forward.

THANK YOU!



To Dan Davis for painting the circles on the parking lot to ensure social distancing during worship.

THANK YOU!



To Dan Davis, Roy and Melinda Croisant, Jim and Gail Johnson, Mark and Matthew Alcorn, and Peg Hayelan for assisting Howie in making the parking lot service come into being.

THANK YOU!



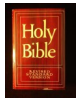
To Laura and Jared Janes for donating their time all summer to cut the grass at the church. It is appreciated that their lawn service (at a reduced rate!) accepted the request to weed and trim around the church when volunteers were not available!

September 2020

These events are scheduled for September:

- Each Sunday at 9:00am Worship in the Rockton UMC parking lot
Communion on the first Sunday of each month
Food Pantry donations to be brought each Sunday in September
- **Charge Conference September 28 on Zoom** SPRC at 5:45 Conference at 6:30

These events are happening every week using ZOOM:



Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 7:00am - 8:00am
with Mark Alcorn facilitating



Study Group every Thursday morning at 10:00am - 11:00am
with Pastor Howie facilitating

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Paul Chambers
- 4 Erin Tamar
- 5 Hannah Bridgeland
Ryan Kerch
- 7 Harold Wulf
- 8 Alan Bridgeland
- 9 Rachel Cooper
Brian Zimmer
- 10 Theresa Fogarty
Greg Leden
- 11 Georgia Lee Colby
- 15 Daryl Bloom
- 16 Scott Hellinga
- 24 Mary Louise Muench

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Bill and Cheryl Campbell
- 7 Jason and Theresa Fogarty
- 20 Steve and Susan Able
- 23 Richard and Jean Cooper
- 25 Loren and Jan Floto

