



The Rocktonian

**Newsletter of
Rockton United Methodist Church**

April 2023



Rockton United Methodist Church
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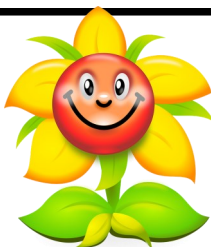
Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor

Worship With Us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Honoring Our Graduates

Spring is here, and the end of the school year is approaching! We would like to hear from members if there are graduates that are a part of our congregation/membership. This would include 8th grade, high school, college and advanced degree graduates.

Please contact the office (624-7591) with names of anyone in your family who we can honor. It would be best if we can receive this information by the third week of April in order to select which Sunday we can honor our graduates!





I pray you have had a meaningful Lent. During worship we have explored various gifts offered during the times when we feel lost or confused about where we are or where we are going. We have explored ways to tune in more closely to the Spirit's presence in our lives and pay attention to the blessings and guidance available during our times in life's Dark Wood.

Just as Lent is a season of forty days (not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, so too is Easter a *season* in the Christian calendar! The High Holy Day of Easter kicks off a season of celebrating resurrection and renewal in not only our own hearts and lives, but in God's desire for the renewal of the entire world.

The season of Easter lasts fifty days and concludes with Pentecost—another celebration of the arrival of the Holy Spirit in the world in a new way and the birth of Christ's Church.

After decades of decreasing interest and participation in church in our culture, the need to keep distance during the pandemic drew even more people away from the pattern of weekly worship and Christian discipleship. As a denomination and as a congregation, it feels like we

have experienced a season of confusion and losing our passion and sense of purpose.

This is why Easter is such a central celebration for Christians. We celebrate it not only every year, but why liturgical scholars teach that every Sunday is a Little Easter. Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection!

Culture continues to change more rapidly and dramatically than ever before. Our world seems to think that church is a relic of the past. This is why we especially need to embrace the messages of hope and new life brought about by resurrection.

Resurrection began with Jesus, but it continues in our own hearts. When we nurture the ongoing transformation within our own lives, God will guide Christ's Church into new ways of bringing the Good News into today's world. Our work is to be prepared and willing to follow where the Spirit leads.

I pray you and your loved ones will experience first-hand the true joy of Easter this year!

What's Up with the Building?

By John Carleton, Trustees Chair

What's Up with the Building(s) for April 2023?

You'll see that there's a plural in the title this month as much of the attention of the Trustees in March was on the Parsonage after the damage done by the ice storm. The damage has been reviewed by insurance and, unfortunately, is under our deductible of \$2500. The work needs to be done so the repairs have been contracted. On the advice of a couple of tree services, we are also going to remove the forked tree that caused the damage. Forked trees tend to be more susceptible to high winds and this one is in a place where it's better to be pro-active and remove it before it comes down on the parsonage in some future spring storm. Since it will be cheaper to do so, we're also going to have the tree service trim the limbs near the west lot at the church that have begun to encroach on the building.

As the manager of the NIC Risk Management Office happened to come out with the insurance adjuster, Pastor talked him into doing a walk-through of the church for a Risk Management Assessment. This is something we've been trying to get done for months and (thankfully), Jim Johnson and Roy Croisant were available on a moment's notice to join them. We now have a long list of things, most of them minor, that we need to address in the coming months and most of which you probably won't notice.

Some of you know that there are going to be improvements made to the Library/Meeting room which will also include the hallways. We've decided to remove the drinking fountains as they use electricity and are now not considered healthy. Some have suggested we install a bottle filler in place of one of them. After much discussion, we doubt if it would be used that much to justify the cost (\$500ish). If any of you have thoughts on all of this then please contact me or talk to a Trustee as we'd like to hear what you think.

Music on Zoom, a Tale of Cooperation:

For those of you who attend services on Zoom, you're well aware that we've dealt with some pesky sound issues for the last few months. I think the tale of how all of that was solved is worth sharing. Jerry Green has spent hours working with the sound system after it was all dismantled during the wall fix and then after we've improved our tech with various upgrades to the computer, a new camera, and provisions for the techs and participants so they can hear themselves better. Jerry had gotten the voice so it was nice and clear but there were difficulties with no Clavinova music on Zoom. Many things were tried to correct this, the sound got even better but nothing worked for music.

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What's Up with the Building?

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Then Janet Bridgeland happened to have a Zoom call with Brett and his family and noticed that their grandkids were playing with toys that would make “music” in the background but she and Alan couldn’t hear them. When she asked Brett, who uses Zoom in his work regularly, he told her that Zoom had done some updates in the past few months so music and other background noises could be eliminated on Zoom calls. If you wanted to hear music, you had to change a setting to allow it.

Janet fired off an email and we were able to find the setting described online, a simple check box...Mark Lukasick went right in and tried it out, and after a couple of tries, he was able last Sunday to get the Clavinova to come through loud and clear! Unfortunately, Pastor’s wireless mic transmitter had low batteries so, while the music was good, you had to strain to hear the sermon. If it’s not one thing, it’s another...at least that is easily corrected.

As I hope this tale has shown, getting our message out has been quite a task for many folks. In addition, both those on Zoom and in-person need to also thank the tech folks back in the booth who spend their Sunday mornings getting everything ready so everyone can see and hear what goes on in worship (and have to put up with and learn all the tech changes).

I’m sure there’s many a morning they wish they could adhere to Psalm 46:10 and, “Be still and know that I am God.” But instead, they need to be sure they’re following the script to have the right verses on the flat screens and whatever.

And of course, we need to remember our musicians who come in during the week to practice the music so it can enhance our time in worship. All of these folks give freely so the rest of us can enjoy worship but, hopefully, the rest of us don’t forget that they make it all possible.

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### Annual “Adopt a Road” Event Set

As has been the case in the past, Judy and Dan Davis will be putting together our annual Hononegah Road clean-up project (Winnebago County’s highway department’s annual event following Worship on Sunday, April 30. Judy will have a sign-up sheet posed by mid-April. We are looking at about a two-hour event and drinks and sandwiches will be provided for lunch. Vests and bags are provided by the Highway Department.



## **Tidbits of Our History**

—*Rockton Herald, Edson Carr, Editor*—



### **1877 News Item:**

\*“An inventor who has had occasion to refer to the cases in the model room of the patent office in Washington containing gunpowder and other chemical compounds, states that he discovered cartridges which will explode upon the slightest concussion. Some of these cartridges, composed of gunpowder and collodian, are similar to those that were condemned at the navy yard during the war because of the numerous premature explosions which occurred in handling them. The spontaneous combustion of similar compositions caused the terrible explosion at the Washington arsenal in 1864, which caused many deaths.”

### **1889 News: Item**

\*“One great question is decided in North Dakota - the location of the capital. Bismarck has secured the prize and there is great jubilation in that thriving city over the prospect of future greatness.”

### **1893 News Items:**

\*“It was a great rain we had last Wednesday. It only rained once during the day but that once was from morning till night.”

\*“Shine your teeth with Toilet Queen Tooth Powder.”

\*“The Rockford Opera House management has declared war on the churches of that city which have been letting out their houses of worship for various concerts and entertainments at a lower figure than the opera house can be secured for. The churches have not paid an amusement license and could therefore underbid the theater. Mayor H.N. Starr has taken the matter in hand and will compel all attractions in the churches to pay the regular license of \$10 per night.”

\*“While traveling with Sells & Renfrow’s circus near Galveston, Texas last week, John Regan of Rockford was killed by a gang of cow-boys who attempted to capture the ticket wagon. Five of the showmen were killed and seven of the cow-boys bit the dust.”

\*“The Union Pacific has taken the ‘Lincoln car’ out of service, and in a few days will bring it to the shops of the company in Chicago to be restored with a view to sending it to the World’s Fair. The car is the one which usually carried President Lincoln on his trips to visit the army, and was the one which bore the body of the President from Washington to Springfield. It was made bullet proof with boiler iron below the line of the high small windows.”

\*“There are, it is computed, 30,000 cyclists in the United States, and the number is swelling rapidly. Let the women gyrate as much as they please. Their power to turn men’s heads is so great already that no perceptible increase thereof will result from any additional circumvolutions.”





# April 2023



| Sunday                                                                                                                             | Monday | Tuesday                                                                   | Wednesday                         | Thursday                                                                                               | Friday | Saturday                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                    |        |                                                                           |                                   |                                                                                                        |        | 1                            |
| 2<br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br>Worship 9:30am<br>Bible Study<br>10:30 a.m.                                                             | 3      | 4<br>Sisters in<br>Christ 7 p.m.                                          | 5                                 | 6                                                                                                      | 7      | 8                            |
| 9<br><b>Easter Sunday</b><br>Worship 9:30am<br> | 10     | 11<br>Small Group<br>Prayer Team<br>10 a.m.                               | 12                                | 13                                                                                                     | 14     | 15                           |
| 16<br>Worship 9:30am<br>Bible Study<br>10:30 a.m.                                                                                  | 17     | 18                                                                        | 19<br>4 p.m. Board of<br>Trustees | 20<br>May Newsletter<br>Submissions<br>Due<br><br>Community<br>Blood Drive at<br>Fire dept.<br>12 p.m. | 21     | 22<br>9 a.m. Soup<br>Kitchen |
| 23<br>Worship 9:30am<br>Food on the 4th<br>Sunday                                                                                  | 24     | 25<br>Small Group<br>Prayer Team<br>10 a.m.<br><br>7 p.m. Finance<br>Team | 26                                | 27                                                                                                     | 28     | 29/30                        |