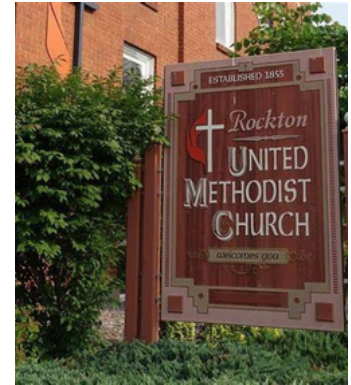




THE ROCKTONIAN

WELCOMING ALL IN JESUS' NAME
AS WE GROW TOGETHER IN FAITH, SERVICE, AND LOVE
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:30 A.M.



Many of you were in church this past Sunday, April 27, when it was announced that I will be appointed to Poplar Grove UMC on July 1, 2025. I want to share with you the remarks I shared with the congregation after the announcement was made:

Friends, I want you to know this appointment change was not requested or expected. I thought I would have a few more years with you to continue the good work we have started as we experiment our way forward.

The District Superintendent (our regional supervisor) called me last week to let me know our Bishop thought I would be a good fit for a church who is chomping at the bit to do the types of things our church has been doing.

This change is not expected... and... this is not bad news! I've only had a short time to adjust to this news myself. I will process with you and help you prepare for your next pastor, which I absolutely believe will be positive for this congregation and for Rockton.

Friends, I've only been here four years, but we have both grown quite a bit in that time. We will continue to worship and work and serve together in the coming weeks as we make adjustments and as you transition your gifts of hospitality to focus on your new pastor. I want you to know I am working hard to help the Bishop find a good fit for your needs. Please feel free to reach out if you want to talk. I love this church and I am truly excited about what the future holds for you in the months ahead.

(Continued on p. 2)

<p>In this newsletter you can expect:</p> <hr/> <p>From the Pastor's desk</p> <hr/> <p>What's up with the building?</p> <hr/> <p>Fellowship Committee update</p> <hr/> <p>Important dates, members birthdays and anniversaries</p> <hr/>
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(From the Pastor's Desk Continued from p.1)

The District Superintendent (D.S.) will meet with our Staff Parish Relations Committee this Wednesday afternoon, April 30. She will ask the committee for input on the qualities the church values most highly in a new pastor. Please forward your thoughts on this to any member of SPRC (listed below). This information, along with the needs of the church to continue our work in ministry will be the criteria guiding the Bishop and the Cabinet (comprised of all five District Superintendents) as they seek the best pastoral candidate for this congregation.

Once they select a pastor, the D.S. will meet with that pastor and share why the Cabinet feels they would be a good fit for Rockton UMC. The candidate then meets with SPRC. It is a "get to know you" interview. The congregation is not provided with a list of candidates from which they can choose. And congregations do not "hire" or "fire" pastors. If the introductory interview does not bring to light any conflicts or potential problems, announcements are made in both congregations the next Sunday morning and a weekly email announcement is sent out by the Bishop the following Monday.

In The United Methodist Church, ordained clergy are guaranteed an appointment; our vows include a promise to itinerate, or go wherever we are appointed by the Bishop.

There are benefits and challenges to this system. In many ways, it is like an arranged marriage. It will work well if the parties involved are committed to making it work. As senior pastors at larger congregations retire, clergy from mid-sized congregations are appointed to follow them; the mid-sized churches then need new pastors appointed. This is one of many reasons pastoral changes are made. This system allows the Cabinet to prioritize what they call the "missional needs" of the churches. Clergy have the freedom to speak more prophetically to their congregations than in other systems; clergy are also able to prioritize serving the larger community as they serve the local church.

Another benefit to this system is that the strength remains at the congregational level – churches are not formed around the gifts or personality of any one pastor. Pastors come and go; the congregations learn and benefit from the differing gifts of clergy. In the healthiest United Methodist congregations, members have a clear understanding of who they are and what they are called to offer their larger community; they welcome a new pastor like a choir welcomes a new voice or new director. The group dynamic will shift, but the group remains grounded in their particular identity and calling.

I believe it is important to put effort into smooth transitions, so your SPRC and I will be working with the incoming pastor to ensure they are able to move into what will soon be their beautiful home and church for this next chapter. If you have ideas or suggestions that can help with this transition, please share with me or our SPRC.

The more I am able to reflect on the time I have spent with you, the more excited I am to realize that this is all happening in God's timing. Although I expected to remain with you longer, I believe my work here has been to help you recover from the heavy losses you had suffered before my arrival. Together we have learned how to experiment and learn as we go. I believe we are now in a place where the church is healthy and strong enough to look to a new future with new leadership in a spirit of hopeful anticipation, knowing God is with you, guiding and providing for your ministries.

We will be together two more months and I will savor our remaining time together.

Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20)



Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) members:
Christine Gustafson (Chairperson), Phyllis DeGraff, Sandy Stamm, Janet Turner,
Gail Terry, Janet Bridgeland, and Margo Leden (Lay Leader)

What's up with the building?

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

Our building and grounds seem to have made it through the winter rather well so, at this time, we are not planning on having a "Grounds Clean-up Day" or the like. This is also thanks to all the work Brenda and her crews did last year. That doesn't mean there won't be more to do as summer rolls in but what needs to be done will be more routine work. If, for example, you'd like to volunteer to help adopt a flower bed or if you're able to climb a ladder and clean out some gutters, and we can always use folks to pull the weeds in the parking lot cracks so please let us know. By now, hopefully, you've seen the new Garden Club raised beds that were just installed. They'll soon be planted and will need folks to help tend them. So, again, if you'd like to put on your gardening hat and gloves, and haven't already, let Brenda or Pastor know so we can get you included! Moving indoors, and while it sounds strange, I'll remind folks to linger awhile after using our restrooms. They don't get as much use as they did in the past so you might be the first person in weeks to use something. When valves and levers don't get used for a long time, they can get sticky and not shut off properly. I've written in the past how our church water bill has gone way up because a toilet was used and allowed to run for days because it didn't shut off. So, please linger and listen to be sure the water is completely off before you leave a restroom. Should something stick and not shut off, try wiggling the lever if it's a toilet or tapping on the valve if it's a urinal. If that doesn't do it, please call a Trustee ASAP so someone can get in and shut off the water to that fixture if it can't be easily stopped. We're still working on getting portions of the building tuck-pointed after a hard winter for the brick. So far, we've only been able to get one bid. If you've had any tuck-pointing done, had a chimney repaired or other brick work done and know a good masonry company, then please share the name with the trustees. Finally, time is running out on getting the roofs on the Sanctuary and Education Wing done. We've talked about doing both at once in the past but we are now going to look into doing which ever building has the worst roof first to try and make the cost more affordable. Watch here in future months as we grapple with putting this project together.



SISTERS IN CHRIST MISSION PROJECT 🍰

WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER CAKE KITS TO DONATE TO OLD STONE PANTRY AND CARITAS!

WE'RE COLLECTING: CAKE MIXES, FROSTING, AND OPTIONAL FUN EXTRAS LIKE BIRTHDAY CANDLES, PLATES, NAPKINS, AND BALLOONS.

A DONATION BOX WILL BE SET UP STARTING SUNDAY, MAY 4.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING SPREAD A LITTLE JOY!

🌸 SPRING ROAD CLEANUP – SUNDAY, MAY 4

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN— HOW DID WE GET HERE SO FAST?! JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL SPRING ROAD CLEANUP ON SUNDAY, MAY 4, RIGHT AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE. IF THE WEATHER DOESN'T COOPERATE, WE'LL RECONVENE ON OUR RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 1.

AS ALWAYS, WE'LL BE PREPARING SANDWICHES FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS TO ENJOY AFTER THE CLEANUP. LET'S COME TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL!

Community Garden Update!

Things are moving full steam ahead. The lawn fabric is down, the raised beds are installed, and little vegetables have started to be planted.

Next up is the ribbon cutting ceremony where local leaders, organizations and news stations will be coming to our church.

If you are available on **Tuesday, May 13 at 10 am**, we could use all the hospitality possible from our members. This is our time to show the community what it means to us to of service and provide for those in need.

Feel free to reach out to Lori Lee or Dan Enderle with any questions.



May 2025 Calendar of Events

Wed, Apr 30 – SPRC Meeting, 4:45 PM

Sat, May 3 – Transitions Workshop (Schaumburg), 8:30 AM–3:00 PM

Sun, May 4 – Worship, 9:30 AM

Roadside Cleanup, 10:45 AM (rain date: June 1)

Wed, May 7 – Cluster Clergy Lunch (at RUMC), 12:00–1:30 PM

Thurs, May 8 – SPRC Meeting, 4:45 PM

Sun, May 11 – Worship, 9:30 AM — Mother's Day

Mon, May 12 – Pastor on Jury Duty (limited availability)

Tues, May 13 – NIC Clergy Session, 9 AM–3 PM

Press Release & Ribbon Cutting (Community Garden), 10 AM

Sun, May 18 – Worship, 9:30 AM

Memorial Service for Mary Louise Shakespeare, 1:00 PM

Girl Scouts Gardening Project, 2:30–4:00 PM

Mon, May 19 – Trustees, 4 PM; Finance, 5 PM

Tues, May 20 – Pastor leads worship at retirement home, 10 AM

Newsletter Articles Due

Administrative Council, 4:30 PM

Sat, May 24 – Soup Kitchen (Jubilee Center) — Serving Lunch

Sun, May 25 – Worship, 9:30 AM — Food on the Fourth

Rummage Sale Fundraiser – June 5, 6, & 7



Join us for a Rummage Sale Fundraiser in coordination with the Route 75 Stateline Garage Sales! It will take place on June 5, 6, & 7 from 8 AM to 3 PM.

We're looking for volunteers to help with set-up, manning the sale, and cleanup. If you'd like to lend a hand, contact Dave Wellen or the church office.

A sign-up sheet will be available in church this May.

We're also accepting donations of gently used items, including:

- Tools, garden tools, and yard care items
- Toys, stuffed animals, dolls, sports equipment
- Fishing gear
- Knick-knacks, holiday decor, kitchenware
- Furniture (chairs, lamps, tables, desks)
- Clothing

Donations can be dropped off at church or we can arrange a pick-up. Any unsold items will be donated at the end of the sale, unless picked up. We look forward to your support in making this a successful fundraiser!



Thank you for reading!

ROCKTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor 847-271-2733 (call or text) 9am-9pm Call 24/7 for emergencies
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