



# The Rocktonian

## Newsletter

Rockton United Methodist Church  
102 W. Chapel Street Rockton, IL 61072

Office Hours by appointment  
email: [RocktonUMC@gmail.com](mailto:RocktonUMC@gmail.com)  
website: [www.rocktonumc.org](http://www.rocktonumc.org)

Rev. Carolyn Lukasick, Pastor  
847-271-2733 (call or text) 9am-9pm



Welcoming all in Jesus' name  
as we Grow Together in Faith, Service, and Love  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.



### Upcoming Outreach

On October 27th we will again host Trunk or Treat in our parking lot from 1-3pm. We will include a few community partners. Feel free to donate candy if the means allow.

### Fundraiser at Culvers

On **November 4, 5, and 6** we will sponsor Culver's Scoopy Days at the Culvers in Roscoe. Present a paper or digital voucher from you phone and Rockton UMC will receive 15% of the sales for any purchases made during regular business hours. You can purchase your food or treats dine in or drive thru. Vouchers will be available at trunk or treat, at the church, or on social media. Remember to ask about senior discounts or any other applicable deals.



The worship series we begin in October was designed to help congregations lean into their faith as we approach national elections in November. The series is based on the Golden Rule (Do unto others) and acknowledges that although we are blessed to have freedom of speech, the polarization in our nation is difficult to navigate. The focus of this series is about finding ways we can honor one another even in the midst of our differences.

The anchor image or symbol featured in this series is a heart with red and blue areas representing our differences. "The purple space is where we cultivate compassion, respect, humility, kindness, and love for one another, no matter what our other differences may be on the outside."

The combination of red and blue make purple. In this example, it does not represent watering down or mixing our opinions and ideals or changing those who are different. Rather, it is about

creating space for discovering and celebrating our shared values, discovering the beauty which is possible only when we work together to make the world a better place.

Instead of staying in our own silos and interacting only with people like us, we are challenged to engage in conversation and seek a common good, even if we cannot find common ground with family, friends, and neighbors who we think of as being on the "other side" politically.

I invite you to be in prayer for our church, our neighbors, and our nation as we approach the election. Let us be asking God to show us how we can gather around the light of Christ and model coming together to care for one another in the midst of a fractured society. "What if we could have a 'revolution of kindness' with Christ at the center? If we can't do it here and now, where and when 'for God's sake' will we?"



Blessings,

# What's Up with the Building?

October 2024

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

Have you driven by the Parsonage recently? If not, take a detour next time you're near there and see the new landscaping around the building. What's especially nice about the work is that, not only does it look great, it's rock and not mulch, so the maintenance from year to year will be much less. A big shout out to Pastor and Mark for their donation to the Parsonage.

You may be aware of the investigation undertaken by the Trustees into the possibility of obtaining a grant from the State of Illinois to upgrade the security of our building. Applying for such a grant is a huge undertaking and we had someone from the Department of Homeland Security come out and evaluate the building. We were considering the use of a grant writer who has worked with several other institutions in Northern Illinois. After much consideration and consulting with other church teams, however, we decided we really couldn't afford the fee to pursue this especially since there's no guarantee we would get the grant. That being said, there are still several things we can do to update our building's security that will not break our budget. Just to name a couple, we would like to install new and additional cameras now that the building is vacant much of the time. Our exterior lighting is pretty good now but can be improved and we should have a discussion about identifying a "safe room". Do you have some feedback on this issue? We'd love to hear it. Please contact me or another Trustee or Ad Council member.

While not necessarily related to security, in our discussions it came up that we do not have an AED available for cardiac emergencies. These are pretty much standard in most schools and churches and we need to consider getting one and training folks in its use. While it has been pointed out that we are across the street from RFD, we can't always be sure the paramedics will be available, and we need to be able to act if necessary. This is something that could be donated. New ones run around \$1500 but some good refurbished units are more affordable at around \$750.



I hope you've noticed the ceiling of the North Room of the Sanctuary has been patched and painted. Pray that our roof holds out as we have been told by professional roofers that the Sanctuary roof and the roof on the Education

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Sisters in Christ will be hosting a class in alcohol painting at J R Finally Art Studio, 210 W. Main Street. Rockton, on

Saturday, October 12, from 9:30 to 11:30. We will be painting two 4x4 ceramic tiles and two 6x6 ceramic tiles. The cost is \$15, payable in advance to either Phyllis DeGraff or Janet Bridgeland. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. There is a class limit of 12 (based on the size of the classroom) so please sign up soon to reserve your spot. We have some super creative artists in our fellowship so it will be inspiring to see their artwork. If you have any questions, please call Phyllis DeGraff, 608-368-1051

**Saturday, October 12  
at 930 am**

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Wing have only two, or at best, three seasons left before they will need to be replaced. A couple of years ago we had an estimate of over \$51,000 to replace the roofs so we need to begin fund raising now so we can try to meet the goal of replacing the roofs in the next two to three years. Finally, all the light poles around the parking lots have freshly painted poles and new batteries in their solar lights. With winter coming on, folks may have more of a chance to see it they're working. Note: A lantern has to detect motion and it has to be dark to turn on. In the process it was noticed that six of the poles have memorial plaques on them but they are so tarnished you'd hardly notice it. Four of the poles have no plaques/memorial. The tarnish is pretty thick and stubborn so it may be a while before we'll be able to read them.

## Fellowship Committee

**Veterans' Day** is November 11 so we will be honoring veterans in worship on Sunday, November 10 with a presentation highlighting all our members who are veterans and their branch of service. Is there anyone we should add to the presentation? If so, please contact Pastor Carolyn or Gail Terry.

On the Saturday of Rockton's Christmas Walk, which is December 7th, we will be holding our annual **Craft and Bake Sale**. Crafters who have participated will be contacted soon to see if they plan to exhibit their merchandise and then tables will be open to other crafters. More details to follow in the November Rocktonian.



# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2  5:30 pm Fellowship	3	4	5
6 9:30am Worship 	7	8 10am Small Group Prayer Team	9	10	11	12  9:30 am Sisters in Christ Painting
13 9:30am Worship	14 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day	15 10am Retirement Home Worship  6:00 pm Rockton Pride	16	17	18	19
20 9:30am Worship  Newsletter articles due	21  4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	22 10am Small Group Prayer Team  4:30pm Ad Council	23	24	25	26
27 9:30am Worship  Food on the 4th 1pm Trunk or Treat	28	29	30  3pm Veterans Home Drop In Dinner	31 Halloween		

*Office Hours by Appointment*