



# The Rocktonian

March Newsletter 2025

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  
Call 24/7 for emergencies

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

**PRAY**  
THROUGH LENT

Christine Gustafson will be arriving at the church at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays during Lent to spend time before worship service praying for our pastor, our worship service, our church, and our community.

We will meet in the newly refurbished meeting room at the end of the upstairs hallway.

  
WEDNESDAY

**March 5**

Worship at 6pm  
Rockton UMC

**PALM**  
**SUNDAY**  
  
**POTLUCK**

**April 13**



A lot has been happening at the church lately! The first Sunday in February Irene Ulfert's family surprised her with a cake to celebrate her 98th birthday!



On Saturday, February 15, over a dozen volunteers gathered at church to prep ingredients to make a big batch of Sisters in Christ soup. This year instead of canning the soup, it was frozen in portions. If you know of someone who is under the weather or would enjoy homemade soup, please feel free to share it and let the ladies know who is benefitting from their efforts. Thank you also to the volunteers who have been delivering meals to several members throughout the month of February.

On February 16, our worship featured a presentation from Roscoe Gardening Club and their plans for a Community Garden on our property to help address food insecurity in our community. The Gardening Club provided an article this month and we will continue to update you as the project unfolds. At this time, the club is asking for donations of shovels, hand trowels, and a wheelbarrow. If you have equipment to donate, please contact Lori Lee or Dan

Enderle, who will serve as our church liaisons for this project or email the club at [RoscoeGardeningClub@gmail.com](mailto:RoscoeGardeningClub@gmail.com). Current plans are to break ground at the end of March!

Lori has also been busy spearheading the renovation of the old nursery room. Since the old library is now the new church office, we thought it would be nice to have a meeting space geared for adults. Lori coordinated with Margo Leden, who heads up our organizing and decorating efforts. Lori's son Carson helped paint, as did Dan Enderle, who also hung wallpaper on one wall.

The next project is to patch and paint the upstairs hallway. John Carleton is working on installing new light fixtures both in the meeting room and hallway. Our beloved church building is getting some lovely updates!

We will hold a worship service on Ash Wednesday this year at 6:00 p.m. to observe the traditional beginning of the season of Lent. Hope to see you there!

Blessings



# What's Up with the Building?

March 2025

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

Well, winter decided it was about time it started snowing so it made up for lost time a couple of weeks ago! Fortunately, the timing was good so we didn't have to think about cancelling services. The other thing was all the folks who stepped in to keep the walks cleared and Lane's who kept the lot plowed. I know I said it in my last What's Up article, but all that snow doesn't move itself so thanks to everyone who took time to keep things cleared!

Now, leaving the outside of the church to go inside, if you take a look down the upstairs hallway all the way to the end, you'll see that there's a lot going on. By the time you read this it may be mostly done but a dedicated crew of spacklers and painters are giving the meeting room a real make-over. We've been using the old nursery as a meeting room for over a year now and it was decided to set the room up dedicated to that purpose and give it a fresh coat of paint in the process. We're trying out a round, flat, LED light to get us started on replacing our old fluorescent ones as a part of the project (see last month's What's Up? article). Let us know what you think because if folks like it we may replace a lot of old lights with these. You'll also notice that the entire hallway has been cleared of it's molding in preparation for some new paint and lights as well. Many thanks to the folks who will be spending a lot of time on this to help us be in a more conducive setting as we meet to do the work of the church.



A quick reminder. If you find you or your group find yourselves meeting in the church at a regular time (emphasis on "regular") during the week, let us know so we can program the heat to be ready for when you meet.

Finally, some of you have called to our attention to how the narrow area above the mini-split A/C and heater units in the Sanctuary are darkened by the air going through the units. The cleaning company cleaned the units and their filters but found the black areas would not respond to any of the cleaning methods they tried. So, when the hallway gets painted, the painter will move over to the sanctuary and paint the narrow area over those vents.

## Sisters In Christ

by Phyllis DeGraff

In February our sisters were busy with two events. The first was a movie night at Beloit's Classic Cinema where we watched Green and Gold. It was a great movie about a farmer near Green Bay and his struggle to keep the family farm going in the midst of financial and family struggles. We would highly recommend watching it.

The second event was making vegetable soup on a Saturday morning. We had 15 people helping chop up vegetables and preparing the soup. We made 43 bags of soup and then put them in the church freezer. As our members visit homebound parishioners or who know of someone needing a helping hand, please take some of our soup to them. The soup was intentionally made bland with no added spices so that people on a restricted diet can enjoy it. Feel free to add spices and/or dilute it a bit with water for a healthy and satisfying meal.

Our next meeting will be March 11 at 6:30. No agenda has been planned for this meeting but getting together for coffee and a dessert is always a good thing. Please join us for some fellowship *together*.



## Fellowship Committee

We will again be hosting a potluck on Palm Sunday, which is April 13th. Hot egg dishes will be provided as well as cheesecake, coffee, and juice. There will be sign up sheets for those planning to attend which will include the number of people in your party and a selection of what type of dish you would like to bring.

This will be held after the church service. Bring in your food and we will all work together to get things ready for the feast. This is a wonderful fellowship event and is always well attended.

Additionally, on Sunday morning at 9:00 while egg dishes are being prepared, there will be an opportunity for young people and young at heart to make crosses from palm fronds.



We have been enjoying coffee hour on the first Sunday of the month following worship service. We will have a sign up sheet as in the past for those who would like to provide simple snacks of your choice. We encourage people to be a part of this and get to know our fellow congregation members better. We are a church family and sharing time together is a gift.



Please keep in mind that Pastor Carolyn (or anyone from the church) will NEVER contact you via telephone or email or text making an urgent plea for immediate financial assistance. Clergy impersonation scams are a widespread form of phishing, where the names of bosses, banks, or family members are used to convince people to send money transfers or gift cards, or provide financial details.

## Community Garden Update

The Roscoe Garden Club is getting ready to tackle our most exciting project yet. Partnering with Rockton United Methodist Church, our goal is to create a community garden on the church's property that will provide fresh produce to those in need. It is RGC's intention to break ground at the end of March, with planting beginning in April and May.

Several members from the Roscoe Garden Club have already reviewed the land and laid out a tentative planting schematic. However, as they say, many hands make the job light, and we are looking for volunteers to help with any number of tasks involved with making this garden a success.

Volunteer opportunities could include seeking out donations and sponsorships for the various infrastructure needs. There is also a need for gathering and maintaining an inventory of garden tools for the hands-on gardeners to use. Seed starting will be critical to the success of this garden. We will need gardeners to help start seeds based on our planting list and timetables. And of course, those of us who just love to have our hands in the dirt will have lots of opportunities to do so during the gardening season on the planned work days. All help is welcomed.

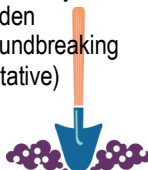
Remember too, that this is a community garden. Anyone wishing to help, whether or not they are in the Roscoe Gardening Club or attend Rockton Methodist Church, are welcome. Please feel free to get the kids, grandkids, friends, and neighbors involved in this wonderful project.

It is sad to say the food insecurities exist in all communities and across all walks of life. The chance to be a part of this garden, and to be able to give back while doing something we all love is exactly what gardening is all about. Please consider at least discussing volunteer opportunities with one of the Roscoe Gardening Club Board Members. We will work to match your talents with your time commitments on this essential project. Please email any of the board members to join in on the fun.





# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am Worship 	3 Pastor at Board of Ordination meetings all day	4	5  WEDNESDAY 6pm Worship	6	7	8
9 9:30am Worship <i>Daylight Savings Time starts</i>	10	11 10am Small Group Prayer Team 6:30 pm Sisters in Christ	12	13	14	15
16 9:30am Worship	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>  4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	18 10am Retirement Home Worship 4:30 pm Ad Council	19	20  Newsletter articles due	21	22
23 9:30am Worship Food on the 4th	24	25 10am Small Group Prayer Team	26	27	28	29
30	31 Community Garden Groundbreaking (tentative) 					

*Office Hours by Appointment*