



Rockford United Methodist Church

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8:30 am TRADITIONS Worship and Praise
Education Classes for all ages—9:30 am
10:30 am ENGAGE Worship and Praise



★DIY STUDIO

★WORKSHOPS

★PRIVATE EVENTS



On April 22 at 4:00 GNO will host a special guest art instructor. Bonnie Schimmoeller is the owner and crafter of the "let's create" studio. Her belief is that everyone should feel the joy of creating something beautiful. She inspires others to try new projects with her step by step instruction.

Come join us April 22 at 4:00 in the church Social Room

To paint a canvas picture! - Cost is \$20!

Snacks! - Express your creative energy!

Relax! - Have FUN!

Laugh! - Therapy like no other!

Bring a friend!



News and Notes

To Our Church family-Thank you for all your thoughts, prayers and cards at the loss of Doug's mother, Myrna. You helped give us strength to cope with all the loose ends and service. The dedicated Bible was a perfect tribute. Thank you, also, to Pastor Chip for giving a wonderful service. His words were full of comfort and grace. He made us feel more at peace thru that tough day. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Thank you again,
The Bolenbaugh family

Your thoughtfulness really means a lot.

Ruthalene Bricker

Thank you to everyone who responded to the 2017 Holiday Offering. \$4275 will be used for church trustees projects, local mission team four10 and development of a church security plan.

Your kind expression of sympathy will always be remembered. We would like to thank you for your support, ministry and encouragement during this difficult time. Your words are inspirational and were a comfort for all who attended. Thank you and the Rockford UM Church for the Bible.

The Ketcham Family

THE RUMC BUILDING TEAM COMMITTED TO PRAYER THROUGHOUT 2018.

You are invited to join them by making the following prayer a part of your prayer life this year.

God of our hearts –May the miraculous light of Christ engage and unite us with unstoppable faith, passionate courage, gladness of heart, and unbounded love, So that your Spirit-birthered possibilities shine through us and break through with the dawn of new hope and transformation to your world. Amen

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Scriptures and Messages for April 2018

April 1, 2018—Easter Sunday

Scripture reading Mark 16:1-8

Message—'Ineffable Joy!'

April 8, 2018—Holy Humor Sunday

Scripture Readings—Psalm 126:2-3; Ecclesiastes 3:1,4

Message—'Filled with Joy!'

April 15, 2018— Confirmation

Scripture Reading—Acts 2:14-41

Message—'Bringing Bread'

April 22, 2018—Changing the World

Scripture Reading—Acts 6:1-7

Message—'Compassionate Action'

April 29, 2018—Changing the World

Scripture Reading—Acts 8

Message—'Breaking Down Walls'



Administrative Board—March 20, 2018

Casey Nuttle, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Prayer concerns: Darlene Germann, Christopher Brown (who experienced a miracle). Casey prayed for concerns and followed with the Building Team Prayer. Casey asked us to think about where our church will be in the next five years. We need to continue praying. Some comments on this were: hopefully in a new location, more people coming to present programs and more new programs developed. Prayer is a part of all that we are as a church family.

Secretary report – The minutes from the February meeting were distributed to each one present. Karen Nuttle moved to approve minutes and Misty Bolenbaugh seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Fisher gave the treasurer's report highlighting the beginning balance, itemized expenditures and ending balance. Steve paid the District apportionments. Karen Nuttle moved to approve report and Paula Linn Seconded. Passed.

Focus in Ministry – Pastor Chip – continue to pray.

Lay Leadership – Pastor Chip – have not met this year.

Multi-media – John Butler – All is well.

Pastor Parish Relations – Eric Schwieterman – will meet on April 12, 2018. PPR are working on the yearly Pastor evaluation.

HSP – Loren Shindeldecker – There will be 8 from our church and 4 from Hopewell going to Henderson in July. HSP will be doing a Sunrise Breakfast following the Sunrise service.

Audio – Mike Pedroza – In the past, the keyboard and wireless mic system has been loaned out to the Lions Club for the Variety Show. It was the consensus of the group to permit them to use again this year and Mike Pedroza will return all back to the church before the services on following Sunday.

Computer Systems – Casey Nuttle and John Butler – Casey mentioned they will be needing some new computers in the church. Nothing needs done immediately, just need to start planning for this.

Video – Tom Ransbottom – no report.

Video Ministries – Barb Pedroza – All is going great!

Worship – Paula Linn – Maundy Thursday at 7:30 pm. Cross Walk on

March 30 at noon meeting at the church and walking to the new property on Rockford West. The bus will be available at the property for anyone wishing to ride back to the church. Prayer Path from 7pm to 9 pm. April 8 will be Holy Humor Sunday. Feel free to dress in something funny. The Trustees are hosting a Chicken BBQ at the church on April 8. Rockford Carry Out will prepare the chicken.

Christian Education Team – Nathan Rupp – Confirmation Sunday, April 15, 2018.

Missions – Karen Nuttle – working on finalizing disbursements for the Kimmel Fund.

UM Women – Ann Hileman – Met last week and finalized budget for 2018. Karen Nuttle will check on Playmor Lanes in Coldwater so date can be established for Family Night. More details soon.

Kids Club – Nathan Rupp – Going well. He thinks about 10 more weeks. Nathan will get some gift cards for the Tastee to award the top three kids who memorized the most verses.

Jr. High/Sr High youth – Nathan Rupp – Some of the youth are participating in the Maundy Thursday services. There are two youth going to Henderson. Confirmation classes are going well. The Sr. High Youth will be having a bake sale on April 22 or 29-not sure of time. More details later.

Scouting/Camping – Steve Fisher – Nothing new to report.

Camping – Deb Call – Nothing to report.

Memorial – Steve Fisher has a lot of material to go through.

Outreach Committee – Nothing to report.

Building Team – They met tonight prior to Ad. Board. The Building Team's congregational 'case study' reminding us of our need for additional ministry space and God's call for us to address that need is almost complete. What we are funding through a Capital Campaign and the anticipated impact of the project on our community of faith and broader community are included in the 'case study'. A drawing or rendering of a possible building to meet these needs will soon be available. Craig Miller of Horizons Stewardship Company will complete a Potential and Possibility Study for our congregation in advance of our anticipated Fall 2018 Capital Campaign. Personal data collected and used by Horizons for this P&P Study remains confidential. Data

includes a 5-year overview of our worship attendance, membership and the number and names of pledging and giving households. Also included are giving records for 2017, a copy of our 2018 budget and demographic information for the Rockford area. Questions about the confidential use of this data by the stewardship company may be directed to the pastor.

Small Group Coordinator – Kevin Browning – plans to start after Easter.

Director of Print Communication – Tina Waltmire – If you need assistance, please let Tina know.

Finance – Steve Fisher – Steve has material put together for audit. Steve has put cable, internet, phone services through Wabash and is saving the church \$135 a month. He is now working on electric company, trying to save the church money on that bill.

Trustees – John Butler – The trustees voted to proceed with the recommendation of the building committee with the Horizons Stewardship Company for the fund raising of our project. The first installment fee is \$2,360.

Old Business – the bus will be inspected on April 3, 2018 in Wapak. Pastor Chip asked Board members to walk through the sanctuary of the church to stop and pause and pray for people of the church. Closed with breakthrough prayer.

Steve Fisher moved to adjourn meeting and Nathan Rupp seconded. Passed

Those attending-Steve Fisher, Casey Nuttle, Karen Nuttle, Misty Bolenbaugh, Pastor Chip, Nathan Rupp, Karen Hays, Paula Linn and Joan Fox.



Adage from Ann

Recently as I sat in the sun on the 5th floor balcony of the hotel we were staying in in Naples, FL, I was thinking of how good God is. He had allowed us to come to our February home once again. For days on end we had enjoyed blue sky, light breezes, plentiful sunshine, and days with temperatures in the low 80's.

Years ago when we came here, we could see our reflections in the glass wall of Northern Trust Bank next door. Now the trees along the property line have grown so high they have blocked our reflections.

This same God is good when difficulties come. Remember the quote, "No crown without a cross?" Is this true that God is good at all times? Yes. My heart knows it—and it is so easy to say when things are going fairly smoothly in life.

But what about when the worry and fear are trying to worm their way in, or they come slamming in?

Like when we were still in Florida, and John's left leg started to get weaker—or were we

worrying over nothing? No, by the time our vacation was over, it wasn't just a matter of not getting stronger, it was a matter of getting more tired; of his catching his toes on his left foot on the carpet; then when we came home of stumbling by catching his right foot with his left foot. Looking back, I marvel at how gracious God was to us that John was able to walk well enough to go into hotels, restaurants, and gas stations.

But, unfortunately, we don't necessarily see God's grace at the time. I had a period of terrible depression.

I had forgotten the "whole armor of God" and was an easy mark for Satan.

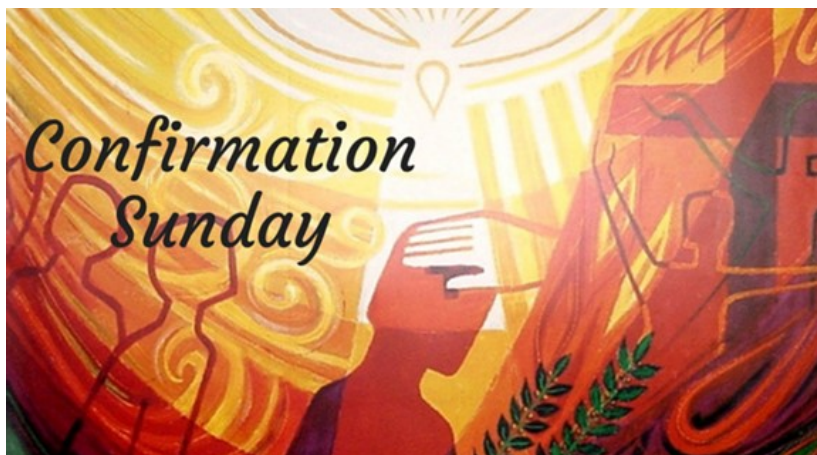
The climax came when John and I went to St. Matthews house to look at what they had for sale. That day they had a beautiful leather chesterfield chair. While John and I were making arrangements to ship the chair, someone else bought it. Then I hated myself for being so worldly as to be so upset over a chair.

Strangely, or not so strange, it all ended when the Bible verse of Romans 8:28 came to mind: All things work together for good for those who love God and are according to His purpose."

Things may not be just as I would choose, but like so often in my life events have occurred that have seemed close to disaster at the time, and I have wondered how God would rescue us from that problem, and God has always rescued us and brought us to this day. I can't think He has rescued us all those times just to drop us now.

And what does all this experience do for us? It builds confidence in us that our God is who He says He is, our Father, the One who is working all things in our lives together for our good.

Ann



Confirmation Sunday April 15, 2018

Tazmin Archer
Son of Jim and Kirsten Archer

Colby Bentz
Son of Stephen and Trisha Bentz

Angela Lovell
Daughter of Jessica Beveridge