



Rockford United Methodist Church

202 S. Franklin St., Rockford, OH

April 2024
Newsletter

*...Building Ministry with
Children, Youth, and
Families so that our
Community May Flourish.*

This Issue:

Pastor's Pen

Happy April Rockford UMC!

April 1st is April Fool's Day where we often twist our stories and trick each other for a good harmless laugh. One time while I was teaching, I taught a lesson in American History Class where I twisted the truth and shared incorrect information. Not one person challenged the truth. I was the teacher, they accepted it as truth and said nothing to me. The next day we talked about bias, propaganda and researching to seek to understand the best truth with all of the information available to us. One simple twisted truth could impact our understanding and life actions.

I am your pastor. I am the "resident theologian" of Rockford UMC. I do my best to present informed information to you from the scriptures. I have been trained and approved to be ordained, I study, prepare and present the Gospel. But none of that makes me any better or smarter than you. My question for you today is do you check and verify what I teach and say? Do you do your own deep study into the scriptures? Are you challenging yourself to read the scripture, understand the traditions, reason and reconcile it in your soul as well as learn from practicing and identifying it in your experiences? Are you a sold out, grace filled, loving person of God who is never content with where you are in your faith journey? Perhaps you are an "April Fool" comfortably living a "Christian life" without depth and growth? God wants us to fall deeper in love with God, love all others and grow to take on the character of Jesus Christ. It is a difficult journey which seems foolish to the world.

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**HOLY
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

**April 7
8:30am & 10:30am
services**

(continued)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?" – Matthew 16:24-26

Self-Check time... Are you an "April Fool" joking, twisting the truth looking for a laugh in the moment? I would challenge all of us to become a "Fool for Jesus" give up our own way and take up our crosses and follow him. A sold out Disciple for Jesus Christ!

Peace,
PB Pastor Bill



Worship with Us! 8:30am & 10:30am

Scriptures & Messages

Sunday
April 7
Holy Humor
Sunday



2 Kings
2:19-25

"Your Jokes
Are Killing
Me"



Sunday
April 14



Romans 12:2

"Pocket
Change"

Sunday
April 21



Jeremiah
29: 11-13

"Now What?"

Sunday
April 28



Colossians
1:3-8

"Well Done"



Administrative Board

Administrative Board Minutes

3.19.2024

Ryan Twigg called the meeting to order at 7pm. Devotional based on Galatians 5:16-26 was shared and followed by prayer.

Secretary Report: February Report was reviewed. Announced Kara Ransbottom will be filling the Secretary position.

Treasurer's Report: Trisha Bentz supplied a Summary Report of February's Revenues & Expenses, including beginning/ending balances. ChurchTrac generated reports were also supplied. Discussions included limitations of ChurchTrac reporting & functionality. Currently a separate spreadsheet is created to be able to see financials in a clearer format. Many goals were discussed including: Assessing future of ChurchTrac software, Position roles/responsibilities, clear processes & procedures, expense management including approval process, resuming budget meetings and balancing the budget. Misty Bolenbaugh -motion to approve report. Randy Linn - seconded. Passed.

Committee Reports: Reports were shared via early submission. Additional updates included:

Audio: Mike Pedroza – One mic is not working, trying to fix.

Building Team: John Butler – Good presentation was made on Sunday to update congregation. Plans moving along including estimated ground breaking this spring. No official dates. Building Plans are being submitted to State for approval.

Finance: Neil Field – Finance Committee will be meeting monthly. Next meeting, April 16, @ 6pm before the Admin Board Meeting.

Trustees: Randy Linn – Saturday is Church Cleaning Day 9am-noon. A member inquired about food in the sanctuary, Randy will take concern to Trustees next meeting.

Focus in Ministry: Pastor Bill Halter – Current focus is Holy Week, once concluded will be planning May-July. Considering having *Meat with Pastor* quarterly or as needed.

Old Business: none

New Business: Ryan Twigg introduced a sample *Church Ministry Evaluation Checklist* for discussion. He explained that one of the responsibilities of the Admin Team is to envision & evaluate church ministries. Each month, a few ministries will be evaluated. This includes current & future ministries. The focus this month will be: *HSP*, *Together at Christmas*, and the *Online Ministries*. The goal is to make sure we are being intentional with our ministries, both present & future. Developing a Media Ministry was suggested as a future ministry focus.

Pastor Bill closed with prayer.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 @ 7pm

Attendance: Ryan Twigg, Pastor Bill, Trisha Bentz, John Butler, Karla Butler, Loren Shindeldecker, Mike Pedroza, Nathan Rupp, Misty Bolenbaugh, Neil Field, Randy Linn, Kara Ransbottom

Respectfully submitted by Kara Ransbottom, Secretary

YOUTH

Grades
6-12

from Nathan Rupp

We had Taco Night Saturday, March 16th and it was a good group. We are meeting with the college age group on the March 25th and that has been going well for that group to be able to meet and lead a devotion and share with each other.

We had a successful 30-hour famine with over 10 participants! We had fun with all of our activities and talking about how people live around the world and what they have to go through to survive. We raised over \$700 for World Vision which goes to feeding children around the world. We also started confirmation classes and have 5 youth going through them so please keep them in your prayers as well.

On March 29th, the youth will be setting up our Easter Prayer walk from 9am-6pm. It is a come and go as you please. We have started getting Lakeside plans together and to see how many youth will be able to go. It looks like we will have a good sized group going. If anyone would like to sponsor a youth for Lakeside please let Nathan know. We will be leaving June 16th-22nd. Also please remind your youth or grandchildren about our youth group meeting at 4pm on Sundays and small group on Wednesday at 6pm. Please continue to pray for our youth program as they invite their friends and practice living out their faith.

Isaiah 41:10

**So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**



Kids Club

Grades
K-5

It has been going good but we can always use some more leaders, as some of our high school leaders and helpers will be involved with sports and will not be able to help as much anymore. We did an Easter Egg hunt since they don't have school the Wednesday of Holy Week.

Lamentations 3:26
it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.



April Monthly Mission Crisis Care

Crisis Care Funds are available to folks in need of emergency assistance. If you know of anyone in need, please contact Ann Hileman, Karen Sapp, Pastor Bill, or Casey Nuttle. Each request will be considered and all information is kept confidential. Crisis Care's inception was in February 2009. Since 2014 Crisis Care has provided over \$20,000 to meet local emergency needs. If you would like to contribute to the Crisis Care Fund, please indicate 'Crisis Care' on check memo line. God is meeting needs through us! Praise God.

Give to Crisis Care

Goal \$5,000



Give so the needs of others
will be met.

Sign-up
On
Church
Bulletin
board

Contact Person:
Randy Linn

LAWN-MOWING TEAM



Ways to Get Connected At RUMC

- Weekly Bulletins
Announcements
www.rumcoh.org
- Newsletter
www.rumcoh.org
- Connect Card in the pew
- Text Alerts
- Call the church office 419.363.3230
- Email the church office
Office.mgr.rumc@bright.net
- Join a small group study
Sisters in Grace
Chair Yoga
- Join the Pastor's Study

The West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church
westohio@wocumc.org



Church office is closed
Monday, April 8th



Friday, April 5, 2024
12pm-5pm

New Horizons Community Church

Friday, May 31, 2024
Rockford United Methodist Church
202 S. Franklin St. Rockford, OH

News: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>

**DARTBALL
SEASON
2023-2024**

**RUMC
League Runner-up
Tournament Champions!**

**Top Batting Average:
Landon Brehm .416**

Landon Brehm, Carl Pond, Randy Linn, Scott Tribolet, Casey Nuttle, John Havill, Nathan Rupp, Craig Bills, Rick Shindeldecker, Duke Brehm, Marshall Brehm, Kam Stickler, Pastor Bill Halter, Mike Pedroza.

**League All-Stars:
RUMC: Landon Brehm, Casey Nuttle,
Scott Tribolet**

The Faith We Sing

The dictionary defines the word miracle in three ways, as an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs, an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment, or a divinely natural phenomenon experienced humanly as the fulfillment of spiritual law.

John W. Peterson had experienced a few miracles. He had been a pilot during WW II and had survived the dangers of military duty. But he knew about a different kind of miracle.

While he was a student at Moody Bible Institute, missionaries often came to the school and told of their experiences and how God had changed their lives. To Peterson this was the greatest miracle of all—the miracle of God transforming a sinner into a new creation in Jesus Christ.

One day after hearing a missionary talk about how God miraculously changed his life after accepting Christ, Peterson could not get it out of his mind. Peterson has written more than a thousand songs and thirty-five cantatas. You might think this

as miraculous in itself, but that day listening to the missionary, another song took shape in his mind. As soon as it was possible, Peterson rushed to a music room in the building and completed the melody.

2 Corinthians 5:17 –

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 1 Peter 2:9-10 – “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

The hymn Peterson wrote that day was IT TOOK A MIRACLE. We are celebrating Easter season and the experience of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and then his resurrection was a marvelous miracle, and it was done so that we may have a miraculous life now and in an afterlife with Him.

Peterson died in 2006 and had a major influence on Christian music in the 1950s through the 1970s.

***“My Father is omnipotent,
and that you can’t deny; a
God of might and miracles –
‘tis written in the sky.***

***V 2 Tho’ here His glory has
been shown, we still can’t
fully see, the wonders
of His might, His throne, ‘twill
take eternity.***

***V 3 The Bible tells us of His
pow’r and wisdom all way
thru, and ev’ry little bird and
flow’r are testimonies too.***

CHORUS –

***It took a miracle to put the
stars in place, it took a miracle
to hang the world in space;
but when He saved my soul,
cleansed and made me whole,
it took a miracle of love and
grace.”***

~Janice

FOOTNOTE: Where did the word “Easter” come from? The origin is unclear. It may have derived from the name of the Anglo-Saxon Spring season dawn goddess Eostre, or, it may have derived from words meaning “rising,” “dawn,” or “east.”





United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

at Rockford United Methodist Church.
Our first meeting is April 18th at 7pm
In the conference room.

All women are welcome to come.



United
Women
in Faith

**First Meeting Changed
Thurs. April 18th @ 7pm**



**Pecans/Halves \$13,
Pieces \$12,
Walnuts,
Mixed Nuts,
Cashews \$11**
You may pick
them up at the
church.

LIZ CURTIS HIGGS
One Million Sold in the Series!

Really
**BAD
GIRLS**
*of the
BIBLE*

MORE LESSONS FROM
LESS THAN PERFECT WOMEN

**Sisters
In Grace**

**Thursdays
10am
Join us!**



**Celebrate Earth Day
Sun. APRIL 21 @ 6:30pm
In the social room**

Adage From Ann

Yes, it is spring! At what other time of the year do you find daffodils blooming surrounded by snow? I have heard numerous people worrying over their spring flower bulbs: The weather was warm early; what if we get freezing temps? My hyacinths are in bud. The bulbs will be fine. After all, where do they spend the cold winter? In the frozen ground.

There was one year that I remember: It was unseasonably warm in February, and a single digit cold snap hit. We had railroad ties around our landscape then. The daffodils were about 5" high as I recall. The cold snap hit; what would happen to the flowers. The foliage in, maybe half of the daffodils was severely damaged. The leaves were bent and lying across the railroad ties—and so were the earliest daffodils. Yet, they bloomed! They didn't know that they were handicapped. They turned their faces up to God, shining, as they honored Him.

It is a lesson I remember each spring in Daffodil Season. It seems to be an appropriate topic today for me, at least. I am so tired of moving like a moderate speed turtle. (I have improved from slow turtle speed.) But I still have to get into the far right lane when I push my walker, or I hold up traffic. However, since about the only places I go are to therapy, and to get my hair done, there is not a whole lot of traffic to delay. Those daffodils lying on their beds and blooming, speak to me of those dear ones who are bed-ridden—and yet, still bloom. And we don't need someone else to see us blooming. All we need is our Heavenly Father with us, to see our glow for Him.

We read in Matthew 6:29. 30, 33 "See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

For the pagans run after these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." And to me, that seems to be the answer to most of what life hands to us: We (I) need to seek a closer walk with God. And how do we do that? Well, that seems to be a whole new topic for another time.

Thank you all so much for your support, prayers, and cards. They are treasured. It is so wonderful to know you are not forgotten, and I will soon be back in church.

Love,
Ann



Thank You

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt gratitude for the sympathy, love and support you have extended to our family during this time of loss.

To Rockford United Methodist Church,
Thank you for all the people who made Phil's memorial special. Thank you Rev. Halter, Kim Trisel and for the technical staff. Thank you to the ladies who made the delicious meal. For all the people who attended the memorial. Each one of you was in a support group for Phil.

-The Thompson Family

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. Thank you for your kindness.

-Brian & Leigh Ann Taylor
Family of AJ Taylor

Thank
you!

Thank You,

It has certainly been a difficult time for us recently. Thank you for your condolences and for understanding of somethings we are going through. It helps significantly that you intentionally reached out to us with hugs, cards, calls and texts at this sad time in our lives.

Sincerely, Don and Kim Trisel & Family
On behalf of the Dorothy Trisel Family

April

Anniversaries

3- Robert & Bea Linn
10-Doug & Misty Bolenbaugh
16-Darrell & Susan Sheppard
17-Stephen & Trisha Bentz
17-Jerry & Janice Frederick
17-Steven & Sherry Henkle
17-Rex & Teresa Piper
19-Roger & Fran Sapp
20-Dick & Karen Sapp
27-Dean & Sandy Ulrey

Birthdays

2-Amy Lyons
3-Susan Sheppard
4-Danielle Luginbill
8-Case Bransteter
9-Gale Habegger
11-Marilyn Habegger
11- Reghan Waltmire
12- Diane Sheets
13-Carol Havill
17-Meah Suzuki
19- Jean Myers
22-Bailey Strickler
23-Andrew Peel
26-Kathy Henkle
26-Landry Twigg
26-Susann Gurley
27-Gavin Fisher
28-Ashley Jackson
28-Chad Ransbottom
29-Kathy Fisher
29-Dave Salway

Calendar of Events

A
P
R
I
L

Monday, April 1, 2024

Church office is Closed
NO Chair Yoga

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

3:30 PM-5:00PM Kids' Club
4:00PM-7:00PM Helping Hands Thrift Store
4:30-6:00 PM Community Dinner Drive-Thru
6:00 PM Youth Small Group
No Pastor's Study
7:00PM Praise Team Rehearsal

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:00 AM Sisters In Grace Bible Study

Saturday, April 6, 2024

9:00-11:00AM Confirmation Class
10:00am Helping Hands Thrift Store

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Holy Communion
Holy Humor Sunday
8:30 AM Traditions Worship
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Engage Worship
4:00PM Youth Group

Monday, April 8, 2024

Church office is Closed
Solar Eclipse Day

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

No Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

3:30PM-5:00PM Kids' Club
4:00PM-7:00PM Helping Hands Thrift Store
4:30-6:00 PM Community Dinner Drive-Thru
6:00 PM Youth Small Group
No Pastor's Study
7:00PM Praise Team Rehearsal

Thursday, April 11, 2024

10:00AM Sisters In Grace Bible Study

Saturday, April 13, 2024

9:00AM-11:00AM Confirmation Class
10:00AM-1:00PM Helping Hands Thrift Store

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Native American Ministries Sunday
8:30AM Traditions Worship
9:30AM Sunday School for All
10:30AM Engage Worship
with Nursery & Jr. Church

Monday, April 15, 2024

6:00PM SPRC District Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

6:00PM Finance Meeting
7:00PM Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

3:30PM-5:00PM Kids' Club
4:00PM-7:00PM Helping Hands Thrift Store
4:30-6:00PM Community Dinner Drive-Thru
6:00 PM Youth Small Group
No Pastor's Study
7:00PM Praise Team Rehearsal

Thursday, April 18, 2024

10:00AM Sisters In Grace Bible Study
7:00PM United Women in Faith

Saturday, April 20, 2024

8:00AM-12:00PM Parkway Recycling
9:00-11:00AM Confirmation Class
10:00am Helping Hands Thrift Store

Sunday, April 21, 2024

8:30AM Traditions Worship
9:30 AM Sunday School for All
10:30AM Engage Worship
with Nursery & Jr. Church
4:00PM Youth Group
6:30PM Girls Night Out 2.0

Monday, April 22, 2024

May Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

3:30-5:00PM Kids' Club Meets
4:30PM Drive-Thru Community Dinner
6PM Bible Study
6PM Youth Small Group
No Pastor's Study
7:00PM Praise Team Rehearsal

Thursday, April 25, 2024

10AM Sisters In Grace Bible Study

Saturday, April 27, 2024

9:00AM-11:00AM Confirmation Class
9:00AM-11:00AM Food Pantry Open
10:00AM Helping Hands Thrift Store

Sunday, April 28, 2024

8:30AM Traditions Worship
9:30AM Reception for Volunteers
10:30AM Engage Worship
with Nursery & Jr. Church

This calendar is constantly changing.
For current up to date calendar:
visit www.rumcoh.org

Rockford United Methodist Church

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Website—www.rumcoh.org
Like us on Facebook

Sundays April 7, 14, 21, 28 Join us!

**8:30 am TRADITIONS Worship and Praise
with Nursery**

9:30 am Sunday School for all ages

**10:30 am ENGAGE Worship and Praise
with Nursery and Jr. Church**