



News From the ROCK...

"To make disciples for Jesus Christ by proclaiming God's Good News and by providing a community for spiritual growth"

Rockbrook United Methodist Church  
9855 W. Center Rd  
Omaha, NE 68124  
Phone: 402-393-1015  
Fax: 402-955-1434  
E-mail: churchoffice@rockbrookumc.com  
www.rockbrookumc.com  
Fb - Rockbrook United Methodist Church

Holy Week! {  
Palm Sunday 4-2-23  
Maundy Thursday 4-6-23  
Good Friday 4-7-23  
Easter Sunday 4-9-23

## Easter Flowers

Order form ~ due by March 26, 2023

*Easter Sunday*  
*April 9, 2023*



You may order a Lily, Tulips, Hyacinths, & or Daffodils for the altar on Easter Sunday in honor/remembrance of a friend or loved one. Please complete this form and submit your request, along with your check for \$10.00 per plant, (6 inch pot), noting "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. (Orders must be received no later than March 26<sup>th</sup>) Thank you!

☐ Lily ☐ Tulips ☐ Hyacinths ☐ Daffodils ☐ Doesn't matter

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 ea = total of \_\_\_\_\_



Rockbrook United Methodist Church

## NEWS FROM THE ROCK...

*Message from the Pastor*

*March 2023*

March in Nebraska is always a rollercoaster of temperatures. In the morning I leave the house bundled up in my coat and turn on the heated seat in my car as I drive to church, only to leave at the end of the day with no coat and my sunroof open. The feel of the warm sun on my skin is delightful after months of being covered up. And there is a promise in the air that soon it will be time to dig in the dirt, preparing for gardening season.

March also finds us in Lent. I remember in school my friends would talk about what they were giving up, which I always thought sounded awful. I would ask them why they were giving something up for Lent and they couldn't answer me. When I married Zach, our first Lent together, I would have to make a non-meat dish for dinner on Fridays because he was Catholic. We would talk about what he gave up as a kid; normally it was not eating out which I found to be just punishing for his mother. I would ask him why he gave something up and he normally couldn't answer me. As a couple we would decide what we were going to forego, and it normally was something like soda or Facebook or eating out. I would ask myself why I was giving something up and I would always think it was a sacrifice, like God sacrificed his Son Jesus so that our sins could be forgiven. It never really made that much sense to me because how was not eating at my favorite Mexican restaurant the same as Jesus dying on the cross? Through the years I have come to realize the transformation that Lent affords, a time to evaluate what is interfering in having a life-giving relationship with Christ. Lent can be a time of self-denial. Lent can be a time to remember what it must have been like for Jesus to be tempted for forty days and how he did not succumb to the temptation. About five years ago I did a Lenten study which suggested adding a Lent practice such as writing letters to people who make you happy, or doing random acts of kindness, or making sure to look for ways to be more friendly such as saying thank you and opening doors for people - all for forty days. I like the idea of adding a practice that makes someone feel better, that seems more like a Jesus thing to do.

This year we will be doing the Poetry of Lent: A Lenten Companion to Mary Oliver's Devotions. I chose this because I love Mary Oliver. Her poetry enlivens something in my soul and makes my heart flutter. In this study from her poem, *Sometimes*, she writes: "Instructions for living a life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it." The word Lent comes from an old English word meaning lengthen and lent refers to the days getting longer. As I sit at my desk at 5pm the sun is still shining on my monitor, whereas a month ago it would have been dark outside. I follow @Blackliturgies on Instagram and I love how she describes Lent:

Lent is a forty-day observance that honors the season of wilderness experienced by Christ and his ancestors. In Lent we make space for grief, our own dissonance. And we commit ourselves to bearing witness to the suffering of the world. In many Christian traditions, Lent is a season to choose a desire or habit to give up as a kind of sacrifice in solidarity with Christ and the suffering. But we can also consider taking up a new practice for collective good. What is a habit you can commit to in solidarity with those suffering? How will we bear witness to the dust?

Come, let us journey together!

*Pastor Marcee*



## Funding the Church: Apportionments, Mission Shares and the United Methodist Connection

Gregg Drabek, Lay Leader Rockbrook UMC

We are in challenging times. The response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic (to provide for public safety) required a near shut down of our economy. In many ways we have recovered, but for many of the people in our ministry at Rockbrook and beyond, the recovery has been slow to reach individuals. Inflation has taken away much of what we had recovered. The church has suffered hardships just as significant. We have struggled to meet our budgetary needs over the last couple of years. In this context it is hard to imagine meeting our own needs in the local church, let alone considering the need outside our church. So it is difficult to contemplate a conversation about reaching deeper, but our ministry in United Methodism is steeped in tradition that is both missional and sacrificial. Further, in the United Methodist tradition, we have come to understand that the needs of the world cannot always be met by a local congregation, but requires the cooperation of many churches working together. United Methodist churches worldwide work together in connection in areas of commonality that ensure the greatest possible impact. Together we can do so much more through our connection in the United Methodist Church than when we try to do things alone.

That is the idea behind Apportionments and Mission Shares. To some, these are difficult words to understand and for some who understand them they bring shivers. It is my goal to help you to understand what these things mean and what our church is called to do to support the church universal.

Apportionments are considered the local church's share of the budget of the greater church. Apportionments are an investment in the administration of the annual conference and the general conference. The general conference and the annual conference generate budgets determined by the delegates who are elected to represent each church. The amount expected from each church to support these budgets is determined by a formula based on our local church budget, which calculates a fair share for each church and its contribution to the workings of the greater church. These funds are used to provide administrative support to the annual conference, which in turn supports the ministry of local churches. The annual conference budget funds such things as clergy support that allows the conference to provide clergy benefits, continuing education, professional support, and accountability through oversight by the Bishop and the episcopal cabinet, the Board of Ordained Ministry and others. Apportionments help keep our camps functioning. They provide structure for intra-denominational cooperation and new church start-ups. Most of all, because all of these things require administrative support, apportionments assure appropriate staffing and infrastructure to assure the church functions efficiently and well.

Mission Shares are an investment in the missional purpose of the United Methodist Church. As a church in connection with other United Methodist Churches, we have agreed to support certain areas of mission that require greater funding and therefore more broad participation from within our connection. These mission projects include nearly 2000 missionaries in the field in 165 countries around the world. They include many retirement centers, some 70 hospitals, and ministries in childcare and care for persons with disabilities. Mission Shares support over 100 institutions of higher education, including 2 and 4 year colleges and universities and our United Methodist schools of theology and seminaries. Like Apportionments, Mission Shares are calculated based on a formula determined by the Annual Conference and the General Conference, based on our local church budget.

How does the local church provide for its fair share of the investment in Apportionments and Mission Shares? Some add these items directly into the budget of the church. This seems to be a good thing, but the reality is that most churches who are having issues meeting their budget tend to focus on the needs of the local church, such that Apportionments and Mission Shares commonly go unfunded. Indeed, as Rockbrook has experienced significant budgetary concerns, we have failed to meet our fair share of these critical investments in the United Methodist ministry for several years. Other churches separate these investments from the rest of the operating budget and count on members to remember them in their giving. This relies on the individual to recall their share in the investment of the ministry of the church beyond our walls, and in times like these, people have other priorities.

This writing is intended to provide you with some education about the greater United Methodist church. We are not just a local church. We are a part of a greater church family in connection with one another to support one another in our local missional efforts, but also to recognize the greater good to be accomplished when we work in connection with one another to assure the greatest good be done for the world in need. Each of you is urged to consider your current situation and be sure to first fund the local church with your tithes as God has instructed us. But we need to recall that each of us is called to a larger mission in supporting the church worldwide, because we are in connection with one another and can do so much more good in that connection than we can as a local church. Please consider in your giving that you uplift our church worldwide with special gifts to support Apportionments and Mission Shares, and help Rockbrook meet its fair share of these critical investments in the ministry of the worldwide United Methodist Church.



## Summer Fun at Camp Fontanelle!



### Summer Camp 2023 Schedule

### Day Camp at Elkhorn Hills UMC

Week 1 (June 5th - 9th)

\$220

Week 2 (June 12th - 16th)

\$220

Week 3 (June 19th - 23rd)

\$220

Week 4 (June 26th - 30th)

\$220

Week 5 (July 3rd - 7th)

\$220

Week 6 (July 10th - 14th)

\$220

Week 7 (July 17th - 21st)

\$220

Week 8 (July 24th - 28th)

\$220

Week 9 (July 31st - August 4th)

\$220

**This summer's theme is FruitFULL Faith: A Spirit Filled Life**  
**Learn how to live out the fruit of the spirit in your life**





Summer Fun at Camp Fontanelle!



Summer Camp 2023 Schedule
3, 4, and 5 Day Resident Camps

- Week 1 (June 6th - 10th) Zoobilee \$425
Annual Conference Camp (Begins June 7th) \$350
Week 2 (June 12th - 16th) Splish Splash \$425, Sports Camp \$375, NEW Slides and Rides \$435
Week 3 (June 19th - 22nd) Confirmation \$275, NEW Creativity Camp: Lego \$300, NEW Creativity Camp: Fine Arts \$300
Week 4 June (26th - 30th) Night Owls \$395, Girls Only (3-7) \$375, Girls Only (7-12) \$375
Week 5 (July 5th - 7th) Mini-Camp \$190
Week 6 (July 17th - 21st) Campolodeon \$395, NEW Rocks and Ropes \$375
Week 7 (July 24th - 27th) Legendary \$300, NEW Last Campers on Earth \$300
Week 8 (July 31st - August 4th) Road Rules - Send Me \$415, Fontanelle Finale (3-7) \$400, Fontanelle Finale (7-12) \$400, NEW Mission: Survive \$425

This summer's theme is FruitFULL Faith: A Spirit Filled Life
Learn how to live out the fruit of the spirit in your life



Lent

What to Give Up...

- Give up complaining ... focus on Gratitude
Give up pessimism ... become an Optimist
Give up worry ... trust Divine Providence
Give up bitterness ... turn to Forgiveness
Give up hatred ... return Good for evil
Give up negativism ... be Positive
Give up anger ... be More Patient
Give up pettiness ... become Mature
Give up gloom ... enjoy the Beauty all around you
Give up jealousy ... pray for Trust
Give up gossiping ... control your Tongue
Give up sin ... turn to Virtue
Give up giving up ... Hang in there!

Article about Red Cross Bloodmobile visit at Rockbrook UMC. Includes text about 19 donations, thanks to Rockbrook members and Linda Stroud, and a small bloodmobile illustration.



Offering Counters Needed. The Gracious Generosity Committee is requesting some more volunteers to help count the offering collected from our Sunday morning services. Includes contact info for Bill Getzlaff.





News From the ROCK...

## People Remembered In Prayer.....February



Lana & Dave Honeyman,  
Bev & Mike Donham' daughter,  
Mary Jean Amick, Annette Saitta,  
Zach Binder's Dad, Donna & Dave  
Diggs' daughter, Heather,  
Julie Vidlak' Mother, Cleo Elias,  
Prayers for Ukraine & 40,000+ earthquake  
victims in Turkey & Syria,  
All Congregations & Staff,  
All Hospital Staff,  
Our First Responders &  
Our Military Personnel



## UWF Outing!

March 8<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 2:45 pm

Tour of Anne Frank  
exhibit at Westside Middle  
School - carpool from the  
church at 2:50 pm

All women invited! Join us!



News From the ROCK...

## Summer Fun at Camp Fontanelle!



## Summer Camp 2023 Schedule

### Adult/Child Camps

Week 1 (June 4th - 5th)

Oaks and Acorns \$94

Week 3 (June 16th - 18th)

Sonshine I \$187

Week 5 (July 2nd - 3rd)

Guardian Angel \$94

Week 7 (July 21st - 23rd)

SonShine 2 \$187

This summer's theme is FruitFULL Faith: A Spirit Filled Life  
Learn how to live out the fruit of the spirit in your life

Sunday, March 12th  
Set your clocks one hour forward!



## BIRTHDAYS

3/1 Jaxson Soukup	3/21 Roger Wright
3/2 Liz Humphus	3/21 Steve Lezanic
3/3 Ken Allard	3/22 Jim Besore
3/3 Jo Ann Kruse	3/23 Nancy Phillips
3/6 Dick Boeck	3/25 Connie Sash
3/8 Jim Solheim	3/26 Sandee Polsley
3/8 Kari Salem-Kratky	3/27 Jim Jackson
3/10 AJ Schulze	3/28 Alden Zahm
3/11 Kristeen Shabram	3/30 Bonnie Baker
3/12 Kate Rist	3/31 William Hartley
3/14 Michael Quigley	
3/15 Nathan Richardson	
3/17 Pat Sward	
3/20 Nana Tombi	

Volunteer to serve a meal at the Stephen Center  
with our RUMC team!



Our next serving date at the  
Stephen Center will be  
Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> or:

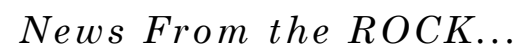
\* Volunteer to donate the ingredients for our  
monthly meal. (Ingredient list items provided  
on clipboard)

• Help prepare meal at Rockbrook

• Sign-up sheet is located in the Parlor area  
next to the bulletin board on our clipboard!!

• Contact Vance Allred with any questions!!





Camp Fontanelle is so excited to present this year's summer camp schedule. We have some fun new camp sessions like 'Rocks and Ropes', which incorporates our new rock climbing wall with tree climbing (It is replacing Tree Monkey, to be able to use the RockWall), 'Last Campers on Earth', which is based on the popular book series, 'Last Kids on Earth,' and 'Mission: Survive' which is a camp for our older campers; it is a new take on Survivor Camp.

We also have a new look for some parent/adult and child camps, as well as the very familiar sessions of Girls Only, Zoobilee, Splish Splash and last year's popular camp, Campolodeon and more.

There are also new discounts, like an Early Bird Discount for our 4-5 day resident camps. We look forward to seeing you out at camp! Check out the camp schedule and get ready for registration to open.



2023

[illegible]





## KIDS on the ROCK - March 2023

ROCKBROOK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Julie Vidlak, children's ministry director

### ....."COUNTING" on LENT!.....

#### MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN:

In **March**, we continue **Sunday School** lessons from grown-up Jesus' ministry. Children will learn some important **Bible numbers** and the lessons they teach! Join us as we prepare for Easter and learn more from our Savior!



#### **March 5<sup>th</sup> - "40 + 6"**

Learn the reasons for Lent, how it works, and how children can participate in a meaningful way.

#### **March 12<sup>th</sup> - "Subtract and Add"**

How giving things up can result in a gain! Based on the "loaves and fishes" story.

#### **March 19<sup>th</sup> - "The Power of 1"**

How 1 can be greater than 99 or 10. Based on the "lost sheep" parable and the "10 lepers" miracle.

#### **March 26<sup>th</sup> - "4-giveness, 77 and 70 times 7"**

How does Jesus want us to forgive? Based on the "prodigal son" parable and Matthew 18:21-22.



#### Rockbrook's LENTEN GIVING CALENDAR:

Families are encouraged to read the daily Bible verses and collect for the food pantry. **Give up** a few minutes each day and **gain** a closer connection to God during this important season.

Families were emailed a copy.  
Copies are also available at church as well as on our website.

#### **Rockbrook children love Camp Fontanelle!**

Scholarships from Rockbrook are available to cover 1/3 the cost regardless of need! Families should receive camp information from Julie. Please return scholarship applications to Julie prior to attending camp. There is an additional discount if registered **by March 31<sup>st</sup>** as well as other discounts provided by Camp Fontanelle.

Find all their schedules and discounts at [www.campfontanelle.com](http://www.campfontanelle.com).

#### SAVE THE DATES for these upcoming children's activities:

**PALM SUNDAY 2023 – April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**PALM PROCESSIONAL** during 10:45 worship

**EASTER EGG HUNT** following church lunch

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023 –**

**"HERO HOTLINE"**

June 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> evening hours TBD

Open to children ages 3 to completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Volunteers needed – contact Julie Vidlak!



Hello everyone,

Lent is here! Oh, and so is the ice...say wut!! Yeah, be careful out there everyone. It is slick and hard to tell where at. I was out earlier and glad I am home now. I wanted to let everyone know who may not have heard we raised over \$1500 dollars for our Super Bowl Sub Sunday event. Thank you to all who assisted in making the time a great success. I appreciate you all. As we start to work our way out of winter, we look ahead to things to come. There will be more opportunities to gather, get outside, and make the world a better place. Please reach out to me at any time if you have any questions or ideas. Below are some upcoming events and activities for our Youth Group. Please let me know if you can attend. That helps me with the planning. Have a great rest of the week and talk to you soon!

#### Upcoming Activities:

**2/24 - 2/25 Sunday – 7 to 11 Event** Bowling! - I was informed that the church will be in use/rented out, so the 7 to 11 event is changed. I am proposing we gather Sunday afternoon around 3pm for some bowling. Who is in! Let me know if you will be attending. All the cost of the bowling is covered and bring a friend if you like. This will be a fun time!

**3/6 Sunday** - Youth Group Fellowship Hall - 7pm to 8pm - Fellowship, Faith, Fun, and Friends! I will have some snacks too. Feel free to bring a guest as we enjoy an hour together. I hope to see you there. Also looking for one adult leader to join me. Let me know. Thanks.

**3/12 Sunday** - Pancake Feed - 8am-Noon - This is going to be a good time. Do I have any pancake flippers out there? I want to see your skills. We will start cooking early. People can come and go as they please. I also have a fun game planned that will be a blast. This will be another free will donation to raise funds for our mission trip.

**3/19 Sunday** - Youth Group Fellowship Hall - 7pm to 8pm - Weather permitting we may venture outside for this one. This will be after Daylight Savings so we should have the Sun (fingers crossed).

**4/2 Sunday** - Palm Sunday Lunch - This will be a full-service meal as is tradition. Looking to have lots of assistance on this for serving our church a delicious lunch. More details to come in the future.

**Camp Fontanelle** - Please consider attending Camp Fontanelle this summer. We have scholarships available and there are discounts too! There are many camps to choose from. I have had many great times at Camp Fontanelle and recommend to everyone regardless of your age. Please contact me if you have any questions.

#### Mission Trip

We are entertaining the thought of leaving on Saturday 7/8, making the trek to St Louis. Stay one night, then on Sunday go to Kentucky to arrive at the YouthWorks site. July 9, 2023 - July 14, 2023 Louisville, KY

#### Current Roster Confirmed:

Marc W (Trip Leader)	Anna W (Youth)	Jayden L (Youth)
Emily Q (Adult Leader)	Trey Q (Youth)	Lily A (Youth)
Heather W (Adult Leader)	Ethan Z (Youth)	Lucy A (Youth)
Marcus R (Adult Leader)	Noah R (Youth)	Anna J (Youth)
Nathan R (Youth)		

God's peace to you all, Marc Welander - Youth Director

Cell 402.212.4585

youth@rockbrookumc.com

