

### 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





### Thank you RockbrookUMC!!

Well....you did it again! Our donations for the "Dress for Success" **June Mission Project was** overwhelmingly wonderful!

It always amazes us how generous this church is & continues to be!

Thanks again to all those who donated!

from the VMC Missions Committee



A prayer that God would grant 📗 a cause that made my heart sing did just that. It humbles me to say I am blessed every day with a grateful heart....for the many gestures of concern. I never feel "alone" at church, but surrounded by love. Thank you, Rockbrook family, for being you. ~ Darlene Hicks 🖥

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Thank You Ms. Julie!

On behalf of the children of RUMC, the parent volunteers & various church members, we would like to thank

Ms. Julie Vidlak for yet another

WONDERFUL VBS 2023!

Vacation Bible School was such a fun
5 days! The time & energy Ms. Julie dedicates to our church children is amazing & so greatly appreciated!

We are so lucky to have her here at RUMC!

We love you Ms. Julie!

## A HUGE THANK YOU TO:

Emily Quigley,

Jerry Ebers,

Jenny Stilwell,

& Lenore Halm

for VOLUNTEERING to get our yearly "Church Audit" completed & turned into the District Office & San Great Plains UMC Conference ahead of schedule!

Your volunteerism is amazing. & truly appreciated!

amazing, & truly appreciated!



## Rockbrook United Methodist Church

## NEWS FROM THE ROCK...

## Message from the Pastor

July 2023

I have officially been at Rockbrook UMC for a year and I don't know about you, but it has gone by so fast. I still get butterflies when I pull up in the church parking lot. When I hear someone say, "Pastor," I have to remind myself that it is me.

Being invited into your lives, crying with you, laughing with you and breaking bread with you has been my greatest joy. I am so humble to be able to walk alongside you. I love being your pastor. Rockbrook is a very special church and Zach and I are so happy to be here. Thank you for welcoming us well and making us feel loved.

This summer is going to be a lot of fun. We are going to have John Wesley July, where members of the Leadership Team will be telling you about different beliefs of John Wesley and subsequently, the United Methodist Church. Mark Heinz, Alternate to Annual Conference, will kick us off on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He will share stories all about John Wesley. I will be bringing you a message about the Trinity on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Gregg Drabek, Lay Leader, will be speaking about grace on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Juliana Ewing, Church Council Chair, will be speaking about Missions on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are going to be having Family Sunday. We will read some books and then the Leadership Team will be answering UMC or John Wesley questions from the congregation. There will also be a surprise on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, so don't miss out on the fun. The Worship Team, Leadership Team, and I have been working very hard to get ready for Summer Church! I really hope to see you there.

Micah Corps will continue to teach about Social Principles on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup>. These two sessions will be after church in the Friendship Room starting at 10:45. Grab yourself some cookies and something to drink and come hang out with the Micah Corp. The week of the 16<sup>th</sup> they will be on an immersion trip to Alabama to learn about racism. They will be sharing what they learn with us on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a sendoff celebration for them on July 30<sup>th</sup>. I really encourage you to get to know Tatenda, Aabiskar and Joseph.

We have definitely come out of hibernation and there is a feeling of joy and excitement in the air. My prayer for y'all as I start my second year at Rockbrook is that you will boldly take chances. I pray that we continue to lead the church forward, working together to find ways to be Jesus's hands and feet!

Peace, Pastor Marcee

"Flat Wesley" The "Wesley Series" the entire month of July at the 9:30am Service! Just enjoying God's creation!

Pick up a copy to color & cut out, located in the Parlor area!

Take him with you on your daily outings or on vacation! Snap a picture of Flat Wesley & post-it on Facebook!



Let's see where he goes!!



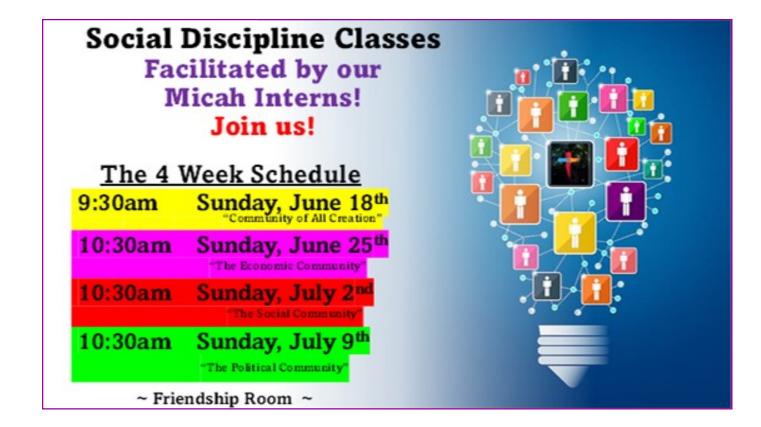




Let me in please!



the flowers!





Remembered in prayers ~ June ~

Bob Christensen, Darlene Hicks, Donna & Dave Diggs on the loss of their daughter Heather, Bev & Mike Donham's daughter, Kim, Teri Reese, Michael Quigley, Prayers for Ukraine, Sudan Crisis, All Congregations & Staff, All Hospital Staff, Our First Responders & Our Military Personnel





7/1	$Scott\ Brandt$	7/18	Elena Rubio
7/2	Connie Sorensen	7/22	Aidan Jackson
7/3	Larry Polsley	7/24	$Diane\ Allred$
7/4	$Arnold\ Schulze$	7/25	Sandy Dittmer
7/4	$Dylan\ Schamber$	7/26	Ron Kruse
7/6	Cody Quigley	7/30	Joyce Marshall
7/7	$Kevin\ Bisanz$	7/30	Zach Binder
7/7	Jack Buxter	7/31	Sara Bisanz
7/9	$Lenore\ Halm$		
7/12	Perry Carnes		
7/12	Diane Cox		

Julie Vidlak

7/17 Dallas Wellensiek



Sign-up for a special drawing to have lunch with **Pastor Marcee!** 

Where: Paper & Jar located in the Parlor area under the bulletin board!

When: Drawing will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month on Facebook -"Live with Pastor Marcee" 11:00 AM

### Come join us! 9:30 AM



**Starting** June 25<sup>th</sup>

> One Worship Service only!

## **Pearl Pantry**

## **Still needs our HELP!**

Please donate when possible & fill the car again! Thank you!!



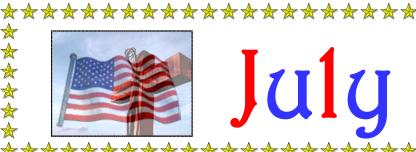






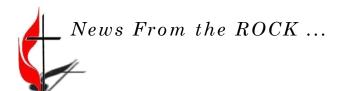


News From the ROCK...



# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						9:30a Heather Diggs Memorial Service (S) Reception to follow (FH)
9:30am In-person Worship Service & Live Streaming (S) 10:30am Micah Interns Social Discipline Class (FR) & Adult New Media SS (LL) (NO Children, Youth & Adult Faith Weavers SS)	3 Church Office Closed!	4 Church Office Closed! Happy July	5 11:00am Tornado Siren Test	6 6:30p Kim M. OFAMT Mtg. (P/FR) 7:00p Dance Sq. Lessons (FH)	7	8:30a Youth Mission Trip Departure
9	10 9:00a Garage Sale	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am In-person Worship Service & Live Streaming (S) 10:30am Micah Interns Social Discipline Class (FR) & Adult New Media SS (LL) (NO Children, Youth or Adult Faith Weaver SS)	S:00a Garage Sale Sorting & Pricing (LL) 6:30p Trustees Mtg. (FR) 6:30p Kim M. OFAMT Mtg. (P)	9-11a Regina S. Counseling (FR) 12:30p DAR Mtg (FH) 7:00p Sq. Dance (FH)	9:00a Garage Sale Sorting & Pricing (LL) 7-8p Ex. Sq. Dance Mtg. (FH)	7:00p Sq. Dance Lessons (FH)	Youth return from Mission Trip!!	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am In-person Worship Service & Live Streaming (S) 10:30am Adult New Media SS (LL) (NO Children, Youth or Adult Faith Weavers SS)	9:00a Garage Sale Sorting & Pricing (LL) 7:00p Finance Mtg. (FR)	9-11a Regina S. Counseling (FR) 6:00p Fall Festival Mtg. (FR) 7:00p Sq. Dance (FH)	9:00a Garage Sale Sorting & Pricing (LL)	11:00a "Lunch with the Pastor drawing!" Live on Facebook!	9:00a Garage Sale Set-up (LL)	9:00a Garage Sale Set-up (LL)
23 Baptism!	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am In-person Worship Service & Live Streaming (S) 10:30am Adult New Media SS (LL) (NO Children, Youth or Adult Faith Weavers SS)	9:00a Garage Sale Set-up (LL)	9:00a Garage Sale Set-up (LL) 9-11a Regina S. Counseling (FR) 7:00p Sq. Dance (FH)	9:00a Garage Sale Set-up (LL)  Newsletter articles due for August Newsletter!	Church Garage Sale!! 9a-4p	Church Garage Sale!! <b>9a-3p</b>	Church Garage Sale!! <b>9a-N</b> oon
30	31					
9:30am In-person Worship Service & Live Streaming (S) 10:30am Adult New Media SS (LL)	5:00p Serving at Stephen Center	gust Newsletter	articles due by	July 26 <sup>th</sup> !		(S) Sanctuary (FR) Friendship Rm. (P) Parlor (FH) Fellowship Hall (LL) Lower Level
(NO Children, Youth & Adult Faith Weavers SS)	Au	3301 1101101101101101	and do by	·		(SS) Sunday School



## **Annual Conference 2023 ~ Gregg Drabek**

When someone mentions Annual Conference, in the United Methodist Church this could mean one of 3 things. First, an Annual Conference is a regional geographical unit of the United Methodist Church. Our Annual Conference is the Great Plains Annual Conference which is composed of the UMC's of Nebraska and Kansas. Second, the Annual Conference is the "basic unit" of the UMC. It functions as an organizational unit governing the churches of the geographical area. This organizational unit is overseen by a bishop, elected to serve as the spiritual leader of the annual conference and who is charged with oversight of the churches in the Annual Conference to assure they are following the theology, doctrine and rules governing the church. Finally, the Annual Conference may refer to an annual meeting of the clergy and lay representatives from each of the churches in the region. This meeting occurs every May or June in every Annual Conference in the Connection of the UMC. The purpose of this meeting is to provide education, worship and to enact legislation that provides guidance to the members and churches of the Annual Conference, much like a state legislature.

This year, the Great Plains Annual Conference met in LaVista. The biggest issue that encumbered the meeting was the disaffiliation of 155 churches throughout the annual conference. These churches have chosen to leave the denomination over disagreements about the issues of inclusiveness of the LBGTQ community of Christians as leaders and especially as clergy in our churches. As opposed to past conferences in which there was much contention over this issue, this annual conference seemed to take on a more positive tone. Much work was able to be done that enabled churches to advance the cause of making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We heard many stories of the pain that has occurred in the church as churches voted for disaffiliation. We also heard encouraging stories of churches that have been able to move forward through the pain to rebuild vital congregations throughout the conference.

The Great Plains Annual Conference is privileged to be led by a newly elected bishop, David Wilson, who also happens to be the first Native American elected to this office in the UMC. He comes to us from Oklahoma and is a dynamic leader. Under his leadership the annual conference enacted legislation to affirm gender inclusion and racial equity. We voted to affirm the negative effects of nepotism within the committee structures of the annual conference. We voted to support the development of a more streamlined organizational process in the church of the United States. Finally, we voted to encourage our elected representatives to show grace and mercy as it pertains to immigrants at the southern border.

Grace is the basis of the United Methodist faith. It was grace we finally encountered in the Great Plains Annual Conference 2023. I am humbled once again to be your representative at this crucial meeting. Our next Annual Conference meeting will be in 2024 in Kearney NE.



## **Missions & Outreach Opportunities!**



## Rockbrook Garage Sale!!

July 27th, 28th, and 29th!

Smaller items may be dropped off downstairs starting April 1st in the first classroom on the left, down the North hallway. Look for the sign on the door!

No clothing or large item drop offs yet! Clothing & large item drop off will begin June 1st.

We are in need of sorting & pricing volunteers starting in late June early July! Prayerfully consider volunteering please!





## **Sorting & Pricing** Schedule!

Mondays & Wednesdays

9am-11:30am (FH)

Come when you can!

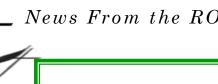
Added note:

Flat Screen TV's only please....



Feel free to stop by the

book sale room for early buying before & after our Worship Service! Located downstairs, last door on the left, North Hallway. Proceeds→ News From the ROCK ...



### **HERO HOTLINE VBS 2023**

"CALLED TOGETHER TO SERVE GOD"

We were blessed to have 25 VBS "HEROES" registered for the week, 6 of these being visitors to Rockbrook UMC! Our children learned a "Hotline Tip" and a "Hero Bible Verse" each day from a Bible story. Snacks, crafts, games, and music were all tied to our theme for the day. We had two mission projects because heroes are called to help others. Each day we collected items to fill "baby baskets" and "Wonder Women" baskets for the residents of Carole's House of Hope. We also collected food for the All People's Pantry. Thank you so much VBS families and RUMC congregation for your generous donations! We truly had super time this week following Jesus and training to become heroes for Him!

Thank you so much to the children for your enthusiasm for God, to parents for making VBS a priority for your families, to the congregation and Pastor Marcee for your support of our children's ministry, and to the volunteers for your precious help, time, talents, and care! This week has been terrific! Your support means more than you'll know! With a grateful heart, Julie Vidlak, children's ministry/VBS director

## Thank You to these HERO HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS:

## **HERO HOTLINE LEADERS and Helpers and Sidekicks:**

<u>Crafts</u> – leader Cheri Humphus with helper Kandi Holly

Music – leader Nana Tombi

Games - leader Marc Welander (also helped with tech)

Bible Story - leaders Anna Vidlak and Rev. Dr. Marcee Binder

Snacks - leader Kristeen Shabram with helper Heidi Hufford

Decorations - Heather Welander with helpers Linda Stroud, Sara Jorgensen, Emily Quigley Group Guides -leaders: Juliana Ewing, Diane Allred, Heather Welander, Jeanie Pennington, Ellen Drabek, Emily Quigley, Michael Quigley, Candice Zelasney

Youth Helpers - Trey Quigley (music +), Ethan Zelasney (games), Anna Welander (crafts), Gwen Holly (crafts), Donald Nimneh (crafts +), Nana Mahadi (group guide)

Micah Corp "Sidekicks" – Tatenda Garikayi, Joseph Kasongo, Aabiskar Sharma, Julia Davidchik, Keenan Hobbs

Registration Table – leaders Katie Foote and Kelly Richardson with helper Kevin Bisanz Office Help/Video Creator – Teresa Holdcroft-Reese

Facilities – Artie Shaw, Teresa Holdcroft-Reese

"Daily Hero" Poster Artist - Emily Vidlak with helper Jonathan Vidlak Snack maker (Moses basket) - Kathy Lehman Cape cutter - Debbie Allard

Banner and cross craft maker – Janice Samson

VBS Kickoff Sunday School Helpers – Juliana Ewing, Emily Quigley, Anna Vidlak, Cheri Humphus, Heather Welander, Tatenda Garikayi, Joseph Kasongo, Aabiskar Sharma

Supply Donations - Diane Allred, MJ Amick, Rev. Dr. Marcee Binder, Tatyana Boellstorff, Bev Donham, Katie Foote, Nina Henry, Kathy Lehmann, Jennifer Luark-Soukup, Barb Reilly, Janice Samson, Kristeen and Dave Shabram, Nick Soukup, Linda Stroud

## Church Methodist United Rockbrook 2023 VBS HOTLINE" "HERO



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News From the ROCK ...

## Missions & Outreach Opportunities!

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



Our next serving date at the **Stephen Center will be** Thursday, June 29th or:

- \* Volunteer to donate the ingredients for our monthly meal. (Ingredient list items provided
- ·Help prepare meal at Rockbrook
- •Sign-up sheet is located in the Parlor area
- •Contact Vance Allred with any questions!!

## **July Church Wide Mission Project!**

## **School Supplies**

We will be collecting **Backpacks & various School Supplies to distribute to** different charities around Omaha, for children in need. (Drop-off in the Parlor area boxes.)



## 2022 BRICK BY BRICK PROJECT PROGRESS







Nonprofit Org. US Postage PAID Springfield, IL Permit #500

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## **2023 Brick by Brick Campaign**

The Brick by Brick Campaign is designated for upgrades to the Midwest Mission campus and our

quipment. After prayerful consideration, we know this year's projects are critical for sustaining and growing the ministry you help drive. reating a safe, efficient, and green working environment for staff, mission volunteers, and guests is also critical to increasing our capacity

ogether, we reached over 1.6 million people in 2022 with \$7.99 million worth of humanitarian aid. Because of our efficiencies, smart tewardship, and having the right equipment, for every \$1 spent in 2022, \$7.85 worth of supplies was sent to help people in crisis. God is aving the way for miracles to continue in our midst because of your generous hearts, dedicated service and fervent prayer.

(eeping our equipment in good working order, obtaining new equipment to increase in-kind donations, and making improvements to our

Your Board of Directors and staff are excited to invite you to help pave the way for the future of Midwest Mission. Your generosity allows us to ive out the mission of transforming God's resources into humanitarian relief. Donations of \$500 or more receive an engraved brick that is

Lyndon R. 3 abel Chantel Comic Lyndy Zabel, Board Chair Chantel Corrie, Executive Director

" So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:11-12

MMDC BRICK BY BRICK BUILDING CAMPAIGN

### DREAM: Roof for the Dorm

he roof on the dorm is 21 years old – the original from when the dorm was built. It needs to be converted from shingles to netal this year to lay the necessary ground work for adding



### DREAM: 20-foot Box Truck

God's blessings are creating expansion! We are in need of an additional pox truck because we are opening our new Jefferson, lowa location! aving a box truck will allow for transfers and pickups in the lowar cinity by volunteer drivers. The truck is used and for sale to Midw



nanks to your difts last year, we were able to put down a concrete apron to provide a place for our containers on campus, noving the need to rent extra storage space off campus and making receiving and shipping more efficient. The Quonset hut is viding shelter for vehicles and a place for our utility tractor to keep them protected from the elements

News From the ROCK ...



Hello everyone,

We will be leaving on our Youth Mission Trip to Louisville, Kentucky, July 8th & returning on Friday, July 14th. We pray for safe travels, great fellowship, great experiences & being the best stewards of our church family. Thanks for all your support financially & spiritually!

Look for updates on our Facebook page or the church Facebook page.

(Rockbrook United Methodist Church Fusion or Rockbrook United Methodist Church)

Youth Sunday ~ "Mission Trip Recap" August 6th! 9:30am Worship Service Join us!

God's peace to you all, **Marc Welander**Youth Director Cell 402.212.4585



### **Blood Drive! Save the Date!**

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be coming to Rockbrook on **Sunday, August 6th** 

8:00am to 1:00pm ~ Fellowahip Hall

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fill the need for patients in our community.

Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds.

If you have questions about donating blood, please contact Linda Stroud at <a href="mailto:stroud.lindasue@gmail.com">stroud.lindasue@gmail.com</a>

OR go online to <u>redcrossblood.org</u>.



News From the ROCK ...



## KIDS ON THE ROCK - July 2023

Rockbrook United Methodist Church Children's Ministry
Julie Vidlak, children's ministry director

## Rockbrook's VBS answers God's call at "HERO HOTLINE"!

Super doesn't begin to describe our Vacation Bible School week. Parents prioritized VBS and attendance was great. Children came eager to learn and fellowship. Volunteers faithfully did their parts with loving hearts. God provided excellent weather with no rain or storm warnings. Decorations stayed up. And we only used one band aid! Amen!

Please see other pages in this newsletter for more about VBS.

What a joy to celebrate our faith and friendships this way each summer. God is good!

### WHAT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER? VBS Volunteers have an abundance!

Each night of VBS focused on a strategy for becoming a hero for God: following Jesus, helping others, working together, listening to God, and showing grace. Of course, there are many other superpowers that help us do God's work. Volunteers were acknowledged Thursday night with a list of the superpowers they possess (in Julie's opinion) . Each of us has God-given gifts and talents to contribute to our work together for God. Thank you, volunteers, for sharing your talents with us!

Please see another page in this newsletter for the complete list of volunteers and donators for VBS. I sincerely cannot thank them enough! There are way too many parts and details to do VBS alone. God's Heroes are called to...work together...and we did!

### Also:

- -Thank you to the **congregation** of RUMC for supporting our children's ministry! We never take you for granted!
- -Thank you to the parents who made VBS a priority for their children during a busy time! We love our families!
- -Thank you to the children for coming together in a positive way to fellowship and grow in their faith!
- -Thank you to all who generously **donated** toward our mission projects of Carole's House of Hope and All People's Pantry. Our tables were overflowing with your gifts that will be graciously accepted by these worthy causes.
- Thank you to Pastor Marcee for being a very willing helper and supporter of VBS! We are blessed by you!

### FOR JULY: HOW TO CONTINUE BEING GOD'S SUPERHERO THIS SUMMER:

There will be no children's Sunday School in July...but here are some ways to keep God in your summer:

- Attend 9:30 church as a family. There will be fun themes as well as a children's message each week.
- Use your "Beginner's Bible" or "Hands-On Bible" to **read Bible verses and stories**. VBS left off with Paul's conversion in Acts 9. Paul had many adventures sharing his faith. Read on to find out more!
- Look in your **VBS folder** for the papers that you didn't finish. Go ahead and complete them!
- Use the mini paint palette in your VBS Hero Kit box to paint a picture showing something from VBS!
- Read the **RUMC library books** you have checked out and come check out more upstairs anytime! We have a great supply of Christian themed books ranging from picture books to chapter books.

Hope to see you on Sundays! Wishing you a happy and healthy July full of God's blessings, **Qulie**