





Rockbrook United Methodist Church
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Dear Church Tamily.

Thank you so much for the breakfast after Heather's Service. It was so rice and ...and your generous heart.

THANK YOU so much.

Good to see friends
Live missed, We repreciate all the coppreciate all the roads, calls, I winds

From you Blessings.

Denna to sue

Thanking God for you. EPHESIANS 1:16 NLT

Thanks to everyone who donated items to our Annual Church Garage Sale!

A special thank you to all our "sorters" & "pricers" who were here day after day over the last month!

And a special, special thank you to

Barb Dinges & Mary Jean Amick for coordinating!

ૣૢૢૼૺ૾ૢ૽૽ૄ૽ We raised a little over \$3,000.00! ૣૢૼૺ૾૽૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱ Thank you to all the volunteers
who showed up & or stuck
around to help break down
tables, sweeping floors & packing
up the Garage Sale items to be
donated to various charities
in need!

Your help was so greatly appreciated!!

Rockbrook United Methodist Church

NEWS FROM THE ROCK...

Message from the Pastor

August 2023

Iced tea. Ice cream. Ice cubes. Shaved ice. Ice-cold McDonald's Dt. Coke. Iced coffee. I am thinking about all things iced today because it is so hot. I heard on the news today that the temp of the ocean in Miami is the same temp as a hot tub - 102°. The news also reported that ER visits in Phoenix have increased due to people falling over on sidewalks and sustaining third degree burns. Climate change is affecting the planet in all kinds of disastrous ways.

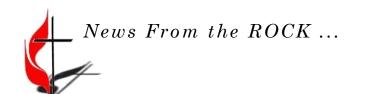
John Wesley July is over! We learned about Wesley's life, how Wesley viewed the Trinity, his views on grace, and what mission meant to him. We wrapped up the 5th Sunday with Fun Sunday complete with storytelling and children's songs. Y'all have had fun with Flat Wesley. Flat Wesley has been busy! He has been to Turkey, New Mexico, Denver, St. Louis, San Francisco, Kentucky, and all around Omaha. I have had fun looking at all of the pictures on Facebook! Flat Wesley can continue for as long as you want! I hope when you look at Flat Wesley, you will remember that you are a beloved child of God and that the Holy Spirit is working through you and with you to be the hands and feet of Christ in your communities.

August will be busy! August 6th will be Mission Trip Sunday. The youth will be sharing with us about their mission trip to Kentucky. On August 10th we will start a sermon series called Unrelenting Grace: God's Gift to Us by Bishop Kenneth H. Carter. The tagline for the series is "A way of life: embracing grace, seeking holiness, building connections." The series will end on September 3rd which is the last Sunday of Summer Church. Summer church has been fun and our numbers have been great. We are averaging around 75 people every Sunday. With camps, summer sports, camping and traveling, I am impressed with attendance.

Backpack Sunday is the 13th and that evening will be the Back to School BBQ. The first day of school was always so full of promise when I was a kid. I loved having my new backpack, new trapper keeper, and my new lunch box. Sometimes, I was even at a brand new school in a brand new state because of my dad being in the Navy. I remember my tummy being filled with nervous energy walking into the school and not knowing anyone, but by the end of the week, I would have made some new friends. Connection is such an important part of life. Connection is something that we have to work on and build and sustain. As with connection, our faith will only deepen if we work on it and build it and find ways to sustain it when life gets complicated. Remember though, God is always there, always with us yet we lose the connection when we aren't trying to live like Jesus. Living like Jesus means helping our neighbors, fighting for paid sick leave, collecting school supplies, and feeding the hungry. We can all do something to be like Jesus if we want to. We just have to want to.

My prayer for you this month is to look for ways to plug in. If you haven't been to church, come on by, it starts at 9:30 am until September 3rd. Come see me; I would love to chat with you. Bring some donuts to the youth. Send a card to someone on our ministry team. Volunteer to serve at the Stephen Center on August 31st. Stay connected to God in all the ways. Remember we are to do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

Stay cool - Pastor Marcee





YOU ARE INVITED

Service of Installation

Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede

Superintendent
Missouri River and Elkhorn Valley East Districts

Sunday, August 13 | 3:00pm

Grace UMC / Iglesia Comunitaria de Omaha 2418 E Street | Omaha



FIESTA TO FOLLOW

Our Micah Corp and Bishop Wilson in Alabama on the Civil Rights Immersion Tour, Traveling Mercies! The tour stopped in Memphis, Jackson, Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, Tuskegee & ended in Atlanta, GA. A few locations they stopped by included the Civil Rights Museums in Memphis, Jackson & Birmingham. The Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, the 16th St. Baptist Church in Birmingham & a few HBCU colleges in the Atlanta area!





Rosa Parks Museum & Children's Museum

Montgomery, Alabama







News From the ROCK...

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	5:00p Serve at Stephen Center	1 7:00 Sq. Dance (FH)	2 11am - Tornado Siren Testing!	3	4	5
		Pastor Marcee out	Columbus, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio
6 Blood Drive! 8a-1:00p (FH) 9:30am In-person Worship Service & Live Streaming (S) 10:30am Adult New Media SS (LL) (NO Children, Youth or Adult Faith Weavers SS)	7 6:30p Trustees (FR)	8 7:00 Sq. Dance (FH)	9	10	11	12 8a-5p Blair UMC Hosting Clergy "Inclusive Communities" Training (FH) 7p Amazing 8's Sq. Dance (FH)
9:30am In-person Worship Service, Backpack Blessing & Live Streaming (S) 10:30am Adult New Media SS (LL) 4:30p Back to School BB0I 4:30p-6:30p (LP) Children & Youth families (LL or FH) (NO Children, Youth or Adult Faith Weavers SS)	14	15 6:00p Worship Committee Mtg. (FR) 7:00 Sq. Dance (FH)	16 6:00p Finance Mtg. (FR)	17	18	8:00a-Noon DAR Baby Shower (FH)
9:30am In-person Worship Service & Live Streaming (S) 10:30am Adult New Media SS (LL) 2:00p Special Sq. Dance District (FH) (NO Children, Youth or Adult Falth Weavers SS)	21	22 7:00 Sq. Dance (FH)	23 Newsletter articles due!	24	25	26
9:30am In-person Worship Service & Live Streaming (S) 10:30am Adult New Media SS (LL) (NO Children, Youth or Adult Faith Weavers SS)	28	29 7:00 Sq. Dance (FH)	30	31 5:00p Serve at Stephen Center		(S) Sanctuary (FR) Friendship Rm. (P) Parlor (FH) Fellowship Hall (LL) Lower Level (BR) Bell Choir Rm. (LP) Lower Parking lot

September Newsletter articles due by August 23rd!



July friends we remembered in prayer:

Dave Diggs, Bob Christensen, Bev & Mike Donham's daughter, Kim, Prayers for Ukraine, Sudan Crisis, All Congregations & Staff, All Hospital Staff, Our First Responders & Our Military Personnel

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



Our next serving date at the Stephen Center will be Thursday, August 31st or:



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 3rd Thursday of he month on Facebook – "Live with Pastor Marcee" 11:00 AM





8/2 Yvonne Besore 8/18 Kathryn Hauswald 8/2 Amy Christensen 8/27 Cheryl Wildy **Chris Hartley** 8/28 Jennifer Soukup 8/3 Rylan Ream 8/29 Gwen Holly 8/9 Trey Quigley 8/30 Nina Henry 8/11 Rob Hufford 8/30 Fred Ripley 8/14 Joann Collins 8/31 Brian Roy 8/14 Janet Wright

Don't forget to donate whenever you can to help support the Pearl Pantry! There are still so many families in need throughout Omaha. The food goes out as fast as it comes in! Your donations & acts of kindness & love are really appreciated!



8/15 John Garrison

8/16 Brenda Oathout

Pearl Pantry

Still needs our HELP!

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

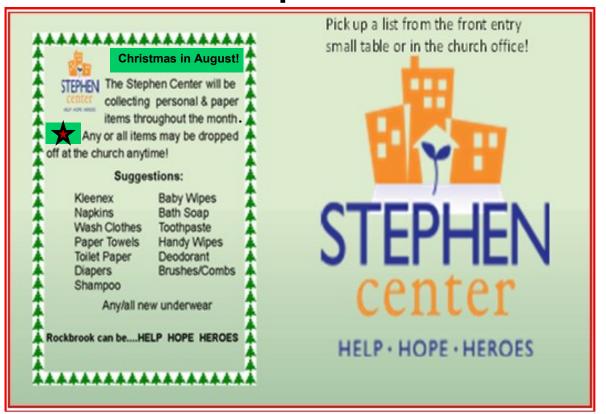






News From the ROCK ...

Church "Mission" Project of the Month! "Christmas" in August benefiting the Stephen Center





Blood Drive!

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

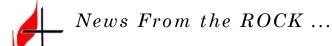
The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fill the need for patients in our community.

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

If you have questions about donating blood, please contact Linda Stroud at stroud.lindasue@gmail.com

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

Linda Stroud





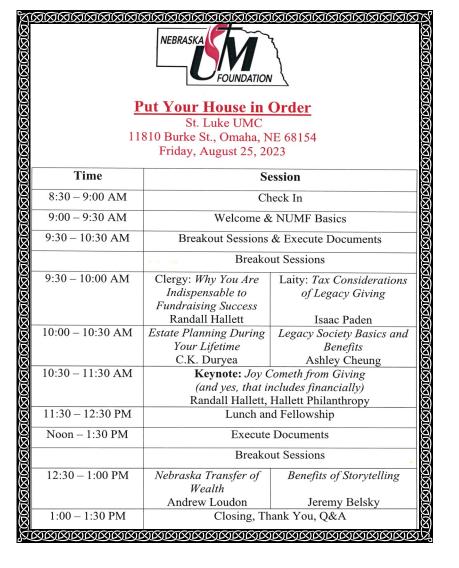
Youth Mission Trip 2023



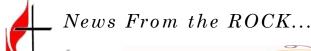














Hello everyone,

I hope your summer is going great! We had a wonderful mission trip in Louisville, KY. The pit stops in St. Louis proved to be excellent. We met many new brothers and sisters in Christ. We helped a lot of people along the way. The memories we made will last for a lifetime and our journey of faith was blessed in many ways. There were several experiences that brought us closer to Jesus. We had moments of laughter, tiredness, joy, tears, excitement, and much more! As the summer continues, I wanted to send this message to inform you of some upcoming events. I hope our paths cross soon in the future and we can connect. As always, if you need anything just let me know.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Summer Worship Sundays 930am until 9/3/2023 - I encourage you to attend if it works for your schedule. During this time there are no Sunday morning classes for the youth.

Summer Worship by Fusion Youth Mission Trip attendees at 930am on 8/6 - We will be delivering the service to our congregation. We will share our experiences from the Mission Trip and share the word of God. We will have a "run-through" of the service the day before Saturday on 8/5. We will meet in the parlor at 5pm. This will conclude around 6pm. Parents are welcome to hang out during this time.

Back to School BBQ on Sunday 8/13 at 5pm - This event will be with all children, youth, and families at Rockbrook. There will be food, drinks, and games for all. We encourage all who can attend to do so. Julie Vidlak and I will be discussing the upcoming year for the kids with a parent meeting. This is also a great opportunity for the kids to get to know one another better. Please let me know if you will be attending for planning purposes. Thank you.

Adopt-a-Spot Clean up on Saturday 8/26 at 830am - We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for donuts, then head out to our spot for cleanup. This is a great opportunity to get out in God's world and make it better. I invite everyone who would like to attend, this is not just for youth. Also, this work counts for youth who need any service hours. We will be done around 11:30am.

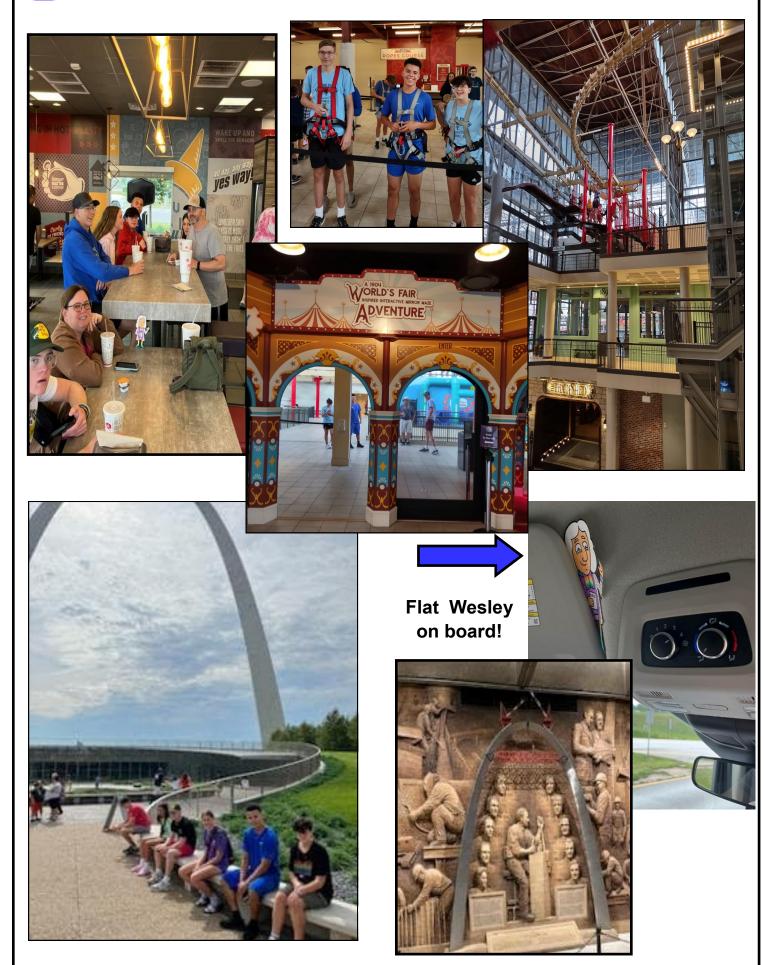
Gods' peace to you all, Marc Welander Cell 402.212.4585 Youth Director | RUMC

rockbrookumc.com





Day 1 Completed! Traveling to St. Louis, arriving & site seeing!!

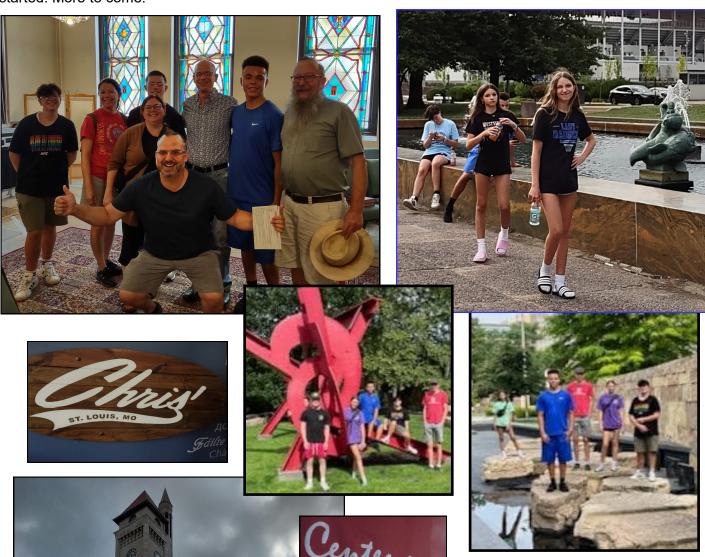


News From the ROCK ...



Day 2 Completed!

Great day with a start of a nice breakfast at Chris on The Docket. Followed by some great times spent at the St Louis Arch. Then a fabulous worship service at Centenary United Methodist Church before traveling to Louisville, KY. We made it! Trekking through 6 states, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky. We have met many great people and are seeing the works of God. What a great experience and has only started! More to come!







RUMC BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

for families of children and youth:

Sunday, August 13th - 4:30 p.m.

- Meet in the Rockbrook backyard
- Come and go as you like
- Food will be ready around 5pm
- Bring lawn chairs
- Hot dogs, burgers, chips, watermelon, dessert, and bottled water will be provided
- Bring your own beverage if you'd like
- Fun Games for all
- Parent meeting after we eat with Julie and Marc



Join us for FAITH-FILLED FUN and FELLOWSHIP!



Get excited for FALL at RUMC!

RSVP to Marc Welander or Julie Vidlak

VBS Mission Projects Delivered!

Thanks to our children for making the "Thank You" notes to our "911 Dispatchers" at the Douglas County Dispatchers Center. Also thank you to all the parents & congregation members who donated to the "All Peoples Pantry" & supplies for the "Carole's House of Hope" baby showers & women's care items! Your response to our Missions for VBS is always so overwhelming! Great job everyone!







News From the ROCK ...





KIDS ON THE ROCK - August 2023

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

IMPORTANT DATE FOR CHILDREN IN AUGUST:

Sunday, August 13th - BACKPACK BLESSING during 10:45 worship Children should bring their backpacks to church for this special event! Sunday, August 13th - BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ starts at 4:30pm All families of children and youth are welcome! See more details below.

INVITE GOD TO YOUR "BACK TO SCHOOL":

Children should be constantly reminded that God is with them everywhere – not just at church! Here are some ways to incorporate faith into the new school year:

- * Backpack Blessings: Is Jesus too big to take to school in your backpack?? Bring backpacks to 10:45 worship on August 13. Children's Message will include something for your child to put into their backpacks this school year as a reminder of God's presence.
- Pray about school! Make "Good Morning, God" and "Good Night, God" a habit each day. Add to your prayer a request and/or a thank you that is related to the school day.



Come to our "BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ" on AUGUST 13th

This event is sponsored by the youth and children's ministries of RUMC and is open to all children, youth, and their families. Join us outside starting at 4:30 pm and get reacquainted with your church family! More details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and will be sent to you also. Food served at 5pm.

FOOD + FELLOWSHIP + FAITH = FUN!

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, September 10th

CHILDREN'S FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. "HAPPY NEW (SUNDAY SCHOOL) YEAR!"

Children ages 3 to 6th grade are invited to begin our new "school year" together!

August is a busy month for most families of children! Special prayers go out to those who may be starting preschool, kindergarten, a new grade, or maybe a new school building for the first time! Children's messages will continue at our 9:30 worship service each week. Hope to see you on Sundays! Julie



Day 3 Completed!

We are working & serving! Crews were made and we hit up service sites. One crew helped Catholic Charities and refugees get settled by setting up apartments and sorting clothes. Another crew was able to serve by cleaning up yards and painting porches. Tacos for dinner! The evening set us out on a trek to downtown Kentucky for a hike across the Ohio River to Indiana and back! What a full, filled day serving God and the communities.















News From the ROCK ...



Day 4 Completed! - Rockbrook Fusion Youth Mission Trip 2023

We were back out in the communities to do God's work serving others. One crew served over 200 meals at the soup kitchen for lunch and prepared meals to go for over 1,000. Another crew went to a home of a person named Rebel. She was disabled and needed our help. We cleaned and painted. Then we traveled to the Bernheim Forest and found some "Forest Giants," fed the fish and turtles and saw some beautiful nature!























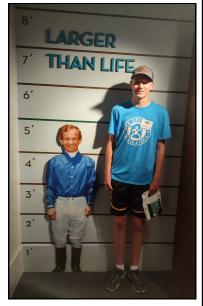
Day 5 & 6 Completed! Rockbrook Fusion Youth Mission Trip 2023

Each of our crews served at two sites that did not allow pics. We had one crew go to the Salvation Army kids program. They worshipped with the children, played, had lunch and did crafts. The other crew went to the elderly community center. They hung out, visited, played ping pong and other games. Then for our church outing we went to Churchill Downs, the home of The Kentucky Derby. Flat Wesley was also checking out some things! Great day, great people, God is good!!!

After our day of service we had a BBQ then headed to downtown Louisville for some ice cream and sightseeing. We look forward to returning home tomorrow to see our loved ones. God's peace to you all!













Many many thanks to Marc Welander, Emily Quigley, Heather Welander, Marcus Roper, our wonderful Youth & their parents' support for representing RUMC on this past Mission Trip, spreading the love & kindness of our God!

A special thanks to Marc, Emily & Heather for devoting & committing themselves to watch after our Youth & take their personal vacation time from their "real" jobs in order to spread this love & kindness of God with others. Marcus, you as well, since you've retired!

We are so blessed to have Marc Welander as our Youth Director, leading our Youth down the right path! His time & devotion to the Youth group & our church is very much appreciated!!