



## News From the ROCK...

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



### September/October Mission Coat Drive!

Thank you, thank you, thank you for donating  
so many winter coats, mittens, gloves & hats  
to our Sept./Oct. Mission Outreach Project!  
Not only are we warming people & children,  
but also warming their hearts!  
Our donations are so greatly appreciated!

Mission

Committee



Rockbrook United Methodist Church  
9855 W. Center Rd  
Omaha, NE 68124  
Phone: 402-393-1015  
Fax: 402-955-1434  
E-mail: churchoffice@rockbrookumc.com  
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Our Rockbrook "Sew"-ers  
have done it again!!

66 children's outfits were  
sewn and dropped off to the  
Midwest Missions for  
mailing! Great job once  
again ladies!

If you love to sew, feel free  
to contact Barb Dinges to  
join in the sewing fun!  
Thread, material & patterns  
provided!



*Have a blessed  
Thanksgiving!*



# Rockbrook United Methodist Church NEWS FROM THE ROCK...



## November 2023

November is a great month to go on a Gratitude Journey. This is a time where we focus on the people/stuff/places that we are grateful for such as McDonalds Diet Coke, RUMC, Zach, fall leaves, etc. Included in the newsletter is a calendar with daily prompts for what to be grateful for and I encourage you to think about the prompt every day. My prayer is that this journey will give you an opportunity to see all the good things in the world that God has provided.



I am including the letter, (below) that I wrote for 2023 Charge Conference. I am so very proud of y'all. I am so grateful to be your pastor. The Holy Spirit is moving and shaking and y'all are creating such a beautiful dance.

"I remember last August I felt so overwhelmed by everything that was happening; Fall Festival, Pet Blessing, Halloween Festivities, Confirmation, Nominations and Charge Conference, Advent, and Christmas Pageant just to name a few. I remember that I took a huge piece of paper and under every month, I wrote the date and event. I hung that sheet of paper on the back of my office door, and I would look at it every morning. I even ordered a large 2023 yearly calendar. I hung it up in December and I marked everything for the year.

Even with everything marked, there were still weddings and funerals. We had a Membership Sunday that welcomed 12 folks into the church. We baptized two babies, two children, and one teenager. We confirmed six youth on Confirmation Sunday. We welcomed three Micah Corp Interns for the summer. Church life is exciting, exhausting, and exhorting.

As I walked into the church in July of 2022, I found a church that was in hibernation. As the months moved on, slowly the congregation woke up to see what was happening. As we built relationships and joined in ministry, the hibernation was over and RUMC was hungry. We worked on the budget. We worked on transparency. We worked on being healthy.

This summer, I received a magazine, *TCN Professional Journal*, and there was an article titled, "Just What is a Healthy Church Anyway?" I don't read word for word near as much as I should, which could be attributed to being in school for a long time. But this article made me stop and read word for word because it was good. The author believes that a healthy church "is a community of Jesus followers with shared vision, thriving ministry, and trusted leadership" (8). I try to remind you every week to be the hands and feet of Jesus because I believe that the church's job is to be Jesus in the world. A healthy church also has a shared vision which, according to Wilson, "invites us joyfully to align all our resources- spiritual, mental/emotional, physical, financial and structural- toward shared Kingdom work" (9). It seems that RUMC has been in a scarcity mindset for a season, and we need to focus on who we are. We are a project-oriented church. We show up and show out when we are charged to collect/fundraise for a project. Let's capitalize on this because a healthy church has thriving ministry. We are getting there. Our congregation is growing, our finances are growing, and our commitment needs to continue to grow and our passion for ministry needs to flourish. What can we do for the community? How can we embody Christ in the world. Last, a healthy church is one where there is trusted leadership. This trusted leadership does not fall solely on me, your pastor. Trusted leadership is with clergy and laity. Nominations has worked hard to put the right people on the right committees using the gifts, time, and talent that our members have. I pray that we trust each other. We cannot continue to be on a journey of church health if there is no trust. Wilson says that the church must have "clear communication and encouraging words and actions by leaders embolden the congregation to step out in faith" (9). I believe we have a way to go; however, I know that your desire is to be a healthy church and to have a presence in the community.

As we continue to head toward 2024, I am praying you will contemplate these questions; do you desire RUMC to be a healthy congregation? Is your presence offering encouraging words and actions? Being healthy is a choice. We must choose wisely in order to do the work of Jesus Christ."

~ Pastor Marcee



October 12, 2023

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ at Rockbrook UMC,

Thank you for your generous donation of the gowns to Midwest Mission. You know it is in good (God) hands at Midwest Mission. Each donation is a blessing God uses to bless you and others. Your donation will leave Midwest Mission and be a practical example of God's love in the world to the "least of these". "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

It is due to your generosity and partnership with Midwest Mission that we can touch so many lives for Christ around the world and around the corner. Thank you so much for blessing others through the ministry of Midwest Mission!

Yours in Christ,

Chantel Corrie

Chantel Corrie  
Executive Director

P.S. Please keep Midwest Mission in your prayers as we are praying for you. We pray over each organization and donor before the letter leaves.

Thank  
You!

SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT  
around the world and around the corner

773-481-7011 • www.midwestmission.org • 1001 Mission Dr. Pawnee, IL



## Youth Work Day!

Inviting all church members to join  
the Youth Group in helping out for  
yard cleanup for some of our church members!

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>,

Meet at the church at 8:30am for assignments  
& out we go to help & serve!

(Bring some rakes & bags if possible)

## We're hosting Church Conference!

November 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm  
(Thursday)

Fellowship Hall, RUMC  
Feel free to join us!



## November Gratitude Journey

Nov. 1 Name something  
beautiful outside your window...

Nov. 2 Name a body part you  
are grateful for...

Nov. 3 Name your favorite food  
you are grateful for...

Nov. 4 Why are you grateful for  
water?

Nov. 5 Name the important  
people in your life.....

Nov. 6 Why are you grateful for  
technology?

Nov. 7 Why are you grateful for  
Rockbrook UMC?

Nov. 8 Why are you grateful for  
your senses?

Nov. 9 Name your favorite  
organ.... ex. heart, lungs, liver.....

Nov. 10 Why are you grateful for  
medicine?

Nov. 11 What achievement of  
yours are you grateful for.....

Nov. 12 What are you grateful  
for in your home?

Nov. 13 Name your favorite type  
of clothing...

Nov. 14 What belonging are you  
grateful for?

Nov. 15 What skills do you have  
you are grateful for...

Nov. 16 What animals are you  
grateful for?

Nov. 17 Why are you grateful for  
your country?

Nov. 18 What book are you  
grateful & thankful for?

Nov. 19 What is your best  
memory?

Nov. 20 What scent do you most  
enjoy?

Nov. 21 What is your favorite  
restaurant?

Nov. 22 What simple pleasure  
brings you the most joy?

Nov. 23 What is one good thing  
about where you live?

Nov. 24 What season brings you  
the most joy?

Nov. 25 What is your favorite  
dessert?

Nov. 26 What are your favorite  
holiday traditions?

Nov. 27 Who is the person you  
are always happy to see?

Nov. 28 What is the favorite  
space in your home?

Nov. 29 Name something weird  
or random that gives you joy...

Nov. 30 What is one good thing  
about you?





News From the



Hello everyone,

Fall is upon us! I hope you all are doing well. The youth have been doing an awesome job preparing for the haunted hallway. There have been great discussions happening on Sunday mornings. It is great to hear the youth talk about their faith and have discussions from our readings in the Bible. We have a lot of fun too! See below for the upcoming events and activities. Reach out if you have any questions and let me know if you can participate. I wish you a great weekend and hope to see you soon!

If any youth has an email and you would like them to receive these update emails, just let me know. I will also continue with our group text for communication also.

#### **Sunday morning education hour**

Each Sunday is the Fusion Education Hour. Starting at 930am we gather in the Youth Room. We usually have a fun "Ice Breaker" followed by a reading from the Bible, group discussion, and a reflective activity. This ends at 1030am.

#### **Confirmation**

I talked with Pastor Marcee and she will be starting Confirmation in January. There will be a meeting in November. If you have any questions, just let me or Pastor Marcee know.

#### **2024 Mission Trip**

We will be going on our annual mission trip July 21-July 26 in 2024 to Loveland, CO. What I need from you now is to let me know if you will be attending. I am looking forward to hearing from youth and also adults who would be interested. This year each participant will be putting in a payment of \$100. This will secure your spot on the trip and help with any costs. If this payment is an issue, please contact me and we can discuss options.

Roster as of now:

| Youth                    | Adult  |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Anna W   Cody Q   Anna J | Marc W |

#### **Upcoming events and activities**

**11/4 - Saturday 830am-1130am** | Fall Cleanup. We will be going to help some elderly congregation members by cleaning up their yards for the fall. Great service work opportunity!

**11/12 - Sunday Noon** | Sloppy Joe lunch at the church. The youth will be preparing a sit down lunch for the congregation to help raise funds for our mission trip. Invite a friend and join us for some fellowship and fun! Or get a couple to go!

**11/19 - Sunday 7pm-8pm** | Youth Group Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and let's have a good time while growing our faith!

God's peace to you all,

Marc Welander

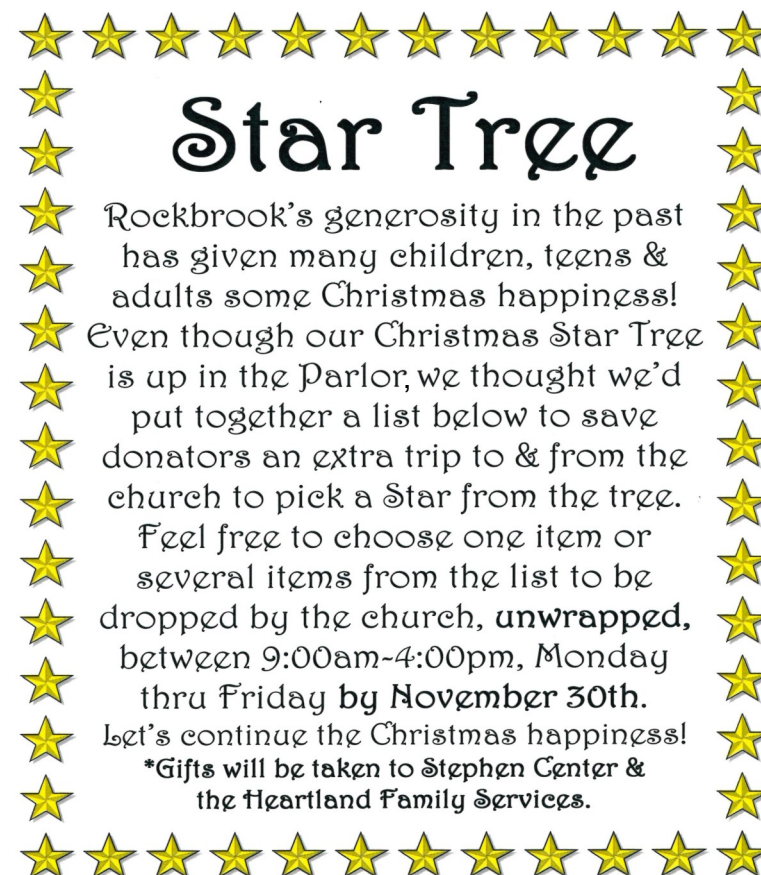
Youth Director | Rockbrook United Methodist Church

[rockbrookumc.com](http://rockbrookumc.com)

Cell 402.212.4585



## November Mission Giving Opportunity!



### Star Tree

Rockbrook's generosity in the past has given many children, teens & adults some Christmas happiness! Even though our Christmas Star Tree is up in the Parlor, we thought we'd put together a list below to save donors an extra trip to & from the church to pick a Star from the tree. Feel free to choose one item or several items from the list to be dropped by the church, **unwrapped**, between 9:00am-4:00pm, Monday thru Friday by November 30th. Let's continue the Christmas happiness! \*Gifts will be taken to Stephen Center & the Heartland Family Services.



### Unwrapped Gift Suggestions!

Board Games - Monopoly, Risk, Clue, Deck of Cards, Candy Land, etc.

Sports Equipment - Basketballs, Soccer Balls, Footballs, Baseballs

Lego's - Large or Small

Children's Toys All Ages - Anything that catches your eye!

Anything for a Baby

Slippers for Toddlers thru Adults

Any kind of Dolls & Accessories

Books - 3rd grade thru Young Adults

Manicure sets

Purses for Teen girls

Baseball Caps

T-Shirts - all sizes

Underwear - All sizes - Kids/Men/Women

Socks - All Sizes

Sweatshirts - All ages - (Especially X lg. & XX lg. boys)

Winter Gloves - All sizes

Watches - Men & Womens

Clock Radios

Sleeping Bags

Gift Cards - Fast Food, Restaurants or Music



## Stewardship Campaign 2024

### *“Using the Grains of Our Bounty to Celebrate the Words of Christ”*

*The Financial Stewardship Campaign 2024 is underway. The Bible speaks of Stewardship as a call upon our lives, to be stewards of God’s creation and all that is in it. We are also called to be Stewards of Christ’s body, the Church. Please commit to making a financial investment of time, talent and treasure in the Church’s kingdom-building work. Stewardship Campaigns are vital for churches to stay active, vibrant, and growing. The Goals this year are to increase the number of Pledge Cards received to 55 and increase the pledged amount to \$208,000.00.*

*If you have not already done so, please review the Pledge Card and return it by mail or drop it off at the church office by November 19th.*

*Grateful for your continued generosity and support.  
Your Stewardship Campaign Committee*

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>

Please call/text Julie Vidlak at 402-709-9022 or email [julievidlak@rockbrookumc.com](mailto:julievidlak@rockbrookumc.com) if you are interested in helping on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed to oversee Craft Project Stations, Card Making, Cookie Decorating Stations and Bingo. Ideas and supplies will be provided.

This is a fun tradition at Rockbrook UMC that allows children to celebrate the season and also create Christian themed crafts for keepsakes and/or gifts. Thank you!

## Animal Blessing 2023!

### Leaders of the pack!

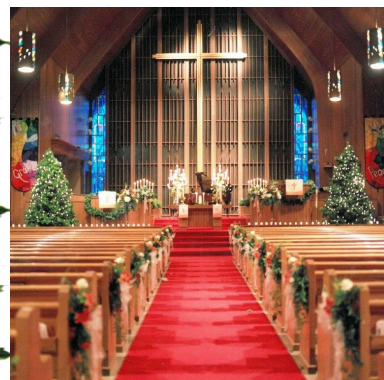


## Help decorate the church for the holidays!!

**Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>**

after the 10:45p Worship Service

A light lunch will be provided for the helpers down in the Fellowship Hall!



### Animal Blessing in the Parlor Pound



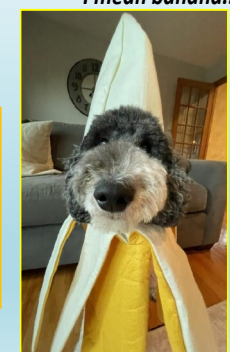
### Animal Blessing!

What a ham....

I mean banana...

Pure cuteness!!!

We're twins!!!







KIDS ON THE ROCK - November 2023

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

Children's November Sunday School - 9:30 to 10:30 weekly!

- November 5 - A Season for Everything/Use Your Time Wisely \*LIBRARY DAY\*
- November 12 - Make a Friend/Be a Friend
- November 19 - Be Yourself/Peer Pressure
- November 26 - Friendsgiving Sunday



Children's Update from Julie:

\*October's Sunday School theme was learning how to be a "Student of God". This included the *God Goals*: Listen to Learn, Think Before You Speak, Do Your Best, and Keep Trying. These are great goals for every phase of a child's life. We found examples from the Bible stories of the boy Samuel, Naaman's young servant girl, Esther, Noah, and Moses. Children come home with a "God to Go" page each Sunday that will include important Bible verses and related activities. Information for parents is often included as well. Please take a look with your child!

\*Don't forget **Library Day** on the first Sunday of each month! New materials have been purchased after surveying the children for their input. Bring your library bag back before or on November 5<sup>th</sup> and get new books for the month of November. Thank you.

\* **Sunday School in November will include Christmas program preparation!** It is very helpful for children to be part of this prep time before the program. **The formal rehearsal will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 followed by our Christmas party. **The program will be on December 10<sup>th</sup>** during 10:45 worship. All Sunday school children are in the program. Readers can volunteer for parts ASAP. No memorizing required.

\*As we celebrate this month of **gratitude**, I want to express my thanks to my Sunday school teacher partner Juliana Ewing! A big thanks also goes out to those who have volunteered to be extra helpers each week: Cheri Humphus, Emily Quigley, Emily Hartley, Kevin Bisanz, Heather Welander, Jenn Steliga, Bev Donham. It's been fun having so many of you involved in our ministry! Thank you to Teresa Holdcroft-Reese and Artie Shaw for their assistance and to Pastor Marcee for being a valued supporter of our children and our children's ministry! Thank you, parents, for encouraging your children to grow in their faith and making church a part of your busy lives. The children of RUMC are a blessing to me! **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Thank you also to our volunteer Trunk or Treat hosts: Marc Welander and youth group, Teresa Holdcroft-Reese, Hartleys, Allreds, Ben Reese, Michael Quigley, Shabrams, Roys, Cheri Humphus. As I am writing this, we are hoping for good enough weather (and no snow) to have our Trunks open outside. If not, we'll move inside. I'm sure the kids will enjoy it either way! Thanks!

Save the Date!



UWF

Inviting all women of Rockbrook to a

Holiday Brunch!

Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:30am in the Fellowship Hall!

Wonderful food! Wonderful fellowship!  
Please join us!

RSVP to the Church Office, churchoffice@rockbrookumc.com or call Teresa @ 402-393-1015

We will also be collecting food donations for the Pearl Pantry

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



Our next serving date at the Stephen Center will be Wednesday, Nov. 29<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!!





News From the Rock ...

People Remembered In  
Prayer for October ~



Lucie Ripley, Dave Diggs,  
Bob Christensen's family & friends,  
Kari Shullaw on the loss of her brother,  
Kendall Kratky,  
Family of Wanda Neaderhiser,  
Bev & Mike Donham's daughter, Kim,  
Prayers for Israel, Ukraine, Hawaii  
& the Sudan Crisis,  
All Congregations & Staff,  
All Hospital Staff,  
Our First Responders &  
Our Military Personnel

Pearl Pantry,  
where the need is great!

Please donate when possible &  
fill the car again! The holidays are  
approaching. Let's fill them with love!

Thank you!



Join Pastor Marcee

~ Live ~ for

Thursday Devotionals

at 11:00am on Facebook!

(Fb ~ Rockbrook United Methodist Church)



## UWF Meeting!

November 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 1:30pm

Friendship Room

Save the Date!! December 2<sup>nd</sup>

UWF Christmas Brunch Fellowship Hall  
9:30am



## BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Addison Zelasney  
11/2 Doris Wuster  
11/4 Eddy Waitfor-Kluse  
11/6 Kate Richardson  
11/6 Bud Laughlin  
11/7 Marc Welandar  
11/8 Bob Raasch  
11/9 Marcus Roper  
11/17 Jayden Luark  
11/19 William Ripley  
11/20 Karen Hakola  
11/20 Heather Welandar  
11/20 Lois Johnson  
11/22 Jeff Shullaw  
11/24 Becky Fuller  
11/24 Jesse Sward  
11/25 Roger Sash  
11/27 Myra Lezanic  
11/28 Bev Donham



# 2023

| Sun  | Mon                                | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
|  |                                    |  | 1 11am - Tornado Siren Testing!<br><br>6:45p Bell Choir (BR)<br>7:30p Choir Practice (S) | 2<br>7:00 Sq. Dance Lessons (FH)   | 3<br>6-8:30p "One for All" Home School Rehearsal (FH)   | 4 Church Work Day!<br>9am-Noonish<br><br>Change your clocks tonight! Fall back one hour! |
| 5 TIME CHANGE<br>8:30a In-person Worship Service (S)<br>9:30a Sunday School (Children, Youth & Adult)<br>10:45a In-Person Worship Service (S), & Live Streaming  | 6<br>6:30p Trustees (FR)           | 7<br>11:00a DAR mtg. (FH)<br>7:30p Praise Band (S) | 8<br>1:30p UWF Mtg. (FR)<br>6:45p Bell Choir (BR)<br>7:30p Choir Practice (S)   | 9<br>6:00p Church Conference Fellowship Hall - RUMCI   | 10<br>6-8:30p "One for All" Home School Rehearsal (FH)  | 11<br>7p Amazing 8's Sq. Dance (FH)  |
| 12 Sloppy Joe Sunday! Join us!<br>8:30a In-person Worship Service (S)<br>9:30a Sunday School (Children, Youth & Adult)<br>10:45a In-Person Worship Service (S), & Live Streaming<br>Noon- Sloppy Joe lunch! FH   | 13<br>6:30p Finance Mtg. (FR)      | 14<br>7:00 Sq. Dance (FH)<br>7:30p Praise Band (S) | 15<br>7:30p Choir Practice (S)  | 16<br>7:00 Sq. Dance Lessons (FH)  | 17<br>7:00p One time special Sq. Dance (FH)<br>6-8:30p "One for All" Home School Rehearsal (P)                    | 18   |
| 19 Decorate the Church for the Holidays!<br>8:30a In-person Worship Service (S)<br>9:30a Sunday School (Children, Youth & Adult)<br>10:45a In-Person Worship Service (S), & Live Streaming<br>Noon-Decorate the Church Light lunch for helpers (FH)<br>7p Youth Group (YR) | 20<br><br>Newsletter articles due! | 21<br>7:00 Sq. Dance (FH)<br>7:30p Praise Band (S) | 22 Church Office Closed!<br>   | 23<br><br>Church Office Closed! | 24 Church Office Closed!<br> | 25<br>7p Amazing 8's Sq. Dance (FH)  |
| 26 1st Sunday of Lent<br>World Student Sunday!<br>8:30a In-person Worship Service (S)<br>9:30a Sunday School (Children, Youth & Adult)<br>10:45a In-Person Worship Service (S), & Live Streaming   | 27                                 | 28<br>7:00 Sq. Dance (FH)                          | 29<br>5:00p Stephen Center Meal Served<br>7:30p Choir Practice (S)  | 30<br>7:00 Sq. Dance Lessons (FH)  | Dec. 1<br>UWF Brunch Set-up (FH)<br>6-8:30p "One for All" Home School Rehearsal (P)                               | Dec. 2<br>9:30a UWF Christmas Brunch (FH)  |

Newsletter articles are due by



Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> for