



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

Rockbrook United Methodist Church
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THANK YOU - No words can convey my feelings. Sometimes sitting in my pew on Sunday mornings I've been struck with the words of Hymn #328: "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place." I see the faces with each card, call, visit and expression of concern. You are all in my heart and I pray you can feel my love and appreciation. God bless you and God bless Rockbrook.

In Christ, Darlene Hicks

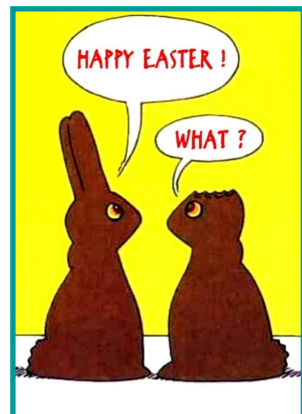


Thank you, church, for the Easter Egg Hunt candy donations! Our children are blessed to have such a supportive and loving church family!

Julie Vidlak,
on behalf of the children of RUMC

 Thank you once again to all our Rockbrook Sewers! Barb Dinges collected & mailed off approximately **56** children's gowns & outfits this past month through our partnership with Midwest Missions to share around the world! Great job ladies!

If you would like to join this group of sewers, please contact Barb Dinges. All patterns, material & supplies provided!



Message from the Pastor

April 2024

Spring has sprung! The daffodils are poking through the ground. There are buds on the trees. I have bird nests in some trees and in a couple of my bushes. I love to hear the birds chirping. It reminds me of the presence of God. This brings me great joy.

What brings you joy? Is it a good book? A cup of coffee? The laughter of a child? A long road trip? I think that is what after Easter is about. Easter Sunday is a celebration because of a Risen Christ. Churches sing songs like "Up from the Grave He Arose." There are Hallelujah choruses. And then Monday happens and the church waits for Pentecost. And before we know it, we are back to the birth of the Christ child. Life happens. We mark days off the calendar. Each day may feel like it is Groundhog Day, where you get up over and over again to do the same exact thing. So, I have a challenge for you. From April 1st to April 30th I want you to each night, before you go to bed or start your nighttime routine, write something that has brought you joy. Take this sheet of paper and write what you are grateful for and then bring it to me on May 5th.

APRIL JOYS

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 30. _____ |



Con't



APRIL

I am not guaranteeing you instant happiness by being intentional about what brings you joy. I can tell you that having joyful eyes makes you realize that God is with you always. God's goodness is all around us and when we recognize that our relationship with God grows stronger. I believe that April, a time when Nebraska wakes up from its winter slumber, is a perfect time to find joy. We are Easter people. Easter people are joyful.

Pastor Marcee

"Mission Share Stewardship"

Rockbrook is called to be a Connectional Church in support of the church worldwide. In connection with other member churches, we are part of a larger missional purpose - Partner Agencies such as schools of theology and seminaries, institutions of higher education, 70 hospitals, retirement centers as well as missionaries in the field and countries around the world.

Mission Shares is part of our church budget for 2024. Please consider adding a portion over and above your general church giving to enable Rockbrook to do its part in fulfilling its Mission Share portion. Thank You for your consideration of support for the church worldwide through your contribution to Mission Shares.

Your Gracious Generosity/Finance Committee



Blood Drive!

Mark your Calendar for Sunday, **April 7th**, when the Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in the Fellowship Hall from 8am -1pm.

Please consider making an appointment to donate blood when the Red Cross Bloodmobile visits Rockbrook UMC. Donating blood is easy and rewarding, as your single donation can help save up to 3 lives.

- * A whole blood donation takes about 8-10 minutes.
- * Approximately one pint of whole blood is collected.

New blood donors are needed every day to save the lives of patients who depend on the generosity of volunteer donors like you.

Go online now to sign up to donate on April 7th at redcrossblood.org

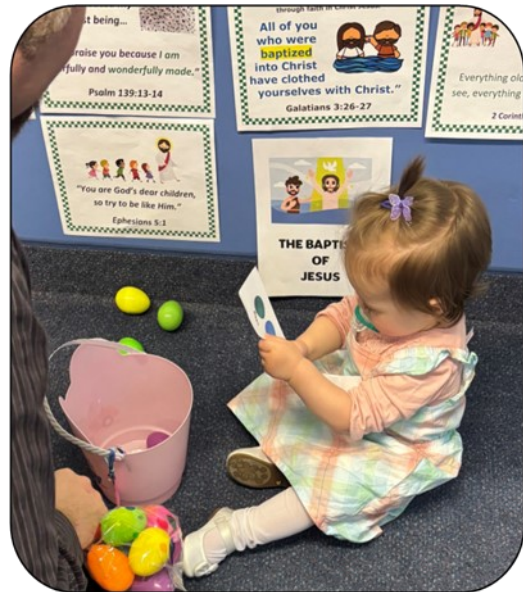
and enter RUMC to schedule an appointment

OR contact Linda Stroud at stroud.lindasue@gmail.com

Easter Egg Hunt!

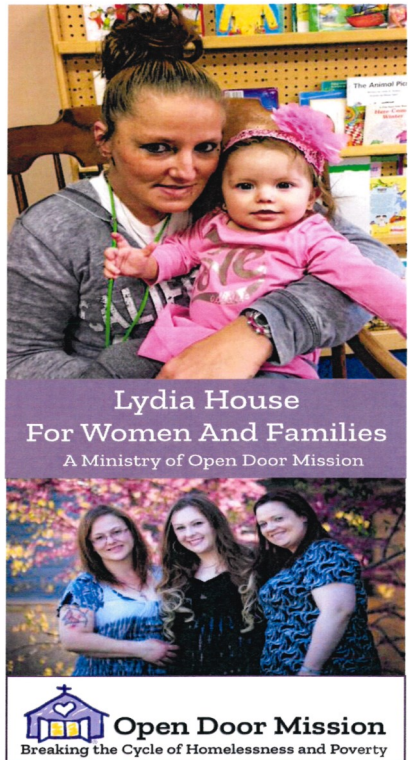


Easter Egg Hunt!



Join us April 7th at both services to hear about Lydia House! Steve Frazee, guest speaker!

Church wide Mission Project "Lydia House" ~ Baby & Kids Shower! the entire month of April!



Suggested Items To Donate

- Diapers - All Sizes
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Blankets
- New or gently used kids clothes 6 months to size 16
- New Girls & Boys Underwear Size 2-16
- Baby & Toddler Learning Toys
- Tearless (Baby) Shampoo or Bubble Bath
- Hair rubber bands or Hair Barrettes
- Hair Brushes

"Our family was disintegrating by the minute. But the classes and counseling helped us all take some big steps toward change."

YOU CAN CHANGE LIVES

Open Door Mission's Lydia House offers life-changing programs for those seeking recovery from abuse and addiction.

Lydia House provides safe shelter for 46 families and 72 women.

- Education
- Mental Health Services
- Fitness Room
- Kitchens
- Refrigerators
- After School Programs
- Recreation Rooms
- Activity Rooms



RESCUE

ABOUT HALF OF ALL HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE FLEEING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE.



The average age of a homeless person is 9 years old.



REDEEM

New Life Recovery Program
Give men, women, & children the tools they need to become self-sufficient

Journey to Work
Breaking the cycle through personal development, money management, job training & educational skills

WorkNet
Providing opportunities that lead to gainful employment

REBUILD

RESTORE

GET INVOLVED

GIVE DONATE

VOLUNTEER

Visit www.opendoormission.org for more information



What is Church Council?

In the United Methodist Church, the Church Council is the administrative leadership group for each individual church. It's the committee that focuses on what the church is doing, how the church does that, and how well it's working. Sometimes the Council is called the Administrative Council or the Leadership Team. No matter the name, the people on Church Council have several responsibilities:



Ministry

The Council oversees the church's nurture, outreach, and witness programming. *Nurture* refers to things like worship, education, and membership care. At Rockbrook, this includes Sunday services, special worship services, Sunday School, fellowship activities, and more. *Outreach* refers to ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy at the local, regional, and global levels. Part of the way Rockbrook supports these ministries at the regional and global levels is by funding our Mission Shares. Locally, we participate in various mission projects throughout the year, such as Stephen Center and Dress for Success. *Witness* refers to empowering church members to recognize God's presence in their lives and to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. It's not limited to verbal conversation - witness also happens via the church website, newsletter, and social media.

Administration

Part of the Council's job is to make sure the church has enough resources to achieve its vision and mission. This is where the "prayers, presence, gifts," and "service" portions of our membership covenant come into play. It also includes making sure things are running smoothly on a day-to-day basis.

Review the church's membership

Each year, the Council votes to remove the names of members who have been inactive for 3 years.

Fill vacated lay offices

If any elected committee chairperson or officer leaves the church for any reason, the Council must choose a new person to hold that role until the next charge conference.

Establish/approve the budget for the church (from Finance)

Recommend the salaries of the Pastor and other staff members (from SPPRC)

Recommend the Pastor's housing provisions

Develop lay and clergy leaders

Logistically, the Church Council meets at least quarterly to address all these tasks. There are 11 required members: the Chairperson of the Council, the Lay Leader, the Chairperson of SPPRC, the Chairperson of Finance, the Chairperson of Trustees, the Church Treasurer, the Lay Member to annual conference, representatives of the United Methodist Women's groups (e.g., UWF), a young adult representative, a Youth representative, and the Pastor. Each of these members has a voice and a vote. At Rockbrook, we also have several at-large members who are elected to be on Council and therefore can vote during meetings. **Anyone else in the church is allowed to attend and observe Church Council meetings but cannot vote on any business.**

If you'd like to read the specific language of the Discipline regarding the Church Council, check out <https://www.umc.org/en/content/book-of-discipline-252-the-church-council>

Juliana Ewing - Church Council Chairperson



Hello everyone,

We had an excellent day last Sunday! The church service was great, we served a very nice lunch, and the egg hunt was a special time. It was great to see everyone, have fun, and enjoy each other's company. We raised over \$900 in donations for our lunch. I want to thank all the youth and adults who helped with all the work. This was definitely a team effort and a huge success.

Ending this month and into April we will have time to engage with purpose, commitment and feel God's rewards. I encourage you all to come to church for any of the Easter services, get signed up for camp, and partake in our upcoming Youth Group events. As we journey together in faith, let's explore the beautiful intersection of commitment and divine rewards. Our time is a precious gift, and when we invest it intentionally, God takes notice. Give sacrificially our time, talents, and resources. God honors cheerful givers (2 Corinthians 9:7). May our commitment draw us closer to God and ignite a passion for God's purposes!

Upcoming Events & Activities (For events & activities to occur we need a minimum of 3 youth to attend)
Mark your calendars for these exciting events:

We meet every Sunday morning in the Youth Room from 9:30 to 10:30. Everyone is welcome and we encourage you to bring friends also!

Sat 4/6 - 10am-11am - Gather in Fellowship Hall to assist with serving & clean up at the brunch for the funeral services of the Diggs family. This is a good service opportunity. Please let me know if you can attend.

Sun 4/14 - Youth Group 7pm-8pm Fellowship Hall - Bring a friend and come together for a great time!

Sat 4/20 - 830am - 11am - Adopt-A-Spot Clean up - We will be going to Rockbrook Park and if time allows nearby Towl Park to clean up trash and litter.

Sun 4/21 - Confirmation Sunday - Congratulations to all the confirmands. I look forward to this day of celebration!

Sat 4/27 - Time TBD - Youth Group bowling outing, invite a friend for this one and RSVP soon. This is going to be a good time!

Sun 4/28 - Final fundraiser before summer. We will be doing a "Soup-to-Go" theme. This will not be a sit-down meal but allow people to come after the 1045 service and grab a bowl of soup with other sides. We will do a chicken noodle and tomato soup. Along with crackers and bread.

Camp Fontanelle Summer Camps

See more information at the link here <https://www.campfontanelle.com/summer-camps/> We also have scholarships available, and I have attached the form to this email. Camp Fontanelle is a great place with lots to offer!

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 that are interested in coming. 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: **(We still have 3 more spots to fill, I am looking to add 3 youth)**

| Youth | Adult |
|-----------|---------|
| Anna W | Marc W |
| Cody Q | Emily Q |
| Addison Z | Becca H |
| Ethan Z | |

God's peace to you all,
Marc Welander
Youth Director | Rockbrook United Methodist Church
rockbrookumc.com Cell 402.212.4585



P.S. If you have any ideas or suggestions, feel free to share them! Together, we'll make our Youth Group thrive!



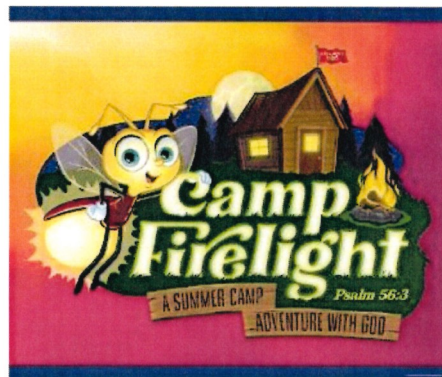
KIDS ON THE ROCK - April 2024

ROCKBROOK UMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Julie Vidlak, children's ministry director

APRIL FOR THE CHILDREN OF ROCKBROOK: Building the Church!

Join us for April Sunday School where children will learn what happened to the disciples after Easter Sunday! How did the first Christian churches begin? What advice did they get on how to be a Christian community? Who were some of the first important church leaders? How can we apply this in 2024? See you there!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024 –

“Camp Firelight”

June 9th – 13th 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

For all children ages 3 to completed 6th grade

REGISTER NOW -

Visitors welcome - invite a friend!

Preregistration required by June 2nd!

(Forms online or at church)

Youth and Adult Volunteers still needed - See Julie!



Rockbrook children love Camp Fontanelle!

Scholarships from Rockbrook are available to cover 1/3 the cost regardless of need! Families should have received camp information from Julie.

Please return scholarship applications to Julie prior to attending camp.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE FROM JULIE:

We spent Lent learning about *leaps of faith*: birth, baptism, salvation, confirmation, discipleship, and eternal life. Our frog metamorphosis symbolized how we grow as Christians, plus we had plenty of frog props and games along the way! It was great to have many children participating in our Palm Sunday processional and egg hunt. Thank you to egg hunt hidens and helpers Juliana Ewing, Emily and Jonathan Vidlak, Cheri Humphus, and Kristeen Shabram. Thank you to the youth Sunday School class and Marc Welander for filling the eggs. And as always, thank you parents for including church in your child's week. Looking forward to helping children discover what happened after Easter! Let's build the church! Hope to see you in April! Blessings, Julie



Rockbrook Garage Sale!

July 25th, 26th, and 27th!
Thursday Friday Saturday

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!

Larger items may be dropped off starting June 1st.

**** VERY IMPORTANT REQUEST!**

We will NOT be collecting Clothing items this year!
(We will however be collecting shoes!)

Please clean-up & wipe off any items that you wish to drop off to the church. Thank you!



SAVE the DATE!!

You are invited to join Walk MS Omaha 2024

On **Saturday, May 18, 2024** at 10:00AM


City wide walk starts/ends at Werner Ball Park. Walk MS helps us team up with friends, loved ones and co-workers to change the world for everyone affected by MS. Together, we become a powerful force. And with every step we take, every dollar we raise... we're that much closer. 1 mile and 3 mile routes available.

You may register online at walkMS.org/register to join Team Rockbrook

OR email Linda Stroud at stroud.lindasue@gmail.com.

Donations to fight Multiple Sclerosis will be accepted by writing a check to Rockbrook UMC and writing MS Walk in the memo line. Join others in walking and supporting the fight to change the world for those who live with MS in the U.S.!

**People Remembered
In Prayer...March**



Family of Yvonne Besore, Greg Fuller,
Darlene Hicks, Family of Dave Diggs,
Bev & Mike Donham's daughter, Kim,
Prayers for Ukraine, Israel, Palestine,
All Congregations & Staff,
All Hospital Staff,
Our First Responders &
Our Military Personnel



UWF Meeting!

Wednesday, April 10th
1:30 pm Friendship Room
All women invited! Join us!



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



Our next serving date at the Stephen Center will be Monday, April 29th 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!!



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 4/1 Bruce Ramge Annalise Zelasney | 4/12 Carol Lynch |
| 4/2 Lucas Bisanz Faye Buckingham Barb Dinges Arlene Williams | 4/13 Tripp Hufford Randy Oathout |
| 4/4 Cecilia Hartley Brad Wenderoth | 4/14 Aila Jackson |
| 4/6 Noah Richardson Anna Vidlak | 4/16 Gene Hinkle |
| 4/8 Kelly Richardson Fran Tinnell | 4/19 Kathy Lehmann |
| 4/11 Cheri Humphus William Wenderoth 1st Birthday!! | 4/20 Mark Heinz |
| | 4/21 John Cox |
| | 4/23 Rhys Hanlon |
| | 4/24 Derek Schamber |
| | 4/25 John Hakola |
| | 4/29 Pastor Marcee Binder |
| | 4/30 Teri Reese |

Pearl Pantry TRI Community UMC
6001 Fontenelle Blvd.
Omaha 68111

Can use just about anything, including:

- Food
- Toiletries
- Soap
- Walmart Gift Cards

Donations may be brought to the church!

Prayer Ministry



Still serving our congregation!



| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|---|-----|--|
| | 1 6:30p Trustees Mtg. (FR) | 2 7:00p Praise Band (S) 7:00p Sq. Dance (FH) | 3 6:45p Bell Practice (BR) 7:30p Choir Practice (S) | 4 6:00p SPPRC Mtg. (FR) | 5 | 6 10:00a Dave Diggs Memorial Service (S) Brunch to follow (FH) Youth help clean up (FH) |
| 7 Blood Drive! 8a-1p Blood Drive (FH) 8:30am In-person Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School (Children, Youth & Adult) 10:45a In-Person Worship Service (S) & Live Streaming (S) | 8 6:00p Finance Mtg. (FR) | 9 NO DAR Mtg. 7:00p Praise Band (S) 7:00p Sq. Dance (FH) | 10 1:30p UWF Mtg. (FR) 6:45p Bell Practice (BR) 7:30p Choir Practice (S) | 11 | 12 | 13 7:00p Amazing 8's Sq. Dance (FH) |
| 14 8:30am In-person Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School (Children, Youth & Adult) 10:45a In-Person Worship Service (S) & Live Streaming (S) 7-8p Youth Group (FH) | 15 | 16 7:00p Praise Band (S) 7:00p Sq. Dance (FH) | 17 6:45p Bell Practice (BR) 7:30p Choir Practice (S) | 18 | 19 | 20 8:30a-12p Youth Park Clean Up |
| 21 Confirmation Sunday! Reception (P) 8:30am In-person Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School (Children, Youth & Adult) 10:45a In-Person Worship Service (S) & Live Streaming (S) | 22 | 23 7:00p Praise Band (S) 7:00p Sq. Dance (FH) | 24 6:45p Bell Practice (BR) 7:30p Choir Practice (S) Newsletter articles due for May Newsletter! | 25 | 26 | 27 7:00p Amazing 8's Sq. Dance (FH) TBD Pm - Youth Bowling Activity |
| 28 8:30am In-person Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School (Children, Youth & Adult) 10:45a In-Person Worship Service (S) & Live Streaming (S) Youth Fundraiser (FH) | 29 5:00p Serve at the Stephen Center | 30 7:00p Praise Band (S) 7:00p Sq. Dance (FH) | May 1 st 6:45p Bell Practice (BR) 7:30p Choir Practice (S) | (S) Sanctuary (FR) Friendship Room (WW) West Wing (BR) Bell Choir Room (FO) Finance Office (P) Parlor (YR) Youth Room (FH) Fellowship Hall | | |

Newsletter articles due April 24th for May Newsletter!