

The Brooke ~ January ~ 2020

Dear Church Family,

As you may know, a group called the Annual Conference Shepherding Team has been hard at work formalizing goals for the more than 300 United Methodist churches in northern Illinois. The priorities we've all agreed to work toward in the coming years are:

Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ

- By encouraging individuals in the life-long practice of developing and strengthening a personal relationship with God
- By supporting congregations in fostering discipleship in all of their ministries
- By sharing the Good News with people who do not know Jesus

Goal 2: To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching

- By encouraging individuals to engage in ongoing self-reflection, cross-cultural sharing, and growth
- By challenging the structures, practices, and policies of the NIC and instituting necessary changes to ensure equity
- By educating and equipping congregations, districts and the NIC to be prophetic leaders pursuing equity in society

Goal 3: To Increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations

- By actively and intentionally practicing stewardship of the NIC's ministry resources
- By conducting a comprehensive assessment of ministry resources and the future potential of every congregation
- By creating and executing a plan with each congregation, in collaboration with the district, for its future

You can view more information about the goals in the brochures we have available in narthex, or [by clicking here](#).

Last fall, our District Superintendent Fabiola Grandon-Mayer asked me to consider serving as the Rockford District representative to the team focused on goal 2 and the work of anti-racism. After prayer and a lot of thought, I decided to say yes, even though the role doesn't come with any extra hours in the day! Here's why: I believe that racism is a sin, and I know that I have been complicit in many of the forms racism takes. I've been trained in anti-racism work in seminary, and I deeply believe that it is primarily the work of white folks to educate ourselves about all the wrong that has been done through racist practices and what steps we can take to repair it. Certainly we will always be listening to those most affected by the evils of racism to know what needs to be made right, but it's unfair and illogical to expect people of color to be the only ones preaching and teaching about racism.

That's why we'll be spending the months of January and February talking about what racism is, how it worked its way into so many systems, and what responsibility we as Christians have to break down barriers and work to restore God's good creation. I know this is a subject that can be tough for many of us, especially if we think that because we aren't personally prejudiced toward anyone, we don't have to talk about this. Unfortunately, the reality is that because we live in the United States, there is a lot we need to be talking about and a lot we need to be acting on.

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In preparation for this sermon series called “Created in God’s Image,” I’m doing a lot of reading and will do my faithful best to discuss this topic in a way we can all connect with. That said, I genuinely hope for your feedback so that I can share the results of this sermon series with the conference anti-racism team and we can all find better ways to address racism together. While there are many passages that remind us of the truth that each and every one of us are created in God’s image, here are the verses we’ll be studying together:

January 5 Genesis 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
All people are created in God’s image, and our heavenly bodies are most important.

January 12 John 15:12-17
Jesus calls us to love one another, and to produce good and lasting fruit.

January 19 1 Samuel 17:1-50
The story of David and Goliath.

January 26 Galatians 3:19-29
All are one in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female.

February 2 Acts 8:26-40
The Ethiopian eunuch teaches us about studying scripture and sharing the gospel.

February 9 Ephesians 2:14-22
Jesus’ resurrection broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us.

February 16 Romans 12:9-21
Paul calls on us to love good and hate evil, considering everyone as equal.

Please pray for the work of the conference anti-racism team, and I will continue sharing with you everything I learn. I especially hope you can attend the district leadership training on Saturday, February 1st at Faith UMC in Freeport, 1440 S. Walnut Ave from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm where Stan Campbell and I will be presenting sessions on anti-racism work. More information about those workshops is available in this newsletter and [by clicking here](#).

As we continue to grow in our faith together, I’m excited for all that 2020 will bring. I look forward to many more conversations about how we can continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this neighborhood, and I’m so grateful for all the ways you already live this out!

-Pastor Violet



Northern Illinois Conference OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ROCKFORD DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Saturday, February 1, 2020

**Faith United Methodist Church
1440 S. Walnut - Freeport, IL**

8:00 am - 8:30 am	Check-In
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Opening Worship
	Preach: Bishop Sally Dyck
9:30 am - 9:45 am	Break
9:45 am - 10:45 am	Workshops I
11:00 am - 12:00 am	Workshops II
12:00 pm - 12:20 pm	Closing Gathering

WORKSHOPS

(Everyone is invited to sign up for 2 workshops)

GOAL 1: Making Disciples

- Children & Youth Ministry (Joy Hayag & Roger Bronkema)
- Media as a way of evangelism (Jarrod Severing & Jay Schaney)
- Ministering the Senior (Dee Mede)

GOAL 2: Working Against Racism

- Working against Racism (Violet Johnicker)
- Community Engagement (Stanley Campbell)

GOAL 3: Creating Vital Congregations

- Signs of Vitality in our congregations (Mike Jones)
- Apportionment & New Formula (David Quinn)
- Property Insurance (Dwayne Jackson)
- SPRC & Boundaries (Arlene Christopherson)

Please register by January 24, 2020

<https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/rockford-leadership-training-event>

For more information, please contact:

Pastor Donna Hoffman - 608 293 0194



Outreach

Thanks to all who contributed to food boxes donated to Children's Home and Aid.

Better Angels Documentary Film Screening and Issue Fishbowl

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 9:00-noon

Rockford Public Library ~ Nordlof Center, 118 N. Main St. Rockford, IL 61101

On January 11, 2020, as part of its 815 Choose Civility work, Rockford Public Library will host a screening of the documentary film, Better Angels- Reuniting America followed by a demonstration workshop designed to explore political polarization and how principles of family therapy might unite us despite strong political disagreement. A Chicago-based Better Angels facilitator will lead discussion about the film and facilitate a demonstration of Better Angels "issue fishbowl" technique featuring panelists State Representative Maurice West and former Winnebago County Board Trustee, John Guevara.

Coffee and light refreshments will be served

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Thank you **SO MUCH** to all that helped make this such a successful fundraiser! In addition to our faithful wrappers from The Brooke, we were blessed to have the help of several other friends.

Although this is mainly a fundraiser, it always turns out to be so much more, as many customers share their heart-felt stories with us.

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

November income: \$12,727.72

November disbursements: \$12,860.78

This information is always available by contacting Sandy McCallum (Treasurer).

On December 10th, about 18 of us gathered at Hoffman House for fellowship and delicious food. It is good to have a change of scenery.

Join us on January 14, 2020 at 1 PM for our first meeting of the new year. Hopefully, the neighborhood police officer will be our speaker. The ladies from Centennial plan to join us. We would love to have you join us, too.



January Birthdays

12th

Lorraine Cline

13th

Sandy McCallum

16th

Robert Shaver

19th

Boots Baxter

20th

Kaya Dobbs

21st

Hazel Dyke

27th

John Pippel

Our Military

Matt Cowan, Matt Crabtree, Scott Dickson, Thomas Helser, Will Hoyum,
Ian Long, Joshua Mattson, Jonathan Modler, Jerry Nettles, Stacy Huser,
Christine Tornow, Tommy Turnure, Ryan & Kate (Vowles) Levack

Family and Friends

Erma Albee
Boots Baxter
Chris Beebe
Betty Bennett
Rick Bried
Dorothy Carpenter
Shelby Coleman & Cheryl May

John & Hazel Dyke
Ardene Friest
Roberta Gambrel
Joanne Hughes
Jackie Parod
John Pippel
Vicky Quist

John Sauer
Charlene Taylor
Phil & Vivian Schwab
Maxine Zolk
Tom & Cynthia Zolk
Diane Zwirblis
Pastor Violet, Kyle & Lincoln

January

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			<u>1</u> Office Closed	<u>2</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>6</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>7</u> 9:00am TOPS 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>8</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:00pm Celebration Choir 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>9</u> 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts 6:30pm Zumba	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts 5:00pm Book Group at Warners'	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> 9:00am TOPS 1:00pm UMW	<u>15</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:00pm Celebration Choir 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>16</u> 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts 6:30pm Zumba	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> 9:00am TOPS	<u>22</u> 9:00am Breakfast Group at Alpine View 9:15am Zumba 6:00pm Celebration Choir 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>23</u> 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts 6:30pm Zumba	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>26</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 9:00am TOPS	<u>29</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:00pm Celebration Choir 6:30pm Zumba 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>30</u> 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts 6:30pm Zumba	<u>31</u>	

**BROOKE ROAD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1404 BROOKE ROAD
ROCKFORD, IL 61109

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office Hours

Monday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Tuesday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Friday **CLOSED**

Phone: 815-398-8914
Email: brookeroadumc@outlook.com
www.the-brooke.org

Our Mission at The Brooke Is.....

to transform lives
through faith, love, and service.

Our Vision for The Brooke is.....

to be a transforming congregation
of believers to serve the community,
renew lives, and build faith.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship ~ 10:00am
Nursery available for NB - 4 years

Fellowship ~ Following Worship