

The Brooke ~ February ~ 2020

Dear Church,

In the middle of winter there's a song I always seem to get stuck in my head. Number 707 in our hymnal was written by Illinois composer Natalie Sleeth, and it goes like this:

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*



It is, as the title says, a “Hymn of Promise” that holds truths worthy of reflection especially on these cold and gray days. What does it mean for us to believe that spring is somehow within winter? That message inspires me because it means winter isn’t just something to get through or get over with, but instead that it is a necessary part of all the beauty and new life and growth we’re anticipating. Even as we face times of stress, concerns about health, anxiety about transitions, we are reminded that God can bring good things forth.

This month we’ll be continuing in our anti-racism sermon series, “Created in God’s Image” as we reflect on the progress our denomination and world have made toward equality, and the work we still have to do. God is calling us to do courageous and new things together if we would only trust the promise that God will get us there.

If there are days where the winter seems particularly long, I’d encourage you to sing this hymn or listen to a recording of it and pray about what God is promising you. Where do you find hope and how do you believe that change is coming?

-Pastor Violet

2020 Laity Convocation



UNPACKING RACISM

Saturday, February 8, 2020
9 am to 12:30 pm (doors open at 7:45 am)

Sycamore United Methodist Church
160 Johnson Ave, Sycamore, IL 60178

Learn, discuss, and understand
the impact of racism,
the concept of unconscious bias,
how race shapes one's place and
understanding of society,
and the idea of privilege.



AGENDA:

- Opening Worship
- Bible Study with Bishop Sally Dyck
- Panel Discussion
- Closing Worship with Communion

COST: \$10/person or \$40/church

DEADLINES: Register by 12 noon Feb. 5 at
www.umcnic.org/calendar/laity-convocation.

Register by 12 midnight Jan. 30 to purchase
a box lunch for an additional \$10.

PANELISTS:

Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson, Senior Pastor
Wheaton: Gary UMC

Judy Siaba, Lay Servant
Oak Park: Euclid Avenue UMC

Dr. Richard Guzman, Professor Emeritus
North Central College, Naperville
Bolingbrook: Friendship UMC

Rebecca Fraley, Member,
ACST Anti-Racism Committee
Steward UMC

FEATURING: Display tables from UMM, Older Adult Ministries, Scouting Ministry, and Lay Servant Ministries.

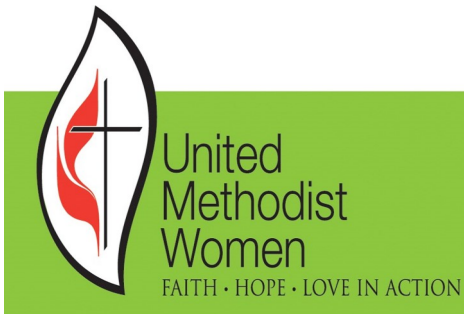
The church is called to lead by our example within our lives, our institutions and by prophetic witness in society. As one of three strategic goals adopted by our Annual Conference says, we are called "to live out the conviction that racism is incompatible with Christian teaching." Gain a better understanding of what racism is and how it effects people of all races, but especially people of color. Learn how to begin to identify, challenge and change values and attitudes in the local church as well as your community.

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE at no cost. Questions about registration?
Contact Laura Lopez at llopez@umcnic.org or 312-346-9766, ext. 724.

General Conference 2020 Conversations

Sunday ~ February 16 ~ 3:00pm - 5:00pm
at Christ UMC ~ 4509 Highcrest Road ~ Rockford, IL

Discussion about what is expected to take place
May 5-15 at General Conference 2020 in Minneapolis, MN
Register at www.umcnic.org/calendar or in church office



It was wonderful for the Centennial UMW to join us for our meeting with the Rockford Police Community Service Officer Chuck Kein who stepped up for the officer for our area Matt Williams. He spoke about what they do and how the system works. They like to be out getting to know the area they serve. Brooke Road is in Area 7 and the neighborhood group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Dough Boys.

We decided to donate to Rockford Urban Ministries to help purchase the building on 7th Street for Rockford New Hope.

The February meeting will be on Tuesday, February 11 at 1 PM with speaker, Tammy English from Mosaic, an agency for people with intellectual disabilities. Lyla Flynn is our hostess.

In the January/February **response**, there is an article about the four petitions that United Methodist Women are bringing to the 2020 General Conference to prioritize women, children and youth. See pages 37-39. The four petitions are:

- Children's Sabbath: observe Children's Sabbath the third Sunday in October
- The girl child: protecting the girl child
- Voting protection rights in the United States: protecting voting rights, and
- The Status of Women: realizing full human rights

Pray for Rockford

The Evangelical Ministers Fellowship of Rockford is calling on congregations to pray for our city this year. We join our friends in faith across Rockford in prayer!

Here are 8 ways to pray for Rockford in 2020. Will you commit to praying for our city?

- Pray for gospel transformation rooted in Christ's power, in which hearts are truly transformed and empowered to serve Christ and others ([Romans 1:16](#)).
- Pray that this transformation will bring growth and healing to our city spiritually, racially, socially, and academically ([Jeremiah 29:7](#)).
- Pray for racial reconciliation centered upon the gospel to build bridges that point our city to Christ and love for one another ([Ephesians 2:11-22](#)).
- Pray for community leaders to serve with godly wisdom and a heart for all Rockford citizens to flourish ([1 Timothy 2:1-2](#)).
- Pray for Christians to lament our sin, including indifference to pain in our community. May we humbly examine our hearts, confess our shortcomings and at times ignorance, and allow space to learn and respond to others in love and humility ([Proverbs 28:13](#)).
- Pray for churches and Christian organizations to work together in harmony to see growth in the gospel and our city changed ([John 17:20-21](#)).
- Pray for our youth. Pray AGAINST the many evils challenging our young people, and pray FOR Christ to be known and lives to be transformed in all areas ([2 Timothy 2:22](#)).
- Pray for churches, schools, businesses, and nonprofits to collectively influence structural evils in our city and seek after justice in Christ's name ([Isaiah 1:17](#)).

February

Anniversaries

1st Gene & Sharon Semple
11th Lloyd & Charlene Mason

Birthdays

3rd Becky Groff	21st Jerry Johnson
4th Jan Cook	23rd Victoria O'Connell
Joanne McKinney	27th Sandy Moderhack
6th Ann Phillips	28th Jill Below
16th Lyla Flynn	John Dyke
19th Kim Winger	

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
 Peggy Bargren
 Boots Baxter
 Chris Beebe
 Betty Bennett
 Dorothy Carpenter
 Shelby Coleman & Cheryl May
 John & Hazel Dyke

Ardene Friest
 Roberta Gambrel
 Joanne Hughes
 Pastor Violet, Kyle
 & Lincoln Johnicker
 Harvey May
 Jackie Parod
 John Pippel

Vicky Quist
 Marge Rose
 John Sauer
 Phil & Vivian Schwab
 Phyllis Stafseth
 Jerry & Nancy Wickson
 Charlene Taylor
 Tom, Cynthia, Maxine Zolk
 Diane Zwirblis

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

December 2019 income: \$21,259.57 **December 2019 disbursements:** \$14,083.28
 (includes giftwrapping proceeds)

This information is always available by contacting
 Judy Parks (Finance Chair) or Sandy McCallum (Treasurer).

Donations

If you purchase supplies for church, please submit item/amount to office (whether or not you want to be reimbursed). This will give a true picture of operation costs.

February 2020

	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						<u>1</u>
<u>2</u> 10:00am Worship 11:30am Choir 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>3</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>4</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>5</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>6</u> 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts 6:30pm Zumba	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> 9:00am SPRC
<u>9</u> 10:00am Worship 11:30am Choir 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>10</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>11</u> 9:15am Zumba 1:00pm UMW 5:30pm Finance 6:30pm Trustees	<u>12</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>13</u> 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts 6:30pm Zumba	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> 10:00am Worship 11:30am Choir 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>17</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>18</u> 9:00am TOPS 9:15am Zumba 12:30pm Mona's Paper Angel Closet 6:00pm Council 6:30pm Zumba	<u>19</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>20</u> 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts 6:30pm Zumba	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> 10:00am Worship 11:30am Choir 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>24</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>25</u> 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>26</u> 9:00am Breakfast Group at Alpine View 9:15am Zumba 6:30pm Zumba	<u>27</u> 9:15am Zumba 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts 6:30pm Zumba	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>

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.

**BROOKE ROAD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**1404 BROOKE ROAD
ROCKFORD, IL 61109**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Violet Johnicker

Phone 847-651-4857
Email violet@the-brooke.org
Address 4949 Radnor Drive
Rockford, IL 61109

Church Office

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
Website www.the-brooke.org
Address 1404 Brooke Road
Rockford, IL 61109

*If you feel like you're
in deep water,
trust the
One who walked on it.*

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship ~ 10:00am
Children's Sunday School during Worship
Nursery available for NB - 4 years
Fellowship ~ Following Worship

Save the Date

March 8, 2020 to celebrate
with Joella on her 80th Birthday.

Sunday from 2:00pm - 4:00pm
at Brooke Road UMC
1404 Brooke Road
Rockford, IL 61109

No gifts ~ just cards please

Questions? Joe 815 222 2100