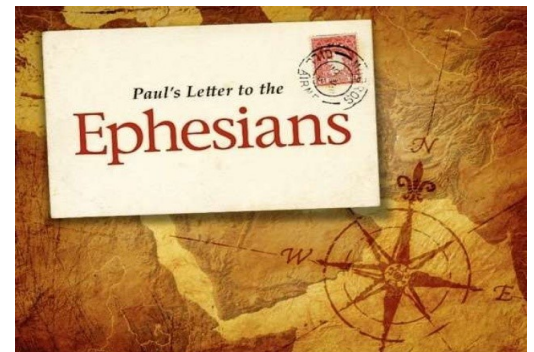


The Brooke ~ November ~ 2019

Dear Church Family,

Letter writing is becoming a lost art. Those of you who send cards and letters know how much it means to sit down and write a loving message, and how much it means to receive one. Too often today many people don't craft our communication with kindness, but instead just fire off a quick text or send a flat email to get details across. Can you imagine if one of your letters was read by others than the intended audience, and if someone looked for evidence of God in what you'd written? Would they find it?

It's those kinds of questions that I wonder if Paul thought about when he wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus, the people called Ephesians. He was writing to Jesus followers who were struggling with development of the church, discerning how to share the good news of the resurrection, and dealing with conflict. I wonder how surprised Paul would be to know that his letters weren't just read by the people he sent them too, but have been read by literally billions of people over thousands of years in hundreds of languages.



During the month of November we'll be spending time with Paul's letter to Ephesus, asking God for wisdom for today. On Sunday, November 3rd as we celebrate All Saints Day, we'll look to Ephesians 1:11-14 and reflect on the message of an eternal inheritance. On November 10th we'll read Ephesians 2:4-8 and listen for God's message of grace and mercy. How can we find meaning in the same words that our ancestors in the faith were reading so many generations ago? November 17th we're studying Ephesians 4:22-27, talking about conflict and the temptations to accomplish what we want to do in less than honest ways. Fortunately, Paul reminds us that through Jesus there is always redemption and opportunity for a fresh start. We'll conclude the month with Ephesians 6:11-17 and meditate on what the full armor of God looks like for us in 2019.

This month as we're thinking of all God's blessings that we're thankful for, consider finding time to write one more letter. What would you write to the people of Rockford to encourage us and offer reminders of God's love and hope? How might you write a letter called Rockfordians that could be read by Christians another 2,000 years from now? I'd love to hear your thoughts, and if you're feeling called to, consider how you might share that letter with Rockford, whether on social media, in the paper, or by mailing it to someone. Looking forward to another wonderful month with all of you!

-Pastor Violet

God visits the church, but works in the world.

Amazon Shoppers

When you shop with Amazon using smile.amazon.com, you can provide a benefit to our church. Our church will receive 0.5% of the purchase price, deposited in our bank account quarterly.

1. Go to www.smile.amazon.com
2. Log in using your Amazon login and password
3. Select a charity:
 - a. Type Brooke Road in the search box and our full church name will appear
 - b. Select it
4. Select an icon to appear on your device or computer screen
5. Begin to shop as you normally would.
 - a. Most purchases qualify for the reward. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on the product detail page.

To accumulate these rewards for the church, you must use smile.amazon.com, not amazon.com. We appreciate your willingness to help our church in this way!

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

All hands on deck! We still need **LOTS** of help with this project. On the following days we will be wrapping gifts at **CherryVale Mall's Gift-Wrapping Center**:

November 29, 30 and December 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24

Here's where the "fundraiser" part comes in: we are able to accept any money shoppers donate for the convenience of having their gifts wrapped. Can't get much easier than that for a fundraiser! It does take a lot of time and wrappers, but we have loads of fun in the process.

We will also be wrapping gifts at **Barnes and Noble** on the following dates:

December 21, 22, 23 and 24.

If you can donate time on any of the dates listed above, please check sign-up sheets in narthex (available beginning November 4) or contact church office (815-398-8914). Happy wrapping!



Parable of Talents

The Message Bible translation tells the story this way:

God's Kingdom is like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master's investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master's money. After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: "Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner." The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master's investment. His master commended him: "Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner." The servant given one thousand said, "Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent." The master was furious. "That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest. Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this 'play-it-safe' who won't go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness."



Matthew 25:13-30

Ouch! That's a tough message from the master. Why would Jesus tell a story like that as a way of explaining what God's Kingdom is like? Well, all of the parables that Jesus used are designed to help us understand just how different God's way of doing things is from society's way. Of the three servants who tried to figure out what to do with the resources they were given, the one who just holds on to the money is called a criminal and denounced! This is an especially tough message for those of us who have been taught to conserve, to save, and to put away funds for a rainy day – and many of us think that way about our church budget. Instead, God offers us a way of looking at things that promises we'll have enough, not just for ourselves but enough to share. What would it be like if we trusted God that we'll have enough resources not just to care for this church and pay our bills, but that we'll have more than enough? What would we do if we really believed our resources will multiply if we use them to serve the community? What would you do first?

These are the questions we hope you'll be thinking about during Parable of Talents this November. You're invited to participate in this annual ministry by creating something that you're able to make from limited resources, and then offering those goods or services for sale. Beginning **November 3rd**, we'll have tables out in the lobby after church for you to share how you're multiplying the resources God has blessed you with.

This year I want to invite everyone to find a way to share those projects with a wider audience, whether that's by phoning a friend and telling them what you're working on or making a post on social media. Consider sharing something about what you're hoping the proceeds from your work will do – do you want to see more mittens on the mitten tree this year? Can you envision a monthly youth group meeting for teens? Do you want us to have easy to read Bibles to be able to give out to folks? Whatever your dream is for this church, talk about it and share what risk you're willing to take to make that dream come true. God has big plans for The Brooke and our neighborhood, but they won't happen if we keep our resources hidden. Bring your profits to church on **November 24**.

Court Street United Methodist Church Thanksgiving Dinner

Plans are underway for the free Thanksgiving dinner for the lonely and the homeless.

This is an opportunity for members of our congregations to work together in our communities to serve those in need.

**Court Street United Methodist Church
215 North Court Street ~ Rockford, IL 61103**

**Thursday ~ November 28, 2019
11:00am - 1:00pm**

Donations Needed

30 baked pies (store-baked or frozen*)

*frozen pies can be baked at the church if brought in Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning

No frozen pumpkin pies

Cash Donations To

Court Street United Methodist Church
(check memo: Thanksgiving Dinner)

Volunteers Needed

Call Bert at 815-721-4605

Monday, November 25 (morning only)

Tuesday, November 26 (morning only)

Wednesday, November 27 (morning & afternoon)

Thursday, November 28 (starting at 6:00am)

Friday, November 29 (morning only)

Any leftover food will be shared with other programs serving the poor and hungry in our community. Please phone 815-962-6061 at Court Street United Methodist Church if you wish further information.

Thank you for helping others celebrate Thanksgiving Day!

*God Bless you for your service,
Rev. Calvin Culpepper, Pastor
Court Street UMC*

Directory Update

Joe & Joella Warner
4142 John's Farm Road B100
Rockford, IL 61101

Boot Baxter & Chris Beebe
98 North Road
Candia, NH 03034



Sharon, Linda, Nancy, Joanne
Not pictured: Doreen

Quilts for the Homeless

What a blessing this group of quilters is! A Bible verse and our church name are added to each quilt. In the past six years, they've donated 457 quilts to local agencies, including Carpenter's Place, Mother House Crisis Nursery, and Rockford Rescue Mission. Awesome ministry, ladies!

Long ago, a Baby was born in Bethlehem that would change the world. He came as our Messiah, to redeem and deliver us. This cantata celebrates the coming Messiah with a worshipful retelling of the Christmas story. Come along as we worship the newborn King, born to save us all!

Join us **Sunday, December 15th during 10:00am Worship** to hear this year's Christmas Cantata, "**Messiah ~ Heaven's Glory**" directed by Vicki Jacobson.



Advent Bible Study

Mondays ~ 5:30pm
December 2, 9, 16, 23

Join us at parsonage
(4949 Radnor Drive ~ Rockford, IL 61109)
for this year's Advent study

New Member Class

Sundays ~ 11:30am - Noon
November 3, 10, 17



Christmas Poinsettias

Brooke Road members and friends are invited to order and purchase Christmas Poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary Christmas Eve. Please indicate below how many plants you wish to purchase, and in whose honor or memory you wish to dedicate them. You are invited to take your poinsettias home following the Christmas Eve Service.

Given by: _____

of plants (\$9.50 each): Red _____ White _____
Pink _____ Marble _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Please enclose payment of \$9.50 for each poinsettia with this form
and return to the church office no later than Sunday, December 1, 2019.
Please make check payable to Brooke Road UMC and note "Poinsettia" on memo line.
Thank you.



Saturday
November 30, 2019 ~ 9:00am

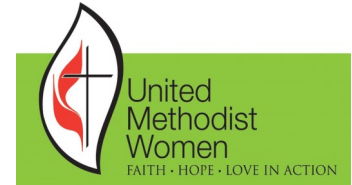
Wish List

Forever Postage stamps

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Thank you! Thank you!

To those who supported the Rockford District Mission Project the end of September. Our collection included 3 head lice kits, 1 head lice shampoo, dial soap, 2 shampoo, 8 deodorants, 5 tubes of toothpaste, 9 toothbrushes, 2 tissues, 1 wipe and 7 tampons. Just a couple of sentences about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program: It is a federal program; the parents of these children are working; the children move schools on an average of 3 times each school year; when they move, they take everything they can with them. The definition of homeless is no fixed, adequate regular place to sleep and there are 3200 in the Rockford area.



Beginning in October, UMW will no longer coordinate the monthly meal at Carpenter's Place. The Outreach Committee will resume that.

The November meeting will be the Thank Offering Program given by Lyla Flynn. The Thank Offering is taken to support UMW Mission Work. Our hostess is Sandy McCallum.

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following
Current Fund information:

September income: \$9155.56 September disbursements: \$9865.69

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

Outreach Team

Thanksgiving Food Boxes

Six boxes will be donated to Children's Home and Aid (donation list will be in narthex November 3). If you know a local family in need of food this holiday season, please contact church office.

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 3, is *All Saints Sunday* in the church year and a very special day of worship and remembrance at Brooke Road United Methodist Church. During worship we will celebrate the lives of those members and friends of Brooke Road who have died this past year by reading their names and placing a flower on the altar in their memory. Special prayers and music will be a part of the morning as we remember all the saints and give thanks for their lives, and we truly hope you can join us for worship that day. We plan to honor those who have passed by sharing some photographs with the congregation. If you have a picture of your loved one that you would be willing to share a copy of, we would be very grateful. You can mail a copy to the church office or email it to brookeroadumc@outlook.com.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st

Jim Groff
Connie Harker

5th

Mary Danekas

8th

Lori Harvel

11th

Michael Dobbs

14th

Bentley Pirrello

21st

Linda Ace

22nd

Phil Schwab

24th

Jim Zimmerman

28th

Don Olson

29th

Georgia Joiner
Irene Stepp

13th

Jerry & Linda Johnson

18th

Don & Mary Olson

24th

Robert & Jacki Shaver

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
Ian Long
Harvey May
Jackie Parod
John Pippel
Vicky Quist
John Sauer
Robert Shaver

Phyllis Stafseth
Charlene Taylor
Laurece Thompson
Phil & Vivian Schwab
Nancy & Jerry Wickson
Tom & Cynthia Zolk
Maxine Zolk
Diane Zwirblis
Pastor Violet, Kyle, & Lincoln

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> 10:00am Worship 11:30am New Member Class Parable Market place 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>4</u> 6:00pm Christian Ed	<u>5</u> 9:00am TOPS	<u>6</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>7</u> 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 9:00am SPRC
<u>10</u> 10:00am Worship 11:30am New Member Class Parable Market place 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>11</u> 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>12</u> 9:00am TOPS 1:00pm UMW 5:30pm Finance 6:30pm Trustees	<u>13</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>14</u> 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> 10:00am Worship 11:30am New Member Class Parable Market place 5:00pm Girl Scouts Book Group at Warners'	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> 9:00am TOPS Noon Mona's Paper Angel Closet 5:00pm Outreach 6:00pm Council	<u>20</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>21</u> 10:00am Bible Study at Doughboy Donuts	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts	<u>25</u> 12:30pm Serve lunch at Carpenter's Place	<u>26</u> 9:00am TOPS	<u>27</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>28</u> Office Closed	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 9:00am Decorate church for Advent

**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

Fax: 815-398-8911

www.brookeroadumc@outlook.com

www.the-brooke.org

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

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.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Violet Johnicker

Phone 847-651-4857

Email violet@the-brooke.org

Address 4949 Radnor Drive
Rockford, IL 61109

Church Office

Phone 815-398-8914

Email brookeroadumc@outlook.com

Website the-brooke.org

Hours Monday-Thursday
9:00am-3:30pm