

The Brooke - September 2017

Greetings to Members and Friends of The Brooke!

Another summer has passed and another school year is ahead of us. Where did the summer go? I, for one, love buying school supplies with my kids every year and I can't resist buying something for myself every time. I remember the days when we had to follow the list that the school provided so that we knew exactly what to buy: 16-count crayons - check; 24 pencils - check; 6 folders with pockets - check.

Since all my children have moved on to college, however, we are no longer supplied with such lists. At first, it's a little frightening to not have a list to check off items with. My kids have to actually "guesstimate" the school supplies they will need for the WHOLE year. Sometimes, it's hard to predict whether or not you'll need 3 or 4 extra packages of loose-leaf paper. More often than not, however, things have worked out so that their school supply lasts the whole year.

Where are you in your stage of Christian life? Have you "graduated" from middle school and are now in your high school years in terms of faith formation? Or are you in your college years or in your graduate school years? It doesn't matter how old you are chronologically, what matters is how old you are in terms of your faith. Expectations from those whose faith are in the "college" or "graduate" stages should be higher than those whose faith is still in the "middle school years." And if you are in the "middle school" years, what steps are you taking to ensure that you graduate and will be moving on to your "high school years?" It sometimes is easier to be handed a "list" of what we should do every year. But like all things in life, we need to be moving on and be constantly growing.

Stagnancy is not an option for Christians. We come to a point when we no longer need a "list" because we are led by the Holy Spirit instead. We trust that the Holy Spirit will tell us what we'll need, what needs to be done, and where we're going. That's why it is so comforting to know that we are not alone in this life journey. Let's walk together, hand in hand.

Blessings,

Pastor Nancy

Pastor Nancy will be leading a 12-week session for Adult Sunday School starting September 3. It will be titled "Methodism 101" and will explore the basic history, beliefs and polity of The United Methodist Church. This will also be a great time for those seeking to become members of The Brooke to come and learn about The United Methodist Church. All are invited and welcome to attend at 9:00am on Sundays.

Children's Sunday School will also be held from 9:00am to 9:45am, starting September 3. Our children are welcome and expected to stay during the Sunday worship services starting September 3.

September 3 – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Readings: Exodus 3:1-15 and Matthew 16:21-28

The scripture focus is Exodus 3:2 “There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.”

The title of the sermon will be: “Fire”

It had been forty years since Moses had killed an Egyptian overseer who had treated some of his people particularly harshly. It has been forty years since Moses' exile into the wilderness of Midian where he sought refuge with the local priest's family and married his daughter to escape prosecution and possible execution. That was a lifetime ago. Surely there were still some memories, some wonderings about what was happening there. But the memories were faded. The wonderings were few and far between. Until that fire. That mysterious fire. That fascinating, tremor-inducing fire. That holy fire. That fire from which the Holy One continued to speak. Moses may have left his former life behind him, but the Holy One did not.

September 10 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Readings: Exodus 12:1-14 and Matthew 18:15-20

The scripture focus is Exodus 12:14 “This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.”

The title of the sermon will be: “Passover”

Death may seem a very odd place to celebrate creation. However, death has accompanied all life on earth since the time of the first and smallest of creatures. The instructions for the Passover celebration addresses death head on. The Passover lamb will die. The body of the lamb is handled in a very specific way so that its death functions as a channel of life, strength, and protection in the face of a profoundly deadly plague about to encompass humans and animals alike where they are held captive. Let's discuss how death, in its variety of forms, is both life-giving and destructive where we are.

September 17 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Readings: Exodus 14:19-31 and Matthew 18:21-35

The scripture focus is Exodus 14:21 “Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea.

The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.”

The title of the sermon will be: “Sky, Wind, and Sea”

Through a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire in the sky by night, God leads a newly-freed people out of harm's way and toward a new homeland. Through a "strong East wind" God creates a path through the sea for the people to walk on, then lets the sea close in on a pursuing Egyptian army. In this way, sky, wind, and sea all became channels of deliverance for these people.

September 24 – Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Readings: Exodus 16:1-15 and Matthew 20:1-16

The scripture focus is Exodus 16:8 – “The people quarreled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’”

The title of the sermon will be: “Water”

The scripture reading from Exodus focuses particularly on our need (and the need of all living things) for water and God's gracious provision of it. In the story from Exodus, there is reason to be concerned. The people were in a wilderness, a desert, far from any visible water source. They would, in fact, die if they could not obtain water soon. They had not exhausted any wells or streams, nor polluted any to make them undrinkable. They had simply followed Moses (and God) to a place where there simply was no water to be had as far as they eye could see. Safe supplies of water remain a significant concern globally. Unsafe water spreads disease and death. How does our community relate to water supplies? How do our congregation model trust in God to provide and, at the same time, wise stewardship of the gift of water so not only us, but all living creatures, may be blessed by it?

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Our meeting is September 12, 2017 at 1 PM and we meet in the lower level. The program is on Racial Justice. Our hostesses are Hazel Dyke and Mickey Navarro. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Thank you, thank you! We collected 108 pounds of peanut butter and jelly for Rock River Pantry. Their goal: 20,000 jars; collected: 21,758 jars. Thanks all!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2017 Fall Mission Project

Rock House Kids

Meeting the needs of children 6 – 18

We will collect small LED flashlights and batteries for the children from September 10th through September 25th.

Please help us keep the children safe.

Diabetes Group

Diabetes Group – September 20 at 10 AM is our first meeting date for fall. Discussion about diabetes self- management issues that people have is the format for the meeting. Anyone with diabetes or who lives with someone with diabetes or is just interested is welcome.

OSF Health Care Cardiovascular Institute at 444 Roxbury Road is offering the 6-week diabetes self-management program from 9/14 through 10/19 from 1 – 3:30 PM.

Call Sue Scott at 815-222-1299 to register.

Grandparent's Sunday

We will be celebrating grandparents Sunday, September 10th. Bring your grandchildren with you to church or bring a picture to share.

Cottage Meetings

Come get to know Pastor Nancy and Alvin. Scheduled dates so far:

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday, September 16 | 3:00pm - 5:00pm | at Warners' home | 7543 McGregor Rd, Rockford |
| Saturday, November 18 | Noon - 3:00pm | at parsonage | 4949 Radnor Dr, Rockford |

The
Church
Office



Will Be
Closed:

Labor Day

Monday

September 4, 2017

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday

November 23, 2017

Sanctuary Choir

Sanctuary Choir rehearsals are held

Wednesdays at 7:00pm (resumed August 30rd).

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

July income: \$11,663.14 July disbursements: \$8,196.56

This information is always available by contacting Joanne Talbott (Finance Chair), or Sandy McCallum (Treasurer).

Christian Education

Sunday School for children and adults

New time 9:00 AM

Worship 10:00 AM

Starting September 3 the Sunday School time will change to 9:00 AM. This will allow the children and teachers the opportunity to be in the worship service at 10:00 AM.

The adult class will be led by Pastor Nancy and for the fall quarter the topic will be

Methodism 101: Our History and Doctrines.

Teacher helpers are needed in the Sunday School. Can you help even one Sunday a month? Please see Mary Ann Sarver for details.

Thanks to Nancy Wickson for the great job in leading the Summer adult class study of Christianity and Islam.

Clarification for Schnucks Cards

If you got your Schnucks card at the store, it probably is not linked to the Brooke. Therefore we will not receive any rebates based on what you spend. If you need one linked to the church, please see Sandy McCallum to get one. Thank you.

Book Group

We meet on a Sunday evening at 6 PM at Warner's. We have a light supper and discuss the book for that month. The date is decided from meeting to meeting. Anyone is welcome, just let us know you are coming so we have enough food.

Our September through February selections are:

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| September | Small Great Things (meeting is the 17 th at 5 PM) | by Jodi Picoult |
| October | Hidden Figures | by Margot Lee Shatterly |
| November | The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane | by Lisa See |
| December | The Boys in the Boat | by Daniel James Brown |
| January | Morning on Horseback | by David McCollough |
| February | When the Moon is Low | by Nadia Hashimi |

Becoming a Green Church...

2. Green your living space – Water Use:
 - Do not let water run while doing tasks.
 - Install low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators.
 - Repair faucet leaks and toilet runs immediately.
 - Take a shower rather than a bath and shower less often.
 - Wash dishes and laundry on full load.

To be continued...

Harvest Fest

Thursday ~ October 5 ~ 5:00pm- 8pm

Shelter Care Ministries is hosting Harvest Fest to celebrate Jubilee Center, a program that serves adults with chronic mental illness who are at risk of homelessness. This is a family-friendly event that includes supper, activities for children, live music and raffles. For reservations, go to www.shelter-care.org and click on Harvest Fest link. Jubilee Center is located at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 412 N. Church Street, Rockford.

Volunteer Opportunities

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <u>Visitation Team</u> | Ongoing Visit shut-ins, hospital patients Contact office | 815-398-8914 |
| <u>Paper Angel Closet</u> | 3rd Tuesdays Sort & fill bags, visit with guests Contact Mary Danekas | 10:30am 815-874-1837 |
| <u>Carpenter's Place Lunch</u> | 4th Mondays Deliver/serve provided lunch to Carpenter's Place clients Contact Joella Warner | 11:00am - 1:30pm 815-335-7248 |
| <u>Nursery</u> | During Sunday Worship Provide snacks, read to children Sign-up in lobby | |
| <u>Greeters</u> | Before Sunday Worship Welcome those who come to Sunday Service Provide a hug, hand shake or smile Contact Cheryl May | 779-772-2673 |
| <u>Quilting Sew-In</u> | Once each month Help piece quilts Bring money for lunch (or bring your own lunch) Contact Joanne Talbott | 9:00am - 4:00pm 815-519-0035 |
| <u>Sunday School</u> | Sunday mornings Children's class Contact Mary Ann Sarver | 8:45am - 9:45am 815-399-1258 |

Healthy Church, Hopeful Future

The great spiritual migration – called to be a movement not an institution.
We are in a unique place and context is everything.

To claim our Mission Field, we can use the tools to begin strategic discovery:

- Mission Insight Demographics – we have access to this information
- Prayer Walking
- One-to-one community conversations
- Gathering community leaders.

Some examples of people most receptive:

- Second time visitors
- Friends of new believers
- Divorced
- First time parents
- Struggling in marriage
- Parental challenges
- Financial issues
- New residents
- Illness
- Recovery issues

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st

Aubrey Groff

2nd

Jackie Hartzell
Tom Boese

6th

Anne-Marie White

11th

John Sauer

13th

Michele Dobbs

15th

Betty Bennett

16th

Bethany Vidad

17th

Christopher White

19th

Vivian Schwab

20th

Dale Stanford

22nd

Char Doyle

27th

Barbara Witz

28th

Debbie Hintzsche

15th

Richard & Sharon Albee
Jim & Becky Groff

19th

Rick & Sandy Moderhack

25th

Michael & Michele Dobbs

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

Our Homebound

June Durham, Ardene Friest, John Pippel,
John Sauer, Doug Skrinski, Charlene Taylor

Family and Friends

Chris Beebe, Dorothy Benjamin, Rick Bried, Marion Carlson,
Dorothy Carpenter, Mary Danekas, Lil Dietz, John Houghtaling,
Mike McClanahan, Phil & Vivian Schwab, Dean Smith, Laurece Thompson, Shirley Walker

September 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | | | | | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <p><u>3</u> 9:00am Sunday School (adults & kids) 10:00am Worship</p> | <p><u>4</u> Office Closed for Labor Day</p> | <p><u>5</u> 6:00pm Nominations Committee</p> | <p><u>6</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p> | <p><u>7</u></p> | <p><u>8</u></p> | <p><u>9</u> 9:00am - 10:30am SPRC</p> |
| <p><u>10</u> 9:00am Sunday School (adults & kids) 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts</p> | <p><u>11</u> 5:30pm Christian Ed</p> | <p><u>12</u> 1:00pm UMW 5:30pm Finance 6:00pm Trustees</p> | <p><u>13</u> 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p> | <p><u>14</u></p> | <p><u>15</u></p> | <p><u>16</u> 3:00pm - 5:00pm Cottage Meeting at Warners'</p> |
| <p><u>17</u> 9:00am Sunday School (adults & kids) 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Girl Scouts 5:00pm Book Group at Warners'</p> | <p><u>18</u></p> | <p><u>19</u> 10:30am Paper Angel Closet 6:30pm Council</p> | <p><u>20</u> 10:00am Diabetes Group 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p> | <p><u>21</u></p> | <p><u>22</u></p> | <p><u>23</u></p> |
| <p><u>24</u> 9:00am Sunday School (adults & kids) 10:00am Worship Parlor Dedication 5:00pm Girl Scouts</p> | <p><u>25</u></p> | <p><u>26</u></p> | <p><u>27</u> 9:00am Breakfast at Alpine View 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p> | <p><u>28</u></p> | <p><u>29</u></p> | <p><u>30</u></p> |

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.the-brooke.org

BROOKE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1404 BROOKE ROAD
ROCKFORD, IL 61109

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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 Schedule

9:00am

Sunday School for Adults & Kids

10:00am

Worship

(Nursery available for NB - 4 years)

Following Worship

Fellowship

Dedication

Please join us for special fellowship time
following 10:00am worship Sunday,
September 24 when we will dedicate
The Westlund Parlor in honor of Bob Westlund.