

The Brooke July, 2018

Dear Church Family,

Won't you be my neighbor? Those familiar words of Mr. Rogers are more than a catchphrase – they're an invitation to community and connection with one another. Fred Rogers was actually an ordained Presbyterian pastor who followed his calling to ministry for children by creating the PBS program that ran on TV for more than thirty years. His show premiered in 1968 – the same year the cornerstone for Brooke Road UMC's sanctuary was laid. Ministry isn't limited to working in a church, and Mr. Rogers proved that every day as his messages of love and affirmation reached families in their living rooms across the country.



It's from Mister Rogers' Neighborhood that we take our inspiration for the July sermon series, "Wont' You Be My Neighbor?" You may have seen that a movie about this iconic show just came out, and we're working on scheduling a church trip to go see the film together. Reviews have called the movie, "a balm of kindness and empathy in these troubled, divisive times," which I think we could all use a little more of. With that in mind, I've prepared a sermon series on what it means to be a neighbor and just how radically countercultural real neighborliness can be today.

Throughout July, we'll look at five passages in scripture about what it really means to love our neighbors and ask what those stories might mean for us in Rockford in 2018. On July 1st when we celebrate communion, we'll dive into the familiar story of the Good Samaritan and why that's the story Jesus gave as an answer to a lawyer's question in Luke 10:29, "Who is my neighbor?" On July 8th we'll turn to Amos 5 and the line made famous by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "let justice roll down like rivers and righteousness like a never-failing stream." This passage invites us to ask how we can live out our love for neighbor through policy advocacy, and we'll reflect on some misconceptions about what "separation of church and state" means as we recognize the 4th of July, considering how protest can be a form of patriotism.

On July 15th we'll worship outdoors and give thanks for our neighbors in all of creation – the trees, the flowers, the sky, and every beautiful thing God created. The message that day will begin a two week study of the second chapter of James, which offers wisdom about who we are to really see as our neighbors and work to include – not just the rich and powerful, but neighbors who we find anywhere, especially in our own community. On July 22nd we'll continue through James and consider what the phrase "faith without works is dead" is saying to us in our church today. We have a lot of great ministries to celebrate and plenty of room to grow! On July 29th we'll wrap up the series with Isaiah 65 and God's promise that our work is not in vain, but that change and renewal are coming as long as we're willing to work for it.

It has been a wonderful first month with my new church family at Brooke Road, and I'm looking forward to many, many more. Please look over the rest of this newsletter and consider signing up for volunteer opportunities or suggesting a new ministry initiative you might feel called to! I'm praying for each and every one of you, and ask that you continue to keep Kyle and me in prayer as well. Hope to see you Sunday!

-Violet

Medication Collection

First, a bit of history: for several years we have offered the opportunity for you to bring expired, unneeded, old medications to a collection box at church, and they would be taken to the Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful medication collection.

This year I learned that Walgreens offers a secure collection box for them. With KNIB we could only bring pills, capsules and powders. The Walgreens info says they allow both prescription and over-the-counter medications such as pills, capsules, powders, ointments, creams, aerosol cans, inhalers, liquids, lotions, patches, vitamins and pet medications.

The container I used at Walgreens was at the back of the store in the Pharmacy department. Anyone can use it at any time.

I will collect meds again in October for those who don't wish to take them to Walgreens.

Sandy McCallum

Christian Education

Welcome to Pastor Violet and Kyle.

VBS has been moved to August to give Pastor Violet time to get acclimated to us. (see page four for more information).

Crafts, Science, Stories, and Games have leaders.

Still needed:

Food donations Decorating, set-up and tear-down
Please!

There will be a VBS planning meeting July 2 at 11:30am.

I have a question:

Does anyone want an outside sermon one Sunday this summer or early in September when it's not so hot?

Jack and Linda Schelin have planned on teaching (dates to be announced)

Mary Ann Sarver has suggested not to have summer Sunday School lessons, only nursery, until September unless visiting children come.

We look for your input.

Have a pleasant summer. Let's all welcome and support our new Pastor Violet and show her how close our Christian family is.

Jacki Shaver
Christian Education Chair

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

May income:	\$ 9,154.55
May disbursements:	\$12,617.69

This information is always available to anyone who wants it by contacting Judy Parks (Finance Chair), or Sandy McCallum (Treasurer).

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Thank you everyone for helping with our peanut butter & jelly drive. We'll know later how much we collected.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 11, at 1 PM here at the church. Our speaker will be Pastor Violet and Char Doyle and Jackie Parod are hostesses.

Diabetes Group

The Diabetes Group will take July and August off and meet on September 19, 2018 at 10 AM in the library.

Fellowship

For the past few weeks, Mona Wilson has been cleaning up after fellowship. We thank her for participating in this vital ministry.

Directory Update

Tyler Pirrello & Sara Helser

918 S. Adams Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032

Ann Phillips

815-997-2673 (cell)
annphillips.206@gmail.com

Deborah Riggs

815-668-2186

Name Tags & Directory

Please be sure to wear your name tag during worship and fellowship. This is nice for visitors and will be especially helpful for Pastor Violet and Kyle Johnicker. If you need a name tag, please print name on list in narthex.

If you have changed your address, phone and/or email address and have not yet notified office, please do so as soon as possible. We're not able to update directory if you don't provide new information to us.

Outdoor Worship Service

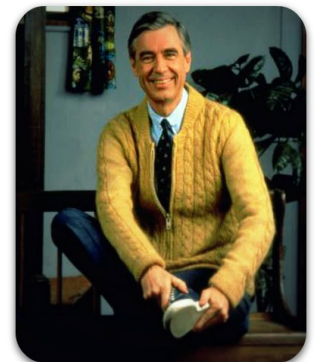
Sunday, July 15th (Rain date July 22)

Join us for worship at 10:00am followed by potluck. Please bring a dish to share. And friends and neighbors!

Mr Rogers Movie

"Won't You Be My Neighbor"

A group from church will be seeing this movie
Sunday, July 1 at 1:45pm
at Showplace 16 in Rockford.
We'll meet in theater lobby at 1:30pm. Join us!



August Sermon Series: You Asked for It!

What questions do you have about God, faith, church, the Bible, life...or anything? You're invited to submit your ideas for a summer sermon topic and Pastor Violet will respond to as many as she can during the month of August.

And while we're brainstorming, what's something you'd like to see in worship, or do you have a special talent you'd like to share? We'd love your ideas! Poetry, dance, skits, puppets, special music - let us know what you'd like to see and how you'd like to be involved.

Forms are available in narthex.

The Worship Committee



Brooke Road United Methodist

Vacation Bible School

August 6, 2018 - August 9, 2018

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Kids through age 13

Save the dates for Vacation Bible School!

Volunteers still needed:

Crafts

Kitchen

Recreation

Decorations

Marketing & Outreach

Rockford's kids are invited to a week of fun, music, crafts, science, Bible stories, and dinners at Brooke Road UMC! Kids through age 13 are welcome to participate, and older kids and adults are needed as volunteers. Registration is free, and includes dinners each evening and a free t-shirt for each kid, as well as all kinds of cool take-home crafts. Contact Jacki to volunteer or with any questions, and click here to register online: <http://bit.ly/BRUMCVBS> or ask for a paper registration form from the church office. A VBS planning meeting will be held at the church on **July 2nd at 11:30am** and all are welcome.

Vacation Bible School Registration

Date _____ T-Shirt (Kids Size) S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___

Name _____

Address _____
Number and street city state zip

Birth Date ___/___/___ Age ___ Home Phone _____

Emergency Contact

Name

Address phone

Parent/Guardian

Name

Address phone

Allergies or other conditions which may limit activity

Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)

Justice for Our Neighbors, JFON, is a free immigration legal clinic. In Rockford, the clinic is usually the 4th Sunday of the month, 2:00-5:30 p.m., at Court Street United Methodist Church, 215 N. Court St., Rockford, IL 61103. To make an appointment, call 773 609-4401 or e-mail appointments@nijfon.org.

Hospitality

This includes greeting at the front door. There's an early shift and a late shift on Sunday afternoon, and two people are on each shift. This occasionally involves a little trouble shooting, but the main jobs are to get people signed in and introduced in the hospitality room and to help the clients and visitors feel welcomed and comfortable.

Another job is helping in the hospitality room. This means welcoming people when the greeters bring them to the room and offer them food and a puzzle or other activity while the clients wait. Keep the refreshment table looking nice and the coffee made. If you feel comfortable doing it, you can make small talk with people as they wait. The hospitality coordinators try to be aware of the clients and the volunteers in the room. This job can also include helping to set up and take down. Actually, hospitality is in the job description of everyone — help the clients and visitors feel welcomed.

Child Engagement

Two people at each clinic staff the children's area. There are games, art supplies, toys, and kid-friendly snacks here. Babies usually stay with their parents or grandparents. Older children do puzzles or art in the hospitality room. The children's area has children from toddler to upper elementary as a rule.

Intake Interviews

The coordinator of this area trains the volunteer the first time. For the citizenship form, there's training at 1:00pm before a clinic. There are paper intake forms for new clients and computerized forms for follow-up clients. There are interpreters to help with these interviews and with the attorney interviews if needed. Bilingual people interview in either language, as needed. Usually three to six people are needed for interviewing at each clinic.

Interpreters

Mostly Spanish but sometimes other languages.

Case Manager

This person assists the attorney and intake interviewers by making copies of original documents for the client file. Another job is to prepare file folders and put documents in the correct order. Sometimes this person acts as back-up for the intake coordinators by matching clients, interviewers, and rooms.

Education and Advocacy

Outside the clinic there are other ways to be involved in advocacy and education. Although we're still developing in these areas, we have provided volunteers in citizenship training classes and at citizenship workshops that helped immigrants fill out citizenship applications. Also, some volunteers have lobbied in Springfield and on local issues and have contacted legislators on immigrant issues. We expect to do more of these activities.

Volunteers have rights too and you can always say no if asked to work on a certain day.

Justice For Our Neighbors (continued)

What every volunteer should know

- An important point is that clinics are confidential. You don't talk about clients in identifying ways outside the clinic. If you see a client someplace else, you wait until they recognize and acknowledge you before speaking to them.
- Volunteers don't give legal advice or even say something that might be construed as legal advice. We can listen actively if a client talks about the case (this actually hardly ever happens) and make neutral replies, but we can't say something like, "It sounds like you have a good case" or "I'm sure everything will turn out okay."
- People who are mandated reporters in some other area of their lives are limited in the jobs they can do at the monthly clinics according to the Rockford clinic's current policy. The main job available at a clinic is as greeter. It's an important job and allows some interaction with clients. Plus, education and advocacy can be done.

If there are any other questions, or if you would like to become a volunteer with JFON, let me know and I will send you forms to complete and sign.

Mary English
815-397-4883
Volunteer Coordinator
Rockford JFON

July Birthdays

July 1

Kayleigh Hughes
Amy Williams

July 7

Dorothy Benjamin
Bob Westlund

July 13

Bettye Mixon
Roberta Montgomery

July 19

Tianna Groff
Holden Groff
Pastor Violet

July 24

Chance Cowan
Kerren Wallace

July Anniversaries

16th

Jim & Judy Zimmerman

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

John Pippel, John Sauer, Doug Skrinski, Charlene Taylor

Family and Friends

Boots Baxter, Chris Beebe, Dorothy Benjamin, Rick Bried, Jeff Bennett,
Dorothy Carpenter, Ardene Friest, Joanne McKinney, Dan O'Connell,
Phil & Vivian Schwab, Ronna Tewell, Laurece Thompson, Maxine Zolk, Diane Zwirblis

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u> 10:00am Worship 1:45pm Mr. Rogers movie at Showplace 16 (meet in theater lobby at 1:30pm)	<u>2</u> 11:30am VBS meeting 5:30pm Christian Ed	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> Office Closed	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> 9:00am SPRC
<u>8</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> 5:45pm Finance 6:00pm Trustee	<u>11</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>15</u> 10:00am Outside Worship Following Worship Potluck	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> 10:30am Paper Angel Closet 6:00pm Council	<u>18</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> 9:00am Quilters	<u>21</u>
<u>22</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Book Group at Warners'	<u>23</u> 12:30pm Serve lunch at Carpenter's Place	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> 9:00am Breakfast at Alpine View 6:00pm Celebration Choir	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>29</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>30</u>	<u>31</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

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

Website: www.the-brooke.org

Email:

brookeroadumc@outlook.com



Sunday Schedule

10:00am

Worship

(Nursery available for NB - 4 years)

Pastor Violet

Phone 847-651-4857

Email violet@the-brooke.org

Church Office

Phone: 815-398-8914

Email: brookeroadumc@outlook.com

Website the-brooke.org

Address: 1404 Brooke Road

Rockford, IL 61109

Hours: M -Th ~ 9:00am - 3:30pm