

The Brooke ~ January ~ 2019

Dear Church Family,

2018 has been a year of change for The Brooke! You've welcomed Kyle and me with such kindness and hospitality, and we've been overjoyed to make Rockford our home. There are so many ways in which you have been the hands and feet of Jesus in this community, and it is an honor to serve alongside you. As we're looking ahead to 2019, we have one more change to look forward to – we're expecting a baby in July! Kyle and I couldn't be happier because we know this is a wonderful place to raise a child. We both plan to take parental leave from work during the summer and return full-time to our jobs as soon as we're able. I love this work and I love this church, and I can assure you that you'll still be seeing a lot of me, even as we'll welcome some wonderful guest preachers in July and August.

In the meantime, we've got a busy schedule ahead as we prepare for an exciting new sermon series in January and February. Beginning January 6th, we'll take a look at passages in scripture that teach us about prayer. Now we're not just talking the quiet, hands clasped, head bowed, quiet kind of prayer – we're talking every version of prayer that God has ever moved people to: spontaneous prayer, written prayer, praying in large groups or with one other person, praying with our feet through action, and so many more.

The series is called "Prayer And..." because as Christians, we deeply believe in the power of prayer AND we believe God has equipped us with brains and bodies and privileges to do good work. Here's a quick outline of what we've got coming up:

January 6	Prayer and Casseroles	Luke 22:7-20
January 13	Prayer and Presence	Mark 2:1-12
January 20	Prayer and Action	Daniel 6:1-23
January 27	Prayer and Silence	Habakkuk 2:18-20
February 3	Prayer and Medicine	Luke 5:12-26
February 10	Prayer and Sex	1 Corinthians 6:12-7:40
February 17	Prayer and Gratitude	1 Thessalonians 5:9-25
February 24	Prayer and Prophets	Acts 5:12-32
March 3	Prayer and Perseverance	John 17:6-26

And then it's almost Lent, my goodness how the time flies! I hope you'll join us for this series and I'm looking forward to some good discussion.

If you miss a week or aren't able to come to church these days, did you know you can listen to sermons on the website? Just go to the-brooke.org/sermons and click on the week you'd like to hear. If you don't have a computer or internet access on your phone, I'm more than happy to print out a copy of my sermon manuscript and mail it to you anytime. Just give us a call at the office and we'll send it right over.

My prayer for you as we look toward this new year is that you will open your heart to all that God is already doing in the world and all God is calling you to do. You are uniquely gifted to share the good news in a way no one else can, and you have something to contribute to the Kingdom of God that only you can do. Thanks be to God for each and every one of you, and I look forward to a year of many blessings together!

-Pastor Violet

From Our District Superintendent

It is good news of great joy! Okay, I guess maybe I stole that headline (i.e. Luke 2!) However, it is wonderful news that there will be a baby in the Brooke Road parsonage! What an exciting time for Pastor Violet and Kyle and the Brooke Road family. I remember when I was in my first appointment in Virginia when Geoffrey and I were expecting our first child, Moriah (you may have seen her or worked with her at the gift-wrapping station!) It was an exciting time for all of us and I have fond memories of so much love that was showered upon us. In reflecting on my experiences, I would like to offer some advice to you all:

* Do not be afraid! Some schedules and ministry times might change due to baby schedules. Perhaps the meeting needs to be re-scheduled or the Lenten Bible Study will take place at a different time during the day. If so, don't worry! Violet is capable and trustworthy and will continue to offer you energetic and engaging ministry – just maybe at a different time.

* Offer your help.....There was a lovely retired couple that lived near our parsonage and church who helped watch Moriah when I needed to go to the hospital, make visits, etc. They were such a gift to us! but not your unsolicited advice! Many of the “experienced” mothers and grand-mothers in the congregation felt like they could comment on our routines, feedings, etc, While this was no doubt given with good intentions, it left me feeling like our pastor/member relationship was somehow altered. Don't worry – if Violet needs advice on something, she will ask.

* Communication remains key. In the coming months, Violet will be sharing with you any information you need that impacts ministry (like worship details while she is on maternity leave); and it is every member's responsibility to talk directly with Violet about your ministry needs/concerns. And, just so everyone is aware, according to The Book of Discipline 2016, pastors get up to 8 weeks of paid maternity/paternity leave.

I join with you in celebrating and I look forward to greeting this new life who is coming to live with you all! Blessings of peace and joy!

*Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford,
Rockford District Superintendent*

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 many 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.

Until next year....

Directory Update

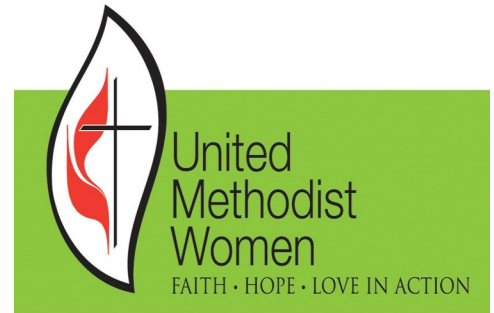
Shelby Coleman
779-200-5052

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

On December 17, 2018, one hundred (100) table favors were delivered to Carpenter's Place. There was a tissue packet and lip balm stick for each.

Thanks to those who helped us provide the two funeral luncheons.

Join us on January 8, 2019 for our regular meeting. Mary Pulliam from One Body Collaborative will speak about the mission and work for what we know as the Paper Angel Closet. The meeting is at 1 PM and if the lift is not working, we will meet in the Adult Classroom. Judy Parks and Sharon Albee are hostesses.



BE JUST BE GREEN

Please no Styrofoam products and remember to recycle plastic & paper. Recycle bins are located in Wesley Hall outside the kitchen, in the Narthex by the table, and in the Office behind the door.

HELP WANTED

Each Sunday, Fellowship treats are provided after Worship. For the past several months, Mona Wilson volunteered to clean up afterward. Now we need a volunteer to serve in this ministry of cleaning up. See Sharon Semple or Joella Warner for details. Thank you.

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

November income: \$11,533.94 **November disbursements: \$13,860.39**

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

Outreach



Thank you to all who
donated for the Christmas baskets.

January Birthdays

11th

Wendy Adams

12th

Lorraine Cline

13th

Sandy McCallum

Chris Mills

16th

Robert Shaver

19th

Boots Baxter

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

Boots Baxter
Chris Beebe
Teresa Beebe
Rick Bried
Dorothy Carpenter
Shelby Coleman
John & Hazel Dyke
Ardene Friest

Jackie Hartzell
Jerry Johnson
Harvey May
Mike McClanahan
Matt McConnel
John Pippel
Vicky Quist
John Sauer

Charlene Taylor
Laurece Thompson
Phil & Vivian Schwab
Bob Westlund
Maxine Zolk
Diane Zwirblis
Pastor Violet & Kyle

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<u>1</u> Office Closed	<u>2</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>3</u> 5pm Worship Grant	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> 1:00pm UMW 5:30pm Finance 6:30pm Trustees	<u>9</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> 9:00 SPRC
<u>13</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> 10:30am Mona's Paper Angel Closet 6:00pm Council	<u>16</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>21</u> Office Closed	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<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