

Get to Know God Better!

²² So Paul stood before the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects. ²³ For as I went around and observed closely your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown god.’ Therefore, what you worship without knowing it, this I proclaim to you.

Acts 17:22-23, NET



The “**unknown god**” is the subject of Paul’s message to the Athenians. Paul realized that we all need to be reminded of the expression in (verse 28): “*In him we live and move and have our being.*” God is not Someone “*who lives in shrines built by human hands,*” for one (v. 24); second, he is not “*served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all humans life and breath and all things*” (v. 25); and third, God is not “*an image formed by the art and imagination of humans*” (v. 29). In other words, God does not dwell in these buildings we call cathedrals and churches; we do not serve God because God needs to be served, but only because it is “*our reasonable act of worship*” (Romans 12:1) to do so; and last, God is more than an image we ourselves construct and imagine. God rejects our attempts to cast him in our own image; instead, he calls us to “*repent*” (v. 30) and be made in the image of God.

Paul continues this same rhetoric in Hebrews chapter 2:10: “*God, for whom and through whom all things exist.*” Okay, most of us can go with “*through whom.*” But “*for whom*” — now that gets a bit personal. Although God is gracious and kind, we need to remember that we exist for God, not God for us. And whatever you do to pursue a deeper relationship with God, remember: “*Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*” (Romans 12:2). Everything we do is supposed to be for God’s glory: “*So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God,*” (1 Corinthians 10:31). All creation — stars, seas, mountains, trees, animals — all praise God by their very existence (Psalm 148).

Our whole “person,” — body, mind, heart, and soul — exists by God’s pleasure and for God’s pleasure. As we examine our lives and make resolutions to live out for the new year, are there patterns of thought or action we need to bring in line with this reality? If we look back at last year, what things could we say were not “for God”? This mindset can be a powerful way to resist self-indulgence. We exist for God’s desires before our own. That is the bottom line that keeps us in line.

Happy New Year and may you; “**Get to Know God Better!**”

Grace,
Pastor Cal

The mission of
Court Street UMC

is to be a
welcoming,
nurturing,
serving

community of Christ.



Lay Leadership

**Lay Delegate
to Annual Conference**

Diane Risley
David Risley

**Alternate Lay Delegate
to Annual Conference**

Jeanine Wang

Administrative Council Chair

Joan Tunnell

Staff/Parish Relations Chair

Sue Cram

Finance Chair

Mike Davis

Stewardship Chair

Jeanine Wang

Treasurer

Gene Ferry

Endowment Chair

Mike Davis

Trustee Chair

Tim Gorman

Lay Leader

Georgalee George

Nurture & Outreach

Georgalee George

Worship Chair

Joan Tunnell

Local Missions Chair

Barb Ferry
Sue Zimmerman

Christian Education Chair

Diane Lutmer

Arts Committee Chair

Richard Wang

United Women in Faith

Sue Cram

United Methodist Men

DuWayne Stanis

Jeremiah Ministry Reps

Kay Galloway
Krysta Tilges

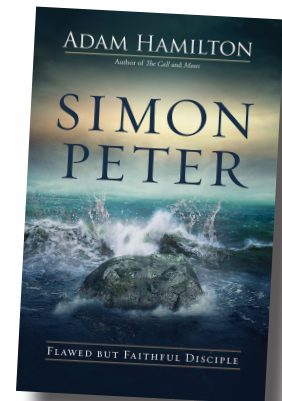
JFON Liaison

Kay Galloway

Lenten Study 2024

Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple by Adam Hamilton

Sunday 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
6-week study **begins February 18th**



Fisherman Apostle Coward Leader Martyr Rock

This Lent we return to the work of Adam Hamilton to study *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple*. Hamilton explores how one of Jesus's most faithful followers was called from being an everyday fisherman to an apostle, and how he denied Jesus in fear but ultimately redeemed himself in courage. As always, Hamilton provides key historical context to bring his subject to life.

Price TBD but will not exceed \$20.

Book is available in hardcover and large print paperback. Those requesting a copy in advance may choose either format; a few extra copies will be ordered in hardcover.

**Please request a copy no later than 3 p.m. of
Wednesday, January 31st.**



UWF FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, February 7th
Dining Room at 12 p.m.

Feat. guest speaker
Chaplain Laura DeVries,
Rockford Reachout Jail Ministry

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Follow us on

twitter

See pictures on

www.courtstreetumc.org



January

The Olympic Tavern
2327 N. Main Street

Thursday, Jan. 11th @ 6:00 p.m.
All ladies are invited.



February	08	John's Restaurant & Pizzeria	2914 11 th Street	Rockford
March	14	Nunzio's Restaurant	5800 N. 2 nd Street	Loves Park
April	11	Chavez Mexican Restaurante	5494 E. State Street	Rockford
May	09	Tavern on Clark	755 Clark Drive	Rockford
June	13	Backyard Grill & Bar	6473 N. 2 nd Street	Loves Park
July	11	Alchemy at Aldeen	1902 Reid Farm Road	Rockford
August	08	Lino's	5611 E. State Street	Rockford
September	12	Stone Eagle Tavern	6445 E. State Street	Rockford
October	10	Red Lobster	5827 E. State Street	Rockford
November	14	Thunder Bay Grille	7652 Potawatomi Trail	Rockford
December	14	Capri Restaurant & Pizza (if open*) or Salamone's	6480 E. Riverside Blvd. 103 S. Cherry Street	Loves Park Cherry Valley

* December location will be published in the November issue of *The Chimes*.



Contact Cindy Fisher at (815) 519-3653 by noon of the Wednesday before the dinner.

Health & Wellness: From Our Parish Nurse

Our parish nurse, Teresa Field, came across an amazing handout with information about High Blood Pressure. The Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA), who authored the handout, was kind enough to grant us permission to reprint it for our January 2024 newsletter. Please see the inserted materials for this month's health and wellness focus and visit pcna.net/clinical-resources/patient-resources/ for more information about other cardiovascular health issues like angina, cholesterol, and atrial fibrillation. If you are concerned about your health, you are welcome to discuss your concerns with Teresa but highly encouraged to seek medical diagnosis and treatment through your primary care physician.

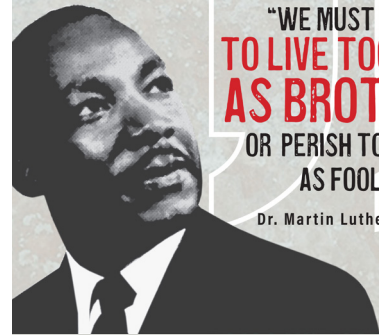


Waffles & Worship

Last Sunday of the Month – Dining Room at 8 AM

A contemporary-styled service filled with food and fellowship.

Next Service: Sunday, January 28th

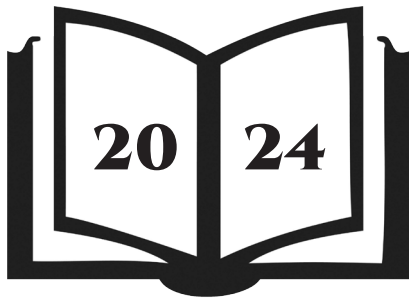


“WE MUST LEARN
TO LIVE TOGETHER
AS BROTHERS
OR PERISH TOGETHER
AS FOOLS.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Church is Closed
Monday, January 15th
for MLK Jr. Day

COURT STREET



BOOK CLUB

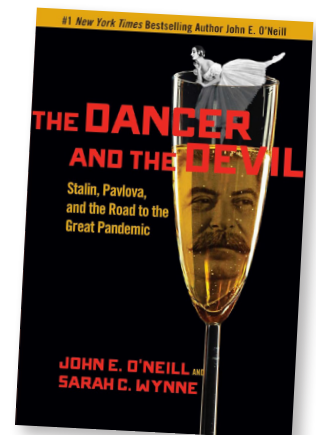
January

*The Dancer and the Devil:
Stalin, Pavlova, and the Road to the
Great Pandemic*

by John E. O'Neill & Sarah C. Wynne
REGNERY

Sunday, Jan. 28th @ 2:00 p.m.

Perky Heath's Home
4231 Uram Lane



February

Deception Point by Dan Brown

March

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store
by James McBride

April

How to Know a Person by David Brooks

May

The Invisible Kingdom by Meghan O'Rourke

June

One Summer in Savannah
by Terah Shelton Harris

July

Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt

September

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

October

West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

November

The Women by Kristin Hannah

Contact Diane Risley for more info at
rishouse@juno.com.

Local Missions Annual Committee Report December 2023

Co-chairpersons: Barb Ferry and Susan Zimmerman
Other members: Joanne Dill, Kay Galloway, Annette Gillette

These donations are Love Offerings, collected in the white baskets on Communion Sunday, and other donations made to Local Missions. Donations were given to the following organizations in December 2023. The committee thanks you for your generous donations throughout the year. Donations, for the entire year, were given to the following organizations in December of 2023:

\$300.00	Carpenter's Place
\$200.00	Jeremiah Development
\$100.00	Remedies Renewing Lives
\$200.00	Rock House Kids
\$200.00	Rock River Valley Food Pantry
\$200.00	Thanksgiving Ministry
\$200.00	Veterans-Drop-In-Center
\$200.00	Waffles and Worship
\$100.00	Winnebago County CASA Program
<hr/>	
\$1,700.00	Total

Happy New Year!

Church Closed
Monday,
January 1st



Court Street United Methodist Church
 The Chimes January 2024
 215 North Court Street
 Rockford, IL 61103-6897

Return Service Requested

Phone: (815) 962-6061 Fax: (815) 962-9754
 www.courtstreetumc.org

Thank you for volunteering!

January 7, 2024

10:00 AM Ushers: The Sue Cram Team
 Sound Tech: Ryan Welk
 Video Tech: Steve Ripley
 Acolyte: Ella Anderson
 Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

January 14, 2024

10:00 AM Ushers: The Sue Cram Team
 Sound Tech: Stan Tunnell
 Video Tech: Steve Ripley
 Acolyte: Kaylee Bulliner
 Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

January 21, 2024

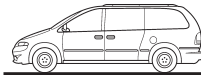
10:00 AM Ushers: The Sue Cram Team
 Sound Tech: Tim Welk
 Video Tech: Steve Ripley
 Acolyte: Lili Breson
 Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

January 28, 2024

10:00 AM Ushers: The Sue Cram Team
 Sound Tech: Ryan Welk
 Video Tech: Steve Ripley
 Acolyte: Kaylee Bulliner
 Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

Livestream Techs: Krysta Tilges &
 Ella Anderson

If you wish to receive The Chimes electronically
 or to be removed from this mailing,
 please call the church office at (815) 962-6061
 or e-mail Communications@courtstreetumc.org.



Need a Ride to Church?

Riders, please call drivers for a ride by 6 p.m. on the
 Saturday before the Sunday you wish to attend.

01/07/24	Curly Thompson	815-988-2735
01/14/24	Tim Gorman	815-636-0514
01/21/24	Jeff Mann	815-742-5444
01/28/24	Curly Thompson	815-988-2735
02/04/24	Jeff Mann	815-742-5444
02/11/24	Tim Gorman	815-636-0514

Please thank these men for making this ministry work!

Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Calvin Culpepper	Pastor	ext. 220	cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
Ryanne Ludington	Director of Christian Education		ludingtonryanne@gmail.com
James L. Crow	Director of Arts Ministries	ext. 209	jlcrow@live.com
Krysta Tilges	Director of Video Ministries		ktilges@gmail.com
Jack Armstrong	Director of Music	ext. 221	gogo234@att.net
Andrew Mertenich	Organist		andrew.mertenich@gmail.com
Teresa Field	Parish Nurse		Teresabsf5@yahoo.com
Verlette Gorman	Church Administrator	ext. 202	ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org
Tiffany Wilken	Publications Secretary	ext. 200	Communications@courtstreetumc.org
Bert Cromwell	Nursery		
Bill Kint	Maintenance Engineer		Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org



Wedding Anniversaries

Name	Date	Year	Married
Rhoads, Ray and Margaret	26	1964	60

Birthdays

Name	Date	Name	Date
Crawford, Owen	1	Kelsey-Powell, Judith	20
Liddell, Alex	1	Mann, Jared	20
Zeilinger, Phil	1	Peters, Judith	20
Schaub, Matthew K.	2	Theisen, Kaye	20
Addis, Robert	3	Urness, Natalie	20
Walters, John	3	Eichman, Sally	21
Ludington, Alex	4	Gallo, Danielle	23
Hoover, Ruth	5	Rupp, Ashley	26
Welk, Ryan	5	Cairnes, Jeannine	28
Crow, James	6	Killingsworth, Jean	28
Hoople, Allen	6	Ludington, Jeremy	28
Tunnell, Stanley	6	Paquette, Sarah	28
Norman, Bettye	7	Bates, Alyssa	29
Wandell, Matthew	7	Fibrow, Lindsey	30
Scheffel, Alyssa	10	Solchenberger-Wandell,	30
Strunk, Bryce Christian	10	Chelsie	
Cox-Rodgers, Jaxon	12	Armstrong, David	31
King, Addyson	12	Vandre, Alex	31
Faruqui, Noah	13		
Baker, Ray	14		
Crow, Thomas	14		
Meligan, Brian	15		
Ewald, Elizabeth	17		
Hutchcroft, Elaine	20		



*Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of
Donn Anthony Becker (Ryenne Ludington's father)
who died on December 10, 2023*

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">CHURCH CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Exercise Class 6:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 10:30 AM UWF Leadership Team 04:00 PM Staff Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 10:00 AM Stewardship Team 01:00 PM The Journeymen</p>	5	6
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>08:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime by the Big Bell 11:15 AM Youth Activities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 4:30 PM Finance Committee 5:00 PM Administrative Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Exercise Class 5:30 PM Trustees 6:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 10:00 AM Stewardship & Other Committees 03:45 PM Worship Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 1:00 PM The Journeymen 6:00 PM Chatterbox Supper Group (Olympic Tavern)</p>	12	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>8:30 AM United Methodist Men Breakfast (Stockholm Inn)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>08:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime by the Big Bell 11:15 AM Youth Activities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">CHURCH CLOSED MLK JR DAY CHIMES DEADLINE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Exercise Class 6:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM No IL Wood Turners</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 1:00 PM The Journeymen</p>	19	20
<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>08:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime by the Big Bell 11:15 AM Youth Activities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Exercise Class 6:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 1:00 PM The Journeymen</p>	26	27
<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>08:00 AM Waffles & Worship 08:45 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime by the Big Bell 11:15 AM Youth Activities 02:00 PM CSUMC Book Club</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 9:00 AM History & Archives 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM Exercise Class 6:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>8:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings</p>			