

The Brooke ~ August 2021

Dear Church Family,

When I was in college, I remember hearing my pastor use the word “discernment” and having a vague idea that it meant something like judgement or decision making. He later met with me to talk about seminary and if I thought it was something I might like to do, and he used that word again. I finally confessed I didn’t know how to answer whether I was “in a time of discernment” because I wasn’t sure what he was asking. He laughed and said it was just a fancy church word for the times when we’re trying to figure something out. Then I definitely knew my answer. “Oh! Well yes, that’s exactly what I’m in!”

Right now, both our United Methodist denomination as a whole and many local churches are in a season of discernment, trying to figure out what our future will look like and *how* God is calling us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. One of the ways we’ll be diving into that question is by learning from church growth coach and pastor Beth Estock, who is leading a number of UMCs through a book study in August. More details can be found inside this newsletter, but our sermon series in August will follow this theme too.

August 1st we’ll study Acts 1:6-11
when Jesus leaves the disciples with some unanswered questions.

August 8th we’ll look at 1 Timothy 4:10-16
and reflect on Jesus calling people of all ages into ministry.

August 15th we’ll take a break from this theme
for a special Vacation Bible School celebration worship
service as we learn what the kids have been studying that week.

August 22nd we’ll study Matthew 16:21-28
and consider what happens when we try to tell God
what’s going to happen rather than listening for God’s word.

August 29th we’ll conclude with Acts 10:1-48
and the story of Peter and Cornelius experiencing the Holy Spirit at work.

Maybe you’re in a season of discernment in your personal life too, and I’d invite you to use this next month to be intentional about listening for how God might be calling you into a new season that might be unlike anything you’ve experienced before. With God, all things are possible.

*Blessings,
Pastor Violet*

Hello Church,

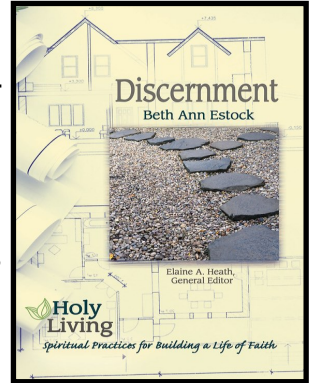
My wonderful Grandmother Ruth Seyfert is turning 97 on August 13th and I would like to celebrate her with a card shower! She is a United Methodist and often tunes into our services by phone and thinks of Brooke Road as her church family. If you would like to send a birthday card, here is her address:

**Ruth Seyfert
1551 N. 50th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208**

*Thank you!
Pastor Violet*

Church Vitality Program

Remember a while back when we asked you to take a survey about the priorities and values of our congregation? We've been hard at work understanding those results and making plans to implement your ideas and recommendations together. Over the last few months, Brooke Road UMC has been working with a church growth coach as part of the Readiness 360 program – an initiative of the Vital Congregations Task Force of the Northern Illinois Conference. We were honored to be selected as one of the first churches to participate in this pilot program designed to support congregations in planning for their future and discerning how God is calling us to continue serving our neighborhood. Here is an overview from Paul Nixon of what we've done so far, and what is coming up for us:



In the first four months of Early Adopters, your church has...

- Taken the Readiness 360 assessment, revealing the amount of energy you presently have for a journey of new ministry development with new people,
- Completed an Audit of your present ministries, documenting the trends in terms of participants and financial income.
- Briefly explored the community demographics via the Mission Insite tool: a resource that may continue to offer insight in the months ahead.
- Met with Paul Nixon and Beth Estock, both as a group of churches and several times 1:1 with your church's Early Adopters' Team
- Come to a fork in the road, where now you have three clear choices before you:
 - Take this learning under advisement and **discontinue participation** in the Early Adopters Process, at least for now.
 - Choose to move into a **brief Season of Discernment** – pondering several reasonable choices, each of which will bring some pain and difficulty... this is a recommended next phase of work for churches who do not feel ready for the work of ministry planning for a radically new future but wish to continue discovering God's next challenges, and possibly to get ready for a more rigorous ministry journey in the near future.
 - Choose to begin a **rigorous process of ministry re-imagination aimed at creating next steps** for developing a relevant, community-rooted congregation in your context.

Brooke Road UMC has chosen to participate in the season of discernment, which we will do with Beth Estock through the month of August. Here is her summary of our next steps:

As we navigate through this post pandemic time between the endings and as yet new beginnings, we are discovering the importance of resilience – the capacity to spring back and be adaptable. Many faith practices support our capacity to be resilient. They help us to...

- Grow through challenges
- See our vulnerability as a strength
- Connect wholeheartedly to others
- Realize that creativity and innovation are the expressions of the Holy Spirit's call in our lives
- Know that our thoughts and behaviors make a difference in the outcome of our life in community

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(Church Vitality Program, continued)

But at the same time, it is easy to lose sight of these practices especially when we worry about our future, both organizationally and individually. It is difficult to think about new ways of being when we are caught up in doing what we have always done just to keep up. The good news is that we have access to a set of ancient practices that can help us to align with the Holy Spirit's call on our lives and with our church communities. Discernment offers us the flexibility to meet the demands of life with grace and wisdom. I don't promise any easy answers and I understand your context is unique to you and your church. But I trust that this webinar series will help you to make decisions about the future of your church with grounded confidence. During these sessions you will:

- Practice ways to access Holy Wisdom so you can more readily lead with confidence
- Develop more capacity to navigate through anxiety and change
- Experience the freedom of perspective taking as you lead through change
- Assess what is yours to do and what you can let go of
- Learn a process for experimenting with new ideas

Plus you will have:

- Access to the video recordings if you can't make the live sessions.
- Handouts to guide you on your action steps
- PowerPoint slides of the sessions to share with your church

Discernment Live Webinar Series: Exploring the Possibilities

Four consecutive Tuesdays, 6:30pm to 8:00pm CT via Zoom

Session 1 August 10 *(We know this week is during VBS, and there will be an opportunity to watch a recording of it on Sunday, August 15th)*
Opening the mind

- Rediscover the ancient practice of discernment
- Learn the 4 building blocks of discernment
- Discover what gets in the way of innovation

Session 2 August 17

Opening the Heart

- Learn how to listen to your heart, the birthplace of your intuition
- Understand the connection between the body and the brain
- Learn how to get in touch with our inner knowing using 4 essential qualities of our true nature in God.

Session 3 August 24

Letting Go

- The power of the counter intuitive move
- Uncovering limiting beliefs
- Introduction to the practice of missional imagination

Session 4 August 31

Co-creating with the Holy Spirit

- Understand the innovation cycle
- Learn how to do 1-1 conversations
- Learn how to develop your first experiment

Copies of Beth Estock's book *Discernment* will be available at no cost in the church office. Contact Pastor Violet if you have any questions, and we will be talking much more about this process together during the August sermon series.

Irene Stepp

Doris Irene Stepp passed away peacefully at home with family on February 15th, 2020 at the age of 94. Born in Level Wood, Kentucky on Nov 29, 1925. She left Level Wood with her brother and sister in law to find work. She met R.J. They were married. R.J. was drafted and went to Camp Grant in Rockford. In Rockford they were both employed by Rockford Screw Products, and they both retired there. They had a daughter Carol, and a son David. The family faithfully attended Brooke Road United Methodist Church. Irene found joy in helping people and took great pride in volunteering at church and in her community.

In her later years, Irene relocated to California. First, living on her son and daughter-in-law's farm in San Diego where she took daily walks and enjoyed working on the farm. Later she moved with her son and daughter-in-law to Santa Cruz and Morgan Hill, nearer to her twin great-granddaughters. There she enjoyed daily walks, doing word searches on the patio, playing with her great-granddaughters, drives to the ocean, weekly exercise and water aerobics classes, attending church, taking classes at the senior center, playing bingo and attending family gatherings.

Irene is preceded in death by her mother, three brothers, Janet Brown, niece, and husband R.J. She is survived by her children Carol (Raube) Pann, David (Linda) Stepp; grandchildren Justin (Ada) Atkinson; great-granddaughters Aspen, Aryia, Jesse Atkinson and Ondrea (Jared) Gamble; great-granddaughters Ella and Shay. **Service date and time to be decided.**

John Dyke

John L. Dyke, 86, of Rockford, passed away peacefully Thursday, July 22, 2021 surrounded by his family. He was born February 28, 1935 in Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom to Herbert and Eileen (Usher) Dyke. John served in the British Royal Marines in 42 Commando. He married Hazel Hawke December 26, 1955 in Plymouth, England. In 1963 they immigrated to the United States with their two children.

Each Sunday John could be found at Rock Cut sailing on the lake. He enjoyed bird watching on his patio and was a member of Brooke Road United Methodist Church. John especially loved spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Hazel Dyke; children, Dean (Jolene) Dyke and Joanne Hughes; grandchildren, Isaiah (Stacey Taylor) Dyke, Abram Dyke, Nichole "Evey" (Matt) Malone and Kristine (Kyle) Nawrot; great-grandchildren, Olive, Remington and Noria; beloved dog, Mishya. Predeceased by his parents and grandson, Isaac Dyke.

Special thank you to Serenity Hospice Care and to Pastor Violet for their loving care and support. **Memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 21, 2021** at Brooke Road United Methodist Church, 1404 Brooke Road, Rockford, IL 61109. Memorial contributions can be made to Brooke Road United Methodist Church or Serenity Hospice and Home.



Vacation Bible School

August 9, 2021 - August 12, 2021
5:30pm - 7:30pm

If you would like to volunteer,
please contact Jacki Shaver

You can register kids through this link:

<https://forms.gle/KSHwoH4HbUqKbMpE8>

Registration forms are also available in the church office.

August Birthdays

1st

Kim Fahlbeck

6th

Aubrey D'Angelo

9th

Jim Joiner

12th

Mary Mitts

13th

Ruth Seyfert

14th

Jeralynn Cox

23rd

Bev Faerber
Nancy Wickson

26th

Sarah Faerber

27th

Lisa
Sarver-Schade

29th

Kim Campbell

August Anniversaries

8th

Don & Bev Faerber

18th

Dan & Victoria O'Connell

22nd

Denny & Sharon O'Hara

Call...Pray...Visit...

Erma Albee
Dave Bargren
Boots Baxter
Chris Beebe
Rick Bried
Shelby Coleman & Cheryl May
Richard Coppoletti
David Denicolais

Family of John Dyke
Emerge Church
Debbie Gorzek
Debbie Hintzsche
Pastor Violet, Kyle
and Lincoln Johnicker
Harvey May
Jackie Parod
John Pippel

Marge Rose
Ron Ross
John Sauer
Phyllis Stafseth
Charlene Taylor
Vivian Schwab
Children of Jordan Thomas
Maxine Zolk
Tom & Cynthia Zolk

Thank You

Brooke Road Friends,
And grateful are the receivers - thank you so much.
The family of Jordan Thomas appreciate so much the generous contributions made.
Pray for the children, and an end to gun violence. One life has such a ripple effect.

*God's Blessings to all,
Charles and Judy Parks*

Directory Update

Jeffery & Kerren D'Angelo
4783 Jade Parkway
Rockford, IL 61102



The Rock River Valley Blood Center needs help. Blood collection centers in our area are hitting record-low quantities, putting our region's health systems at risk. If you are able to donate, please contact Rock River Valley Blood Center at 815-965-8751 or go to www.rrvbc.org to schedule an appointment today! In about one hour, you can help to save up to 3 lives!

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>2</u> 9:15am Zumba	<u>3</u> 9:15am Zumba	<u>4</u> 9:15am Zumba 7:00pm Book Study	<u>5</u> 9:15am Zumba	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> 9:15am Zumba
<u>8</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>9</u> 9:15am Zumba 5:30pm - 7:30pm VBS	<u>10</u> 9:15am Zumba 1:00pm UMW Planning 5:30pm - 7:30pm VBS	<u>11</u> 9:15am Zumba 5:30pm - 7:30pm VBS 7:00pm Book Study	<u>12</u> 9:15am Zumba 5:30pm - 7:30pm VBS	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> 9:15am Zumba
<u>15</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>16</u> 9:15am Zumba	<u>17</u> 9:15am Zumba 12:30pm Mona's Paper Angel Closet	<u>18</u> 9:15am Zumba 5:30pm Laundry Love & Ice Cream Truck 7:00pm Book Study	<u>19</u> 9:15am Zumba 2:00pm Library bus here	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> 9:15am Zumba 1:00pm John Dyke Memorial Service
<u>22</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Book Group at Warners'	<u>23</u> 9:15am Zumba	<u>24</u> 9:15am Zumba 1:00pm Worship Committee	<u>25</u> 9:15am Zumba 7:00pm Book Study	<u>26</u> 9:15am Zumba	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 9:15am Zumba
<u>29</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>30</u> 9:15am Zumba	<u>31</u> 9:15am Zumba				

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

Sunday Worship Service at 10am

In person

OR

Visit the church Facebook page
to watch the livestream and
participate in the comments section:

www.facebook.com/TheBrookeRockford

OR

Call 1-312-626-6799 and
when prompted enter code 810-0983-5011

OR

Listen via Zoom video call by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81009835011>

Pastor Violet

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
Address 1404 Brooke Road
Rockford, IL 61109
Hours M - Th ~ 9:00am - 3:00pm

Social Media Links

[facebook.com/TheBrookeRockford](https://www.facebook.com/TheBrookeRockford)
[instagram.com/BrookeRoadUMC](https://www.instagram.com/BrookeRoadUMC)
twitter.com/BrookeRoadUMC