November 2026

THE ROCKTONIAN

Welcoming all in Jesus' name
as we Grow Together in Faith, Service, and Love
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Fall Garden Clean-Up
After A Very Productive Season!





Trunk or Treat 2026



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Breakfast, Devotion, and the Difference Between Flattery and Encouragement

At the Soup Kitchen in October, a young woman came through the line, and one of our members told her that the color of her shirt really suited her. The young woman smiled and said it was the second time someone had told her that.

I heard this story on the last Tuesday morning of October, at our first breakfast and devotion gathering. Over a warm meal and coffee, we read 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 together, and that small moment became a big part of our conversation.

In Paul's day, many traveling teachers went from town to town selling their wisdom for money and fame. Paul wanted the church in Thessalonica to know that he and his companions were different. They did not come to flatter anyone or to ask for special treatment. Instead, Paul says they were gentle, like a mother caring for her own children. That is a surprising image from a male apostle two thousand years ago.

So we asked: what is the difference between flattery and real encouragement? Someone said flattery tends to be vague, while encouragement notices details. Another member added something learned in a college psychology class: a good compliment is specific. Hearing "good job" over and over starts to lose its meaning.

This question matters to me as a parent. I often wonder how to encourage my children without simply flattering them. For me, the biggest difference is purpose. We flatter people to benefit ourselves, but we encourage people for their own good.

Paul's words to the Thessalonians show both of these qualities. He paid close attention to the people he served, and he spoke for their good, not his own. That is why they could trust him. Our words can earn the same kind of trust when they are specific and sincere.

The comment at the Soup Kitchen took only a moment, yet the young woman remembered it. So this week, I invite you to think about one question: Who is one person you could encourage with a specific, sincere word? If you'd like to talk more about it over breakfast, please join us next time. Everyone is welcome.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Seong



What's Up with the Building?

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

November 2026



It's been a glorious October with all the colors from the trees turning and flowers continuing to bloom thanks to cool, but not freezing, nights. November will soon be upon us but the forecast, at least for early November, is still warm. The snow will come eventually and I hope, if you're shovel capable, you'll consider volunteering to clear the walks at church when there's snow or ice. Shovels and ice melt will soon be just inside each door so all we need is folks to man them. Lane's, has again, graciously volunteered to plow our parking lots so we only need the walks done. Please contact a trustee or pastor to let us know when you might be available as we'd like to get a rotation set-up so one or two folks don't have to do it every time.

Thanks to all the volunteers who came to clean up the gardens. They did a marvelous job! You can see pictures of the crew on our church website. We may still need some folks to clean-up the leaves and check the gutters at the parsonage. Announcements will be made in church if we have an organized event. Thanks also to Darren Stroud of Saw Creek Woodworking for making the narthex railing good and sturdy for a reasonable fee. You may recall he also did the shelves in the new office.

It was a mixed blessing when we decided to have the boilers fired up. The church has three boilers and one of them had a leak when it was tested so it was good we caught that when it was still warm. We're waiting for it to be fixed. Unfortunately, it's been a little warm in the Sanctuary due to the higher than usual Fall temperatures. We'll work to try and keep up with the thermostat settings to keep it comfortable.

Finally, I'll remind you that we will be deciding on how to deal with our aging parking lots early next year. We will definitely need to have them re-sealed but would love to be able to have them re-surfaced. If you would like to donate to that project it would definitely be appreciated. We are also considering the need to get a battery-powered snowblower to replace our aging gas-powered one. An Ego brand that would allow us to use the same batteries as our lawn mower would be ideal.

Church Conference & Potluck



Sisters in Christ will coordinate a Potluck Dinner at the church to take place after the Annual Conference. Chili will be served and five volunteers are needed to provide a half gallon of chili. Signup sheets will be at church entrances. We will then mix all the chili dishes together for a "chili dump." We are asking members to provide the extra fixings for chili (crackers, shredded cheese, sour cream) or a dish or dessert to pass. Please plan on joining us on November 9th.



Special Music November 15

On Sunday, November 15, Lynn Washburn Livingston will play two pieces on the flute during worship: "It Is Well" and "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing." Christine Gustafson will accompany her on the piano.

We're grateful to Lynn and Christine for this music, and we hope you'll be there to hear it!



Fellowship Committee Activities



October 12th to the 16th was Fire Prevention Week. On **Monday the 12th**, 4 members of the Fellowship Committee, as representatives for our congregation, shopped and filled 2 large baskets full of treats, and delivered them to the firemen at the Rockton Fire Department. This has been a tradition for our church for several years. The firemen were very grateful to receive our gifts.

On **Sunday, November 8th**, we will be honoring our church members who are veterans during the church service. The handbell choir will play "God Bless America" and also the hymn "Nearer My God to Thee". The veterans who are in attendance at the service will be invited to introduce themselves and share with us in which branch they served and when. There will be light refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall after the service. Veterans and congregation, please join us if you are able!



Finance Committee Update

Here is a quick overview of the church's finances and budget for the upcoming year. (Please note: all values will be rounded off)

The monthly donations are currently averaging approximately $7,770.

The endowment fund (the church's main reserve which is an investment through the Conference) is currently $67,000. We recently withdrew $25,000 to increase the savings and help cover some recent unscheduled expenditures for repairs.

So, what does this mean? Our FY2026 budget was estimated as a deficit budget. Our estimate for monthly donations, based upon pledges and the previous year's donations, was $9,000. We felt there was a planning variance of (plus or minus) $3-5,000. Therefore, the total expected income ranged from a low of $103,000 to a high of $113,000. The approved budget for FY 2026 reflected the possible expenditure of $129,000. This could potentially mean a shortfall of over $16,000. Fortunately, by being conservative, our expenditures, compared to our donations, appear to show that our finances may have a lower deficit/shortfall then predicted.

Now what? It means that our expenditures rely on using a portion of our reserve funds to meet our financial obligations for FY2026. If this is the case, we will face the same situation, financially, in FY2027. The FY 2027 budget will have an increase in the deficit based upon the corresponding economic increases we are facing. We may see an additional increase of as much as $5,000 in the deficit compared to FY2026.

In order to help the church plan financially, we would like to conduct a pledge drive in November. This will give us a more accurate picture for planning FY2027. Pledging is a tool and absolutely NOT a binding commitment upon anyone. It is totally understood that personal financial situations can change, especially when the economy increases costs as it has this current year.

I hope this provides a picture of where we stand financially as a church community. If you have any questions, please ask Alan, David, or me and we will gladly provide additional information.

As a tag-a-long, we are also going to have a fundraiser to help the Trustees with the parking lot, stay tuned for more on this.

Thank you

Dan Davis

Thank you for reading!

Rockton United Methodist Church	Pastor Seonghyun Choi
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NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 10:30am 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Veteran's Recognition Girl Scouts 1:30-3:00pm	9 Church Conference & Potluck 5pm	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	17 4:30 pm Ad Council	18	19	20  Newsletter articles due	21
22 9:30am Worship Girl Scouts 1:30-3:00pm Food on the 4th	23	24	25	26 **Thanksgiving** (Office closed)	27	28
29	30					

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