



July 2026

THE ROCKTONIAN

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

Membership Class - Sunday, July 19

If you've been worshipping with us and are curious about what it means to make Rockton UMC your church home, join us for a membership class on Sunday, July 19, right after the service.

We'll explore what membership means in the Methodist tradition — rooted in baptism, influenced by Wesley's belief that faith grows through community, and expressed through the promises we make to support the church and our surrounding communities with prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. One or two long-time members will also share the story of Rockton UMC itself: where this church has been, what it has celebrated, and who has helped shape it along the way.

If you're thinking about joining or just curious, bring your questions. Everyone is welcome.



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From the Pastor's desk

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A Year of Presence: Annual Conference and an Open House

This month brought two moments I won't forget — my first Northern Illinois Annual Conference, and an open house at the parsonage marking one year since Sunghee, Seohee, Junia, and I came to Rockton UMC.

At Annual Conference, clergy and lay members gathered from all over the Northern Illinois Conference. One evening I had dinner with fellow Asian pastors and their families, all serving churches across the conference. Looking around that table, I kept thinking about how many of us are on this same road — answering the same call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, each of us serving in a cross racial and cross cultural setting, each carrying our own church's joys and struggles. God's grace keeps

moving beyond whatever boundaries we set for it. I didn't feel like one pastor sitting with strangers. I felt like family with family.

Then came the open house. Sunghee and I opened our doors at the parsonage to mark our first year here, and so many of you showed up — for a cookie, a chat, or a hug at the door. Standing in our living room full of your faces, I found myself thinking back to that dinner just days earlier. Different space, different people, but the same feeling underneath it: I'm not doing this alone.

That's what ministry really is, I think. Not a program, not a project. Just presence — showing up for the people we already love, and staying open to loving people we haven't met yet. Because that's the whole point: Jesus didn't tell us to welcome some people. He told us to welcome all. And all means all.

Thank you, RUMC family, for a year of walking together. Here's to many more.

Grace and peace,

-Pastor Seong

What's Up with the Building?

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

July 2026 -

Things are kind of slow right now as several projects are waiting for this, that, and good weather to proceed. One thing we are looking into, that folks at the rummage sale pointed out, is that some of the black corrugated drain pipes for the downspouts of the Education Wing seem to be clogged. I'm not aware if they've ever been cleaned out of debris that drained off the roof but either way they need to be cleaned out.



We do have one job that just about anyone could help with whenever you have time. You may have noticed that this appears to be a bumper year for weeds in our parking lot cracks. It's been three years since our lots were last sealed/stripped so we're getting to the point to where we'll have to consider doing them again. It's probably best to wait on re-sealing until the price of oil comes down as the price last time was just short of \$5000. It's something that needs watching in the coming months. Either way, the weeds need to go. Some weeds need to be sprayed first so they can dry up. Others are small enough that a scraper or weed eater can cut them off but try not to hit the edge of the cracks and chip off any of the paving surface. Questions? Please contact John Carleton or Brenda Wulf.



Summer Half-Day Program: A Morning of Hope and Love

On June 23, we gathered for our first Summer Half-Day Program of this year, with fifteen kids and six adult helpers (Brenda, Christine, Dave, Janet, Sunghee, and Vicki) joining together to spend the morning thinking about hope and love. It was a joy to see the kids engaged, learning, and building friendships with one another.

Our next half-day program is set for Tuesday, August 4th, with the theme “God’s Salvation for All.” As Luke 3:6 (CEB) reminds us, “All humanity will see God’s salvation” — all means all.

We’re always glad to have more helping hands. If you’d like to volunteer for the August program, please contact Pastor Seong.





FEED YOUR SOIL, GROW SOMETHING *Beautiful!*

Composting is nature's way of turning yesterday's scraps into tomorrow's blossoms. ♥



**TURN IT
TO EARN IT!**

Turn your compost
bin about every

3 DAYS

for the best results!

WHAT GOES IN?

A great mix of "BROWNS" (carbon) and "GREENS" (nitrogen) does the magic!

BROWNS – CARBON (DRY)

Provide structure and air

- Dry leaves
- Straw
- Shredded paper (non-glossy)
- Cardboard (torn into pieces)
- Sawdust
- Small twigs



GREENS – NITROGEN (WET)

Feed the microbes

- Fruit & veggie scraps
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Tea leaves
- Grass clippings
- Plant trimmings
- Eggshells (crushed)



TIP: Chop or tear larger items and keep it moist—like a wrung-out sponge!

THE BENEFITS

Healthy soil. Healthy plants.
Healthy community.



NOURISHES PLANTS

Adds essential nutrients your plants love.



IMPROVES SOIL

Boosts soil structure, drainage, and water retention.



REDUCES WASTE

Keeps organic waste out of landfills.



SAVES MONEY

Less need for chemical fertilizers and store-bought soil.

HOW IT WORKS



1. FILL IT

Add a mix of browns & greens.



2. TURN IT

Every 3 days to add air and speed up breakdown.



3. USE IT

In 4–8 weeks, you'll have rich, dark compost!

A little effort now, a lifetime of better soil!



Thank you for helping care for God's creation! ♥

To our friends at
Rockton United Methodist Church Congregation ♥

Together, we can grow beauty, build community,
and leave the earth a little better than we found it.

*With gratitude,
The Roscoe Gardening Club*



Annual Conference

Parsonage Open House



Bill Campbell Funeral Service



The funeral and luncheon for Bill Campbell will be held Sunday, July 5th. The funeral will be held at 3pm at

McCorkle Funeral Home in Rockton, with a luncheon to follow at 4pm at the Church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the church or the Rockton Fire Department.

Thank you for reading!

Rockton United Methodist Church

Pastor Seonghyun Choi

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Office Hours Mon & Thurs. 9am-1pm
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102 W. Chapel Street
Rockton, IL 61072



JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4  Independence Day
5 9:30am Worship 10:30am  Coffee Hour	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:30am Worship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30am Worship Membership Class	20  Newsletter articles due 4pm Trustees	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30am Worship Food on the 4th	27	28	29	30	31	

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