



July 2025

# THE ROCKTONIAN

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



“On Friday, while driving through Pennsylvania, we encountered a terrifying wall of clouds—thunder and lightning flashing all around us, the sky dark and low over the hills. The storm stayed with us for almost an hour, and as we drove through it,

I was reminded of the fear and uncertainty that often accompany times of transition, especially for us as an immigrant family. But stepping into the parsonage, that sense of the unknown gave way to something very different. It wasn't fear—it was gratitude. We felt grounded, welcomed, and already held by a community of grace.” -Pastor Choi



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Dear Rockton UMC,

My family and I arrived in Rockton on the last Sunday of June, and already we've been overwhelmed by the warmth and generosity of this church community. Though our U-Box won't arrive until Tuesday or Wednesday, we've already felt right at home, thanks to the thoughtful furnishings, food supplies, borrowed dishes—and even handwritten greeting cards—that were waiting for us. To a family settling into a new place, this kind of welcome speaks volumes. We are especially grateful to the Rockton UMC community—your care has made this transition smooth and full of grace.

Thanks to your incredible generosity and welcome, this move has felt very different from the ones we've made in the past. Each move our family has made—from one state to another—has

felt like a journey into the unknown. On Friday, while driving through Pennsylvania, we encountered a terrifying wall of clouds—thunder and lightning flashing all around us, the sky dark and low over the hills. The storm stayed with us for almost an hour, and as we drove through it, I was reminded of the fear and uncertainty that often accompany times of transition, especially for us as an immigrant family. But stepping into the parsonage, that sense of the unknown gave way to something very different. It wasn't fear—it was gratitude. We felt grounded, welcomed, and already held by a community of grace.

As I begin serving as your pastor, I look forward to discovering what God is doing among us and joining in that good work. Thank you for receiving my family and me with such care—we are so excited to walk this journey with you.

Grace and peace,  
Seonghyun Choi



# What's Up with the Building?

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

The Trustees have reviewed bids from various roofing companies and, in consultation with the Ad Council, have chosen a contractor to do the roofs on the Sanctuary and the Education Wing. The winning bid came in at \$45,785.95, rounding that amount off to \$45,800, if we use the funds from the Chem Tool Settlement, that will leave us with an additional \$12,600 to raise. Dan Davis is already at work preparing a thermometer for a fund-raising campaign to raise that amount and a few thousand more for the masonry repair. Some donations have already come in from folks who have been anticipating this project so we hope and pray that we can raise what we need to finish the projects. While we considered possibly only funding one roof, the Trustees felt it was to our advantage to get both of them done this season before any more leaks developed. We're hoping the congregation will agree and join us in working to raise the remaining funds. If you've read this article in the past, you also know that we really need to get some serious tuck-pointing done and some bricks repaired on the Education Wing, most noticeably at the South-West corner. We have tabled that project temporarily until we got the roof project up and running. Fortunately, it's not as costly and that cost will vary depending on how much we attempt to get done. Some parts really need to be done before the next winter as last winter was really tough on the masonry but other parts are in good enough shape they can wait a season or two. More on that next month. There has been a flurry of activity at the

Parsonage getting things ready for Pastor Seong and his family to move in next week. Here's a big shout-out to all the folks who have shared their talents in getting things ready. Many are apparently familiar with Mathew 6.3 as RUMC has been the benefactor of much giving to the Parsonage especially from Pastor Carolyn and Mark. The Parsonage is in the best shape it has been in years and thanks go to everyone who donated/worked. A final note on a minor issue. There has been a run on keys to the building recently and that's a good indication that folks are interested in doing things in and around the church. It's a nice problem to have. Trustees would ask, however, that if you find we're down to the last key or so (as I write we are out of keys) to please let a Trustee know. We'll soon get some more made but it helps to know before they're all gone. And this is a good time to caution everyone who has a key to be extra sure the door locks behind you when you leave. As the seasons change, door frames change and the door that closed easily last month may stick now and not shut easily on its own. So, especially if you're talking to someone as you leave, be sure to reach back and give the door handle a good tug to be sure it's firmly locked. I've gone around the block more than once when I went to pull out of the lot and couldn't remember if I'd given the door a tug... A small gesture that easily avoids many bigger problems.



## HELP!

I am looking for a team to assist with youth Sunday School or events at RUMC. If you find that you can be a resource or could assist, please Contact Brenda Wulf @ 815-988-2543

I also want to share some exciting news that RUMC provided shelter and a safe place for our local YMCA childcare group, during a recent rain / storm chance event.

When inquiring about using our place, they also offered assistance with projects. As we talked , I mentioned weeding and wow, that day she sent some kids to help! See photos!

I felt very blessed!







## Loren Floto Memorial

A memorial service for Loren Floto has been scheduled for 1:30 pm on Saturday, August 2nd at the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford. Please make sure to save the date on your calendars.



## A Thank You From Pastor Carolyn

I want to thank the SPRC committee for the incredible work you've done in these past months, not only helping with an unexpected transition, but also hiring a new church administrative assistant. Mark and I genuinely appreciated the reception on the last Sunday in June. Your kind words and well-wishes made our last Sunday at Rockton UMC truly special, and I look forward to reading your cards and words of encouragement in the days and weeks ahead.

*May grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ forever. (Eph 6:24)*

Thank you for reading!

Rockton United Methodist Church


Pastor Seonghyun Choi

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# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4  Independence Day	5
6 9:30am Worship 10:30am  Coffee Hour	7	8  6:30pm Sisters in Christ	9	10	11	12
13 9:30am Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:30am Worship  Newsletter articles due	21  4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	22  4:30 pm Ad Council	23	24	25	26
27 9:30am Worship  Food on the 4th	28	29	30	31	<i>Office Hours by Appointment</i>	