



September 2026

THE ROCKTONIAN

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

Sisters In Christ Bonfire

Our annual campfire for the ladies of Sisters in Christ will be on Sunday night, September 13, 2027, at 6 p.m. at my house (Phyllis DeGraff), 12552 W. Saint Lawrence, Beloit, WI 53511. (608) 368-1051. This time we will roast hot dogs over the fire. It will be a potluck so please bring something picnic-y to the party. For those of you who would like to carpool or who haven't been to my house in the sticks, please meet about 5:45 at the church and carpool from there. This is a fun evening and all ladies of the church are invited to join us. The party will be held rain or shine. If it is raining, we will use the woodstove inside of my house. If you have any questions, please give me a call. See you then!



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Cultural Cultivation: Lessons Learned at the County Fair and Beyond

In August, Junia and I went to the Winnebago County Fair to watch some of our Sunday School kids show their animals. It was our first time seeing any of it in person.

County fairs show up quite often in American movies and TV shows. Kids leading cattle around a ring, pigs in the barn, prize-winning cherry pies. I had seen the pictures. But standing there while our own kids walked a steer or a hog in front of a judge, and listening to them and their parents explain what they were doing and why, was something else entirely. Keeping an animal calm and moving where you want it to go turns out to be hard, and the kids are still learning it. That's part of the point.

At one point I asked what I thought was a simple question: how do people get those big cows home, some of them over 1,300 pounds? That's how I found out most of them don't go home. I didn't expect that. There was a sad part to the day I hadn't seen coming.

The best moment came in the sheep barn. One of our older members was sitting there, and he told me he brought his own sheep to the fair nearly every year when he was growing up. So he was sitting close to the sheep, right where he'd always been. That conversation turned the day into something more than a visit to a fair. I came home knowing our church members better, young and old.

This is what cross-racial, cross-cultural ministry looks like. Back in June, a group of us

made kimbap together, and for almost everyone in the kitchen it was their first time. In August, a pastor from South Korea watched steers and hogs shown at a county fair for the first time in his life. Neither of those things happens without the other person. We each brought something the other had never done.

That's how we learn about each other, and how we grow together in Jesus' name, with a door open to everyone.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Seong



What's Up with the Building?

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

September 2026-

Every time I sit down to write this article during a “calm” period, I’m always hesitant to express that idea as it seems that something always comes up. Last month it was a phone call that the refrigerator/freezer at the Parsonage had quit. As it was a model from 2005, that’s not surprising. Even more surprising was how many stores didn’t have a lot of models in-stock. We finally found a nice one at Lowe’s for a reasonable price and the Pastor’s family only had to go without a fridge for a long weekend.



This is not the case with the church parking lot. You’ll recall my plea for folks to help get rid of the weeds in the lots from last month’s What’s Up. After discussion at our last Trustee’s Meeting, we really feel we need to set a goal of dealing with the lots for next summer. We’d love to completely re-surface both lots but that will be very costly so re-sealing is probably more realistic as that

would take care of the weeds for at least a couple of years. The lot was last re-sealed in 2023 (you may recall that it was also sealed in November of 2022 which failed due to the cold weather and the company re-sealed it for free) for \$4,700. With the price of oil what it is, that will certainly be higher next summer. Keep this in mind if you’re interested in donating to a project to support the church. As next summer approaches we may run a campaign to pay for the re-sealing but please feel free to get the ball rolling any time you’d like.

Looking ahead to other future projects. It’s been several years since the carpets have been professionally cleaned so we’re looking into getting that job done. This article is due tomorrow so the details aren’t clear at this point but keep your eye out for possible “wet carpet” signs in future weeks. Finally, it’s too early to set a date as of yet but watch the weekly bulletins and October’s What’s Up for the date of our Fall Clean-up Day. Many hands make the task go quickly...



Welcoming New Members

On Sunday, August 23, we received three new members into Rockton United Methodist Church: Lisa Brown, Sunghee Kim, and Deanna Cook Survillas.

During the service, Lisa, Sunghee, and Deanna made their vows, and the congregation made vows too — promising to surround them with a community of love and forgiveness. Joining a church isn't something a person does alone. Our members welcomed them with flowers afterward.

We continued in Fellowship Hall with coffee and pastries. It was good to see people sitting together and getting to know one another.

Lisa, Sunghee, and Deanna, we're glad you've joined us on this journey of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Sunday School Resumes September 13

Sunday School is back on Sunday, September 13, the Sunday after Labor Day. To keep it going every week, we need a team — enough people that the same two or three aren't doing it every Sunday.

We're looking for both teachers and helpers.

Teachers lead the Bible study. Pastor Seong provides the materials ahead of time, so no one has to put a lesson together from scratch.

Helpers assist the teacher during class. There's no prep for this, but it matters. Kids stay focused better when there's another adult in the room paying attention to them.

The class is for kindergarten through 8th grade. Some Sundays we have two or three kids, some Sundays nine. Each class runs about 30 to 35 minutes and includes Bible study plus crafts and/or games.

With a good number of people signed up, no one has to teach every week.

Sign-up sheets will be at both entrances for the rest of the year, so you can pick the Sundays that work for you. If you have questions or want to help in either role, please contact Pastor Seong.



Thank you for reading!

Rockton United Methodist Church

Pastor Seonghyun Choi

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102 W. Chapel Street
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SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Rockford Cluster Mtg. 12pm	3	4	5
6 9:30am Worship 10:30am 	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30am Worship Sisters in Christ Bonfire 6pm Girl Scouts 1:30-3:00pm	14 4pm Trustees	15 4:30 pm Ad Council	16	17	18	19 Fresh Expressions Training 9-3pm Grace UMC
20 9:30am Worship  Newsletter articles due	21	22	23	24	25	26 Safe Sanctuaries Online Training 12pm
27 9:30am Worship Girl Scouts 1:30-3:00pm Food on the 4th	28	29	30			

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