



THE ROCKTONIAN

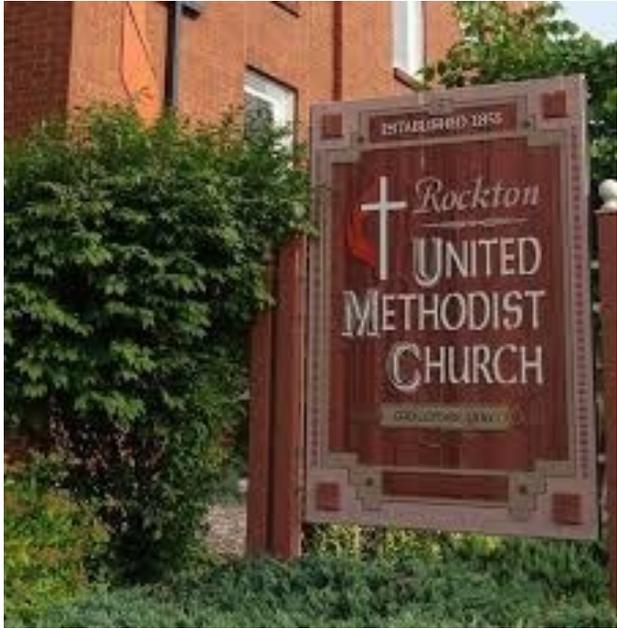
Welcoming all in Jesus' name
as we Grow Together in Faith, Service, and Love
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Super Bowl Sunday Fellowship Night

On Sunday, February 8, we'll gather at church for a Super Bowl get together, and everyone is invited. We'll meet at 4 pm in the fellowship hall downstairs, where we'll have a big 100 inch screen set up for the game. Kickoff is at 5:30, but we'll gather earlier to enjoy time together.

We'll start by making our own pizzas, sharing snacks and drinks, and playing games until the game begins. Bring your favorite games to share. Whether you love football, enjoy the commercials, or simply want a relaxed evening of fellowship, there's something for everyone.

Bring your friends and families and come ready to eat, laugh, and spend time together. We look forward to sharing this fun and welcoming evening as a church family.



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Worship Beyond Language and Culture

I did not set out on January 5 expecting to rethink what worship means. I went to the gathering of Korean/Korean American clergy in the Northern Illinois Conference because it was the beginning of a new year and it was time to worship together, share a meal, and hold our first meeting. It was a familiar and practical thing to do. And yet, as often happens, something ordinary led me to see things more clearly.

There are around forty-five Korean/Korean American clergy serving in our conference. Most of us are appointed in cross cultural and cross racial settings, with some serving Korean Methodist congregations. Even within that shared heritage, there is wide diversity. Some grew up in Korea, others in the United States, and some in South America. For some, Korean is the first language of faith and prayer. For others, English or Spanish comes more naturally. We gathered, then, not as a single type of group, but as people shaped by different histories and paths.

We began with worship. We prayed, we sang, we listened, and we stood before God together. Later we shared a meal. Some of you might already know this about me, but I enjoy cooking and, just as much, eating. So yes, I truly enjoyed the lunch, especially the wide variety of Korean food that was shared with such generosity. More than the food itself, it was the time at the table that mattered. Sitting together, talking and listening, reminded me that worship does not end with the final hymn. It continues in how we relate to one another.

Not long after, one of our church members asked me a simple and thoughtful question. How did it feel, they wondered, to worship in my mother tongue? At first, it sounded like a question about language. But the more I reflected on it, the more I realized it pointed to something larger. It led me to ask what truly gives worship its meaning.

Language and culture matter. They shape memory, emotion, and identity in real ways. But as I thought back on that gathering, I realized that what made it meaningful was not simply the language used in prayer or song. What mattered was who we were worshiping, why we had gathered, and the shared act of turning our attention toward God. Our differences did not disappear in worship, but they did not stand in the way either.

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Lent Book Club



N.T. WRIGHT

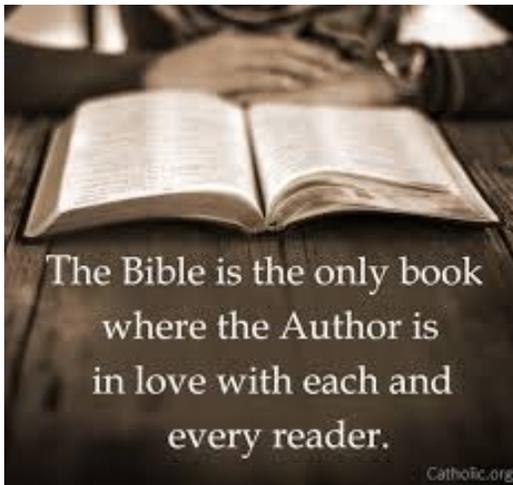
**THE WAY OF
THE LORD**

Christian Pilgrimage Today

Lent Book Club begins on February 18, Ash Wednesday, and you are invited to join us for a shared journey of reading, reflection, and conversation. This Lent, we will read and discuss *The Way of the Lord: Christian Pilgrimage Today* by N. T. Wright, gathering every Wednesday at 4:30 pm in the meeting room at church, with the option to join by Zoom as well.

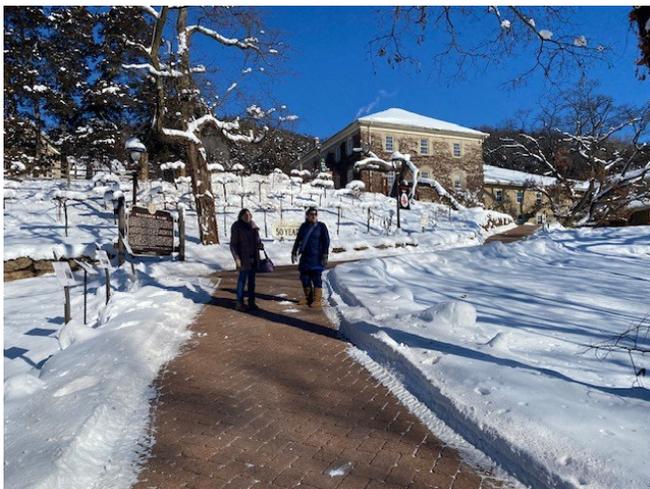
Written with pilgrimage in mind, this book invites us to walk the landscape of faith, whether or not we ever set foot in the Holy Land. Wright guides readers through familiar biblical places and stories, helping us see how Scripture, history, and lived faith come together in meaningful ways. Along the way, he encourages us to reflect on what it means to be on a spiritual journey shaped by repentance, prayer, imagination, and hope. Especially during Lent, this book helps us slow down, pay attention, and consider how following Jesus reshapes our lives and our world.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Seong.



Sauk City Outing Moved to February 7th

Due to weather, and the funeral services for beloved church member, Bob Lawhorn, the Sisters in Christ Sauk City Area Outing has been rescheduled to Saturday, February 7th, so please mark your calendars accordingly, and we hope to see you there!



From the Pastor's Desk cont.

That realization helped me see our own congregation more clearly. On January 25, after a Sunday of worshiping online only while I was recovering from COVID, we were able to gather again both in person and online. Being together in worship filled me with gratitude. Here was a community made up of many stories and experiences, held together by care for one another and trust in God.

The question about worshiping in one's mother tongue did not pull me away from our congregation. It drew my attention back to it. It reminded me that worship is not confined by language, culture, or skin color. It is shown in a community that loves openly, prays widely, and welcomes generously.

I am thankful to serve a church that seeks to live out that calling, welcoming all in Jesus' name and praying for all people. As we move further into this year, my hope is that our worship continues to point beyond boundaries and toward the generous love of God, the love that gathers us, shapes us, and sends us out together.

Grace,
Pastor Seong



Thank you for reading!

Rockton United Methodist Church	Pastor Seonghyun Choi
www.rocktonumc.org Office Hours Mon & Thurs. 9am-1pm email: RocktonUMC@gmail.com	102 W. Chapel Street Rockton, IL 61072

F.E.B.R.U.A.R.Y

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 10:30 	2	3	4 UMC Clergy Mtg 11am	5 NIC Korean Clergy Book Club 11am	6	7 Sisters in Christ Outing (snow date)
8 9:30am Worship Girl Scouts 1:30-3:00pm Super Bowl Gathering	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 9:30am Worship	16 4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	17 4:30 pm Ad Council	18	19	20  Newsletter articles due	21
22 9:30am Worship Food on the 4th Girl Scouts 1:30-3:00pm	23	24	25	26	27	28

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Rockton, IL 61072