



November 2025

THE ROCKTONIAN

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

Fall Clean Up Day

Saturday, November 8th, 2025

Please join the trustees for a grounds cleanup day, Sat. Nov. 8th from 9:30 to 11:30. We will be raking, weed control, and clearing the gutters.

Please bring your rakes and gloves.

We are also looking for volunteers to shovel or lay salt down on wintery days ahead. Please inform one of the trustees if you are willing to be put on a call list when snow removal or ice is needed for the sidewalks.

Work Day will be canceled if rain is present. Please sign up in the Narthex. Many thanks for your time.



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From the Pastor's desk

What's up with the building?

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The Mission of the Methodist Church: Transforming the World Together

On a Monday in October, I went to Glenview, Illinois, for a new clergy orientation with the Northern Illinois Conference. It was a meaningful day of worship and learning, surrounded by other new pastors from across the state. I met district superintendents, the assistant to the bishop, and Bishop Dan Schwerin, and listened to their wisdom about ministry in today's world.

What stayed with me most from that day was a renewed sense of our shared mission as Methodist people—to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I was reminded that this transformation doesn't begin in faraway places or through large institutions; it begins right where we are. It begins with each local church that is rooted in its own community, connected to its neighbors, and involved in the everyday life that happens around it.

That's what it means for us at Rockton UMC to live out the mission of the Church. We are called not only to welcome people into our building but also to step outside of it—to notice what God is already doing in our neighborhood and to join in. When we form real, mutual relationships with those around us, the line between "church" and "community" begins to fade. Together, we become partners in serving and caring for one another.

A simple but beautiful example of this happened recently with our community garden. A group of Boy Scouts and their families spent months planning and creating a new sign for the garden. They designed it, cut

the wood, painted it, and carefully prepared every detail. Then they came to the church one afternoon to clean the garden area, dig holes, hammer posts into the ground, and finally install the sign. It was more than a project—it was a shared act of care.

That process, from start to finish, mattered. We didn't simply receive help; we shared in something meaningful together. The Scouts gave their time and skill, and in return, they became part of something that serves others—a garden that grows food for our neighbors and strengthens our community. This is what healthy relationships look like. Sometimes we serve the community; other times, the community serves us. It's not about one side giving and the other receiving—it's about walking alongside one another in partnership and grace.

That's what it means to transform the world in small but faithful ways. Transformation doesn't always happen through grand gestures. Sometimes it begins with a few people working side by side in the garden—digging, talking, laughing, and creating something good together.

As I reflect on that day in Glenview and on our life here in Rockton, I am reminded that the Methodist mission is not abstract—it's personal, local, and relational. When we open our hearts to our neighbors, God uses those relationships to bring hope, healing, and new life. And in that simple, shared work, the world begins to change.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Seong

What's Up with the Building?

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

By now, you may have noticed that the church tuck-pointing and brick repairs are finished. It'll take a year or two for the fresh tuck-pointing to blend in to the same color as the older, weathered, tuck-pointing but it's nice not to see the gaps between the bricks and the chipped and broken bricks anymore.

By the time you read this, the church boilers will hopefully have been fired-up for the winter. To those of you who found the building a little chilly at times recently, the Trustees try to do a balance between cost and comfort. I saw a special segment on WREX weather showing data that the average first freeze in October has migrated to be two whole weeks later in the month since 1970 so it makes it hard to predict when to turn them on based on past years. Now that the building is used more during the week, we'll be adjusting the thermostats in the coming weeks once they're started.

It's a busy time of year so the Trustees will be getting our trusted painter, Dave Atterbury (brief advertisement for Dave...), to fix the ceiling in the North Room. Dave already has the hole patched.

FYI: Building key's #44 and #45 have turned-up so thanks to whoever found or returned them.

Be sure to see Brenda's article in this newsletter and listen for any late announcements about the Fall Grounds Day on Saturday, November 8th from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Some church members have been working outside already and thanks to them for all their work. It makes for less that has to be done on the 8th. We can always use folks who are good on a ladder for checking out the gutters, etc. Also, be sure to catch the information on ice and snow removal for the winter.

Friendsgiving Potluck

Sisters in Christ will be hosting a Friendsgiving potluck supper on Tuesday, November 18, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you can come and enjoy our always famous Methodist potluck supper. Please bring a dish to pass and your appetite. Turkey will be served! If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call. 608-368-1051. See you there!



Save The Date!

Mark your Calendars! Everyone is invited to celebrate Naurine (Tena) Stenzel's 100th birthday brunch on November 23 in the fellowship hall following Sunday church service. Please join us in celebrating this wonderful milestone!



Church Life in Pictures: November 2025



Trunk or Treat 2025



Thank you for reading!

Rockton United Methodist Church

Pastor Seonghyun Choi

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

NOVEMBER

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

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Rockton, IL 61072