



# THE ROCKTONIAN

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

## Cubs vs. White Sox Tailgate Party



We're excited for game day! On Saturday, May 17, let's gather at the church at 1:00 pm to cheer on the Cubs as they face the White Sox; first pitch is at 1:10 pm on our 100" big screen. We'll provide hot dogs and chips—just bring your favorite non-alcoholic drink to enjoy. Donations for hot dogs, chips, and condiments are welcome if you'd like to help out.

Everyone's welcome—whether you're cheering for the Cubs, rooting for the Sox, or just want to hang out. We'll relax, share good food, and enjoy time together as a church family. Come whenever you can, stay as long as you'd like, and if you have a board game or card game you love, bring it to share!

Bring your friends and neighbors—the more, the merrier!

Help us make this event memorable—sign up at the back of the sanctuary or let Pastor Seong know you're coming. Your RSVP helps us get ready and makes sure everyone has a great time. Don't miss out—come celebrate with us!



|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| <b>In this issue:</b>               |
| <hr/>                               |
| <b>From the Pastor's desk</b>       |
| <hr/>                               |
| <b>What's up with the building?</b> |
| <hr/>                               |
| <b>Committee Updates</b>            |
| <hr/>                               |
| <b>May Calendar</b>                 |



and harvesting. No experience necessary. A few hours of your time goes a long way.

We hope you'll join us.

Peace,

Pastor Seong

## Community Garden Update— Growing Together for Our Neighbors

At Rockton UMC, we grow vegetables to donate to local food pantries. The community garden on our church grounds is one small but tangible way we care for our neighbors.

Last spring, we began partnering with the Roscoe Gardening Club, and that relationship has continued into this season. On April 28, we joined members of the club to clean up the garden beds and add fresh soil. We didn't plant that day, but together we got the garden ready for what's ahead.

This isn't a one-time collaboration. Over the past year, the club has shown up alongside us, bringing their time and their effort. That kind of ongoing partnership has made the garden stronger, and it has connected people across our two communities in ways that matter beyond the garden itself.

The garden is one way we welcome others as Jesus taught. When someone picks up a tomato or cucumber from a food pantry — grown here, given freely — that simple act carries something real.

As the season moves forward, we'll need volunteers for watering, weeding,



# What's Up with the Building?

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

## May 2026-

Well, it looks like Spring (Summer???) is finally here and, hopefully, everyone made it through the tornados. Much too close for comfort for me and my family. Thanks be to God for his protection and that our parsonage and church were not affected.

Our next big event for the Trustees will be Mulch Day on Saturday, May 16th, from 9:00 am until approximately noon. The grounds are in pretty good shape so our main task will be to replace the mulch around the church. There may be a few other projects such as scraping the weeds out of the parking lot cracks, but the main job will be to replace the mulch. To that end, there are a couple of ways you can help. Of course, the main way would be to join us and help dig out the old mulch and put in the new. In order to put in new mulch, however, we have to have new mulch to put in. So, if you'd like to help, then please consider donating some bags of mulch. A review of some of the stores shows that a bag of mulch these days is essentially \$2.00. Therefore, please consider donating \$2.00 for each bag of mulch you'd like give. If you'd prefer to pick the bags up yourself then please be sure you take note of the color that's there now, adjust it in your mind to what it looked like a couple of years ago, and bring them in. Otherwise, please put your cash or check in an envelope in the collection plate and designate that it's for mulch and we'll pick it up for that Saturday. Many hands make the work go quicker...

Gardening season is just around the corner and the Roscoe Garden Club will soon be gearing up to get things ready for planting. Here again, if

you like to garden there is place for you right here at your church. Let a Trustee or Pastor know of your interest and we'll get you connected with the gardening folks. There's room for those who would like to participate regularly and room for those who would like to work when they have some free time. It adds a new take to the idea that "...we grow together...".

Let's talk trash for a minute.... The lids on our dumpster used to blow open all the time filling the dumpster with snow and rain. We asked for and got a different one that now has a bar on it to hold the lids down. So for the folks who get to throw the trash bags in the dumpster, please be sure you move the lever so the bar covers the lids and keeps them from flying open.

I'll close with a fond memory of Spring from when Pauline Lawhorn and I used to teach the Adult Sunday School Class. One of our members who grew up in Latin America recalled his first Spring in the United States. Where he grew up, it was green all the time. But experiencing his first Spring in North America he said it was the most marvelous experience watching everything coming up new, fresh, and beautiful. To him it was a religious experience, one of re-birth... Take the time to enjoy your Spring!!



## Annual Route 75 RUMC Rummage Sale-June 4-6

Times: June 4th & 5th 10am-5pm and June 6th 9am-12noon.

It should be a great success if we do as well as last year. Our 2nd annual rummage will be in cooperation with the Route 75 sale. We will be collecting up to, and through the sale. Drop things by anytime. Even during the sale, it gives us something a little different each day. If you need help getting things picked up let us know. Please let us get rid of your gently used items you no longer want.

### Items to share:

Tools always sell well, any hardware, building or decor materials, we sold close to 15 boxes and 30 gallon bags of clothing last year jeans and workout gear did well, kids clothes are popular, too, Toys and stuffed animals, fishing and sports gear, housewares and kitchen goods, records/CDs/Books; A lot of people asked about jewelry which we had almost none of, so if you have that costume jewelry (earrings etc.), statues/bells/knick-knacks, furniture (tables, chairs, shelves, lamps) anything that maybe you don't need anymore might be just the thing someone else is looking for. You would be surprised at what sells!

We will need help on Wed. June 3rd, 3pm-7pm, to set up, and the day of each sale we will need to have people an hour before we start 'til 1/2 hour after close to close up. On Sat., we will need a number of people to help break down and prepare leftover items to be donated. There will be sign up sheets at both doors at church for the month of May. With everyone's help, I'm sure we'll have great success. Be sure to come and shop and invite your friends!



## Special Music on May 17

On Sunday, May 17, Lynn Washburn-Livingston will perform two pieces on flute during our worship service — Silent Worship and A Prayer for Peace — accompanied by Christine Gustafson on piano.

As a congregation that loves music, we know you will appreciate this special addition to our worship. We are grateful to Lynn and Christine for sharing their gifts with us.

We hope you'll join us on May 17.



## SERVICE



**Thanks to everyone who donated to the cause. You lowered our weekly costs by 50%.**



## School Staff Appreciation Sunday — May 31



Join us during our worship service on Sunday, May 31, as we hold a special ceremony to honor the school staff in our congregation.

Whether you're a current or former teacher, administrator, counselor, aide, or anyone who has served in any school role, we want to recognize your dedication and impact.

Your work — inside and outside the classroom — shapes lives and strengthens our community. We are grateful for your service, compassion, and the example you set.

During the ceremony, we'll take a moment to bless, thank, and pray for all our school staff. Let's show our appreciation for those who serve or have served in education.

Thank you for reading!

Rockton United Methodist Church



Pastor Seonghyun Choi

[www.rocktonumc.org](http://www.rocktonumc.org)  
Office Hours Mon & Thurs. 9am-1pm  
email: [RocktonUMC@gmail.com](mailto:RocktonUMC@gmail.com)

102 W. Chapel Street  
Rockton, IL 61072



# MAY

| Sunday  | Monday                                | Tuesday                              | Wednesday   | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                          |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------|--------|-----------------------------------|
|   |                                       |                                      |   |          | 1      | 2<br><br>Roadside<br>Clean Up Day |
| 3<br><br>9:30am<br>Worship<br>10:30am<br> | 4                                     | 5<br><br>Sisters in Christ<br>6:30pm | 6   | 7        | 8      | 9                                 |
| 10<br>9:30am<br>Worship   | 11                                    | 12                                   | 13  | 14       | 15     | 16<br><br>Church Work<br>Day      |
| 17<br>9:30am<br>Worship<br>Girl Scouts<br>1:30-3:00pm<br>Cubs v. White<br>Sox 1:00pm  | 18<br><br>4pm Trustees<br>5pm Finance | 19<br><br>4:30 pm Ad<br>Council      | 20<br><br><br><br>Newsletter<br>articles due | 21       | 22     | 23                                |
| 24<br><br>Food on the 4th<br><br>31<br>School Staff<br>Appreciation   | 25                                    | 26                                   | 27  | 28       | 29     | 30                                |

Rockton United Methodist Church  
102 W. Chapel Street  
Rockton, IL 61072