



June 2026

THE ROCKTONIAN

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



You're Invited to an Open House at the Parsonage on June 19, 3-5 pm

As we celebrate this first year together, Pastor Seong and his family would love to open their home to you. They are hosting an open house at the parsonage on Friday, June 19, from 3 to 5 pm, and we hope you will stop by.

There will be cheese pizza and some Korean treats for those who would like to try something new. It will be a relaxed, come-and-go gathering — just a chance to share food, laughter, and good company.

Don't forget to drop your name in the raffle box while you are there — we will pick three winners for small prizes!

If you would like to help out and bring something to share, that would be wonderful — but please know there is no pressure. Sign-up sheets are available at both church entrances, and we ask everyone to sign up so we know how many to expect.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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A Year Together: Reflections on Our Annual Ministry Review

As we move into June, I can hardly believe it has been almost a year since I first came to Rockton UMC. Honestly, it has gone by fast — and it has been a blessed year. Getting to know each of you, learning your names, hearing your stories, and worshiping together has meant more to me than I can easily put into words.

Recently, I sat down with our Staff-Parish Relations Committee for our annual ministry review. It was a good conversation — honest, encouraging, and full of the kind of warmth I have come to associate with this congregation. I wanted to share a little of what we discussed, because none of this is just about me. It is about all of us.

What We Celebrated Together

The committee was kind and generous in their reflections. They spoke about how much relationships matter in our life together — the visits, the phone calls, the prayers, the simple act of making sure someone who walks in for the first time feels like they belong. I am grateful for that, but I also know I did not do it alone. This congregation has a big heart, and it shows.

They also celebrated the return of our music program and the re-launch of our children's Sunday school. Watching the kids play chimes at Easter — wrong notes and all — and seeing familiar and new faces together at Christmas Eve and Easter services reminded me of why this work matters so much.

Where We Want to Grow

The review was also a chance to be honest about where we can do better. One thing we talked about is finding more creative ways to stay connected with our children, youth, and their families throughout the year. Life is full and busy for everyone, and we want to make sure our youngest members always have a way to stay connected to this community of faith. We are thinking about things like weekday gatherings that weave together worship, fellowship, and music — more on that as plans develop.

I also want to grow in how I plan and lead fellowship events. Good intentions are not always enough, and I am learning that meaningful gatherings take careful preparation and shared ownership. I look forward to working more closely with our Fellowship and Outreach Committees and leaning on the many capable leaders already in this congregation.

Looking Ahead

Our goal for the coming year is simple: to keep growing in our ministry to children, youth, and their families — through Sunday school, summer programming, and whatever else God opens up for us. And to keep doing what this church already does well, which is welcoming all in Jesus' name.

On that note — and to celebrate this first year together — our family would love to have you over. We are hosting an open house at the parsonage on Friday, June 19, from 3 to 5 pm. More details in a separate article!

Thank you to our SPRC members for their time and thoughtfulness. And thank you — all of you — for making this first year such a gift. I am excited for what comes next.

In Faith and Gratitude,

Pastor Seong

What's Up with the Building?

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

June 2026-

I hate to repeat myself, but this Spring seems to have a lot more extremes than usual. One day it's 85 degrees and the next it's 55 degrees which makes it very hard to plan. At our last Trustee's meeting we decided we're just going to have to make a decision so the call has been made to turn the heat off to the building. Fortunately, our "mini-splits" that are placed around the edges of the Sanctuary can provide some heat as well as A/C so we do have some heating available for a chilly Sunday morning. But I'm writing this to advise you that when you head out for church and there's a chill in the air that you'd be advised to grab a sweater just in case from now on. As of this writing, the heat is scheduled to be turned off the last week of May so it should be off by the time you read this.

We also need to talk trash again. If you read What's Up last month, you may remember I talked about the dumpster now having a bar on it to keep the lids from blowing open. Well, as a part of that discussion with Waste Management, we got into looking at

how the pickup cost is changing now that fuel is so much higher. Our costs have gone up some for each time we have the dumpster emptied, but one pickup in August of 2025 stood out as being three times higher than normal! It turns out that if we don't have everything totally in the dumpster, we pay a penalty. Apparently, that was the case back then. So, if you are ever charged with putting things in the dumpster, and you can't fit it in and close the lid, don't leave it by the side. Take it back in and put it in the Boiler Room, and let me know so I can call to have it emptied before it's overflowing and we pay a penalty. Also, if you do ever notice anything sitting on the ground around the dumpster, or that it's so full the lids won't shut, please also give me a call. With the new dumpster we do have the option of locking it as there is always the possibility of outside folks dumping in it. Let's hope we don't have to, but we do need to keep an eye out to be sure it's never overflowing and about to cost us more.

Sisters In Christ

The June 9th meeting for Sisters in Christ will be a cooking lesson from Pastor Seong and Sunghee! They will guide us through making Kimbap. Please bring a cutting board for your personal use in assembling this unique Korean dish. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Phyllis by return email, call 608-368-1051, or sign up on the sheets located by both church entrances. We need to make sure we have enough ingredients for everyone. Sisters in Christ will be supplying the ingredients. Be sure to sign up for what is sure to be a fun time had by all!



Children's Summer Half-Day Program – June 23

We are excited to invite your children and grandchildren to our summer Half-Day Program on Tuesday, June 23, from 9 am to 1 pm!

It is going to be a full and fun morning. Here is what we have planned:

- 9:00 – 9:30 Breakfast & Clean Up
- 9:30 – 10:00 Praise & Worship
- 10:00 – 10:30 Bible Study
- 10:30 – 11:00 Crafts
- 11:00 – 12:00 Games
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch & Clean Up



This is a great opportunity for children to come together, have fun, and grow in faith over the summer. All children are welcome, so feel free to invite friends and neighbors too!

For more information or to sign up, please contact Pastor Seong.

We look forward to a wonderful morning together!



Financial Notice!

To anyone who makes electronic donations to the church, you will need to update the routing number for the church, so that it corresponds to the new bank.

Bank First is the bank which has taken place of First National Bank and Trust.

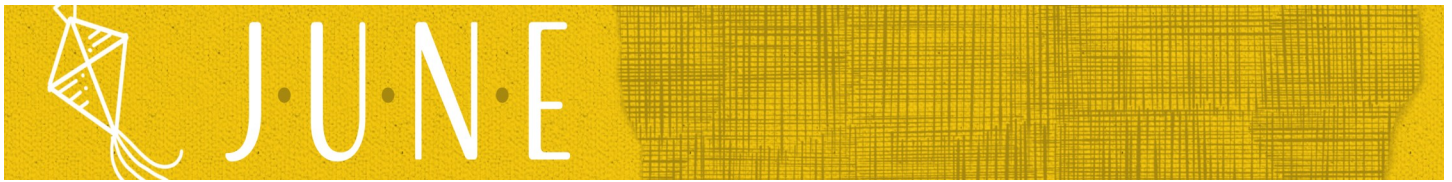
**The new routing number is:
075901134**

This new banking information was changed as of May 18th, so if you have not made the appropriate changes, please do so at your earliest convenience.

**Thank you,
Finance Committee**

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



JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 RUMC Book Club 5pm Church Rummage Sale	5 Church Rummage Sale	6 Church Rummage Sale
7 9:30am Worship 10:30am 	8	9 Sisters in Christ 6:30pm	10	11 RUMC Book Club 5pm	12	13
14 9:30am Worship Northern Illinois Annual Conference Father's Day	15 Northern Illinois Annual Conference 4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	16 Northern Illinois Annual Conference 4:30 pm Ad Council	17	18 RUMC Book Club 5pm	19 Parsonage Open House 3-5pm	20  Newsletter articles due
21 9:30am Worship	22	23 Sunday School Half Day program 9-1pm	24	25	26	27
28 Food on the 4th	29	30				

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