



March 2026

# THE ROCKTONIAN

Welcoming all in Jesus' name  
as we Grow Together in Faith, Service, and Love

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.



We will again be hosting a potluck on Palm Sunday, which is March 29th. Egg dishes will be provided as well as coffee and juice. There will be sign up sheets at both entrances for those planning to attend. Please include the number of people in your party and a selection of what type of dish you would like to bring. Bring in your food before the church service and we will all work together after the service to get things ready for the feast. This is a wonderful fellowship event and is always well attended.



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## Lent as Pilgrimage: Walking the Way of Grace

This year I experienced something new: my first Lent as a Methodist pastor. Leading an Ash Wednesday service — placing ashes on foreheads and speaking the words, “Remember that you are dust” — felt different from simply attending one. I was reminded that Lent is not only about personal reflection. It is something we walk through together as a church.

At the same time, we began our Lenten book club, reading N. T. Wright’s *The Way of the Lord*. Our early conversations have centered on the image of pilgrimage. Even if most of us never travel to Jerusalem, pilgrimage is still a helpful way to describe the Christian life. It is about movement. It is about being shaped along the way.

For us Methodists, that language connects naturally with how we talk about grace.

We believe in prevenient grace — grace that goes before us. Long before we make a decision for God, God is already at work in us. Long before we recognize it, we are being drawn. In the story of Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul believes he is defending God. He is certain he is right. Yet Christ meets him on the road and turns him around. That moment did not come out of nowhere. It reveals that God was already at work in his life. Prevenient grace meets us before we know to look for it.

We also believe in sanctifying grace — grace that continues to shape us over time. Paul’s encounter with Christ was dramatic, but it was not the end of his journey. It was the beginning of a long process of growth, struggle, and transformation. Sanctifying grace is the steady work of God forming us into people who love more faithfully, forgive more freely, and trust more fully. If the Christian life is a pilgrimage, sanctifying grace is the daily walking — sometimes slow, sometimes uncertain, but always moving.

And we hold onto glorifying grace — the promise that God will complete what God has begun. Our journey is not aimless wandering. We are moving toward a future God has promised: the renewal of all creation, the healing of what is broken, the fulfillment of resurrection hope. Pilgrimage has a destination.

Lent invites us to see our lives in this way. We begin with ashes, remembering that we are dust. But we do not stop there. We are dust loved by God, called by grace, and carried toward hope.

As we continue through this season — in worship, in study, and in conversation — my prayer is that we will notice where grace has already gone before us, where it is shaping us now, and where it is leading us next.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Seong

# What's Up with the Building?

by John Carleton, Trustee Chair

I hope you'll find this part of the article uplifting.... (Sorry, I couldn't resist...) It's that time of year when we have our required annual inspection/certification of our church lift. Ordinarily, I wouldn't bring this up but we've had a couple of incidents in which people have gotten on the lift and it didn't work but then, as soon as the load was reduced, it worked like a charm. So, what's up with the lift? Our lift is rated to a maximum load of 750 pounds so it's a "people" lift and not a cargo lift and we've been good about only using it for that purpose. As a test, there was the inspector, the lift tech and myself so we decided that the three of us were at least 500 pounds and probably closer to 600 pounds. With all three of us on the lift it never hesitated and worked like a charm. So why, when a caterer with a cart of food and someone with a wheel chair were on it, didn't it work? The working theory is that either the tray or the wheel chair may have been up against one of the doors just enough to keep it from running. The door sensors are very, well, sensitive.... If they aren't shut by even the tiniest amount they will keep the lift from working. So, unless you're trying to fit four or more people on the lift, if it's not working, be sure that nothing is in any way touching the doors or have someone push on them lightly to be sure they're shut.

Do you know who your church trustees are? Since the beginning of the year there have only been four of us: Brenda Wulf, Dennis Boschma, Phil Fairve and yours truly. This is the lowest



number of Trustees I can remember in my experience with the Trustees. The beginning of this year has been a challenging year health-wise for three of the families so it's been tough to get a quorum to have a meeting to move forward with some of the

projects. Consequently, I asked the Ad Council for permission to add another Trustee to help share the load and they definitely agreed. The timing couldn't have been better as there is a former Trustee with a good working knowledge of the church who was more than willing to fill in, Jerry Green. Jerry is very ladder capable (no small attribute for working around a church) and was the person who set the AV booth back up after the wall fix so he is very familiar with our tech. So, if you see Jerry, please thank him for being willing to step up and help us out. And it wouldn't hurt to say a prayer for the other three Trustees in the hopes their difficulties will soon resolve themselves as well.

Finally, we'd like to know ASAP if you hear the squirrels in the ceiling in the Bell Room. We found a nest just outside on a pipe with a hole in the eave near it where a small board had fallen out. We presently have a device up in the attic that emits ultra sound and has strobe lights to try and annoy them enough not to return. It has to run on batteries but we hope it's enough to drive them out. As soon as we're sure they're gone, then we can board up the hole and be done with them but we have to be reasonably sure they're gone before we can do that. So let us know, silence is golden.

**From the Family of Bob Lawhorn**

The family of Bob Lawhorn extends our sincere appreciation to the men and women who helped serve the lunch after Bob's funeral on January 31. We thank all church members for your condolences, hugs, and kind words, as we sent Bob to his eternal home!



**Don't Forget to Spring Ahead  
On Sunday, March 8th, 2026!**



Set your clocks ahead 1 hour before  
you head to bed  
Saturday night!

**The first day of spring is just  
around the corner...**



**March 20th, 2026**



**Thank you for reading!**

Rockton United Methodist Church



Pastor Seonghyun Choi

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# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship  10:30am 	2	3	4  Lenten Book Club 4:30pm	5	6	7
8	9	10  Sisters in Christ 6:30pm	11  Lenten Book Club 4:30pm	12	13	14
15 9:30am Worship  Girl Scouts 1:30-3:00pm	16  4pm Trustees 5pm Finance	17  4:30 pm Ad Council	18  Lenten Book Club 4:30pm	19	20    Newsletter articles due	21
22 9:30am Worship  Food on the 4th	23	24	25  Lenten Book Club 4:30pm	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:30am Worship Girl Scouts 1:30-3pm Potluck	30	31				

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