

**“Coming Soon” Series**  
**December 21, 2025, Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Welcome to our worship service!** Please silence your cell phone; covered beverages are allowed in the Sanctuary. Congregational responses on the screen are in bold print. \*Please stand if you are able.

**8:45 Service**

GREETING / PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Bill & Ann MacDhubhain

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Johannes Brahms

\*OPENING HYMN *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (216)

PRAYER Morning / Silent / Lord's Prayer Darlene Topp

\*GLORY TO THE FATHER (70)

OFFERING / BREAD PAN: Advent Conspiracy Project: Solar Ovens  
Music: *Once He Came In Blessing* Michael Burkhardt

\*DOXOLOGY (95)

\*HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (230)

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 7:14, John 3:16-21 (p.623, 968) Darlene Topp

MESSAGE “Love Coming Soon” Pastor Anna Moon

\*CLOSING HYMN *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* (240)

\*SENDING RESPONSE

*Blest Be the Tie that Binds* (557 (vs.1), followed by *Send Us into the World*

\*CONGREGATIONAL AMEN No. 898

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Noel* Claude Balbastre

**11:00 Service**

GREETING / PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Brandon Attala & Jacob Oleneack

\*OPENING SONGS

PRAYER Morning / Silent / Lord's Prayer Val Northcutt

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Abby Teunissen

*Children ages 4 yrs to 5<sup>th</sup> grade leave for JAMS (Jesus and Me Sunday)†*

OFFERING / BREAD PAN: Advent Conspiracy Project: Solar Ovens

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 7:14, John 3:16-21 (p.623, 968) Val Northcutt

MESSAGE “Love Coming Soon” Pastor Anna Moon

\*CLOSING SONG

\*SENDING RESPONSE

*Blest Be the Tie that Binds* (No. 557 vs. 1), *Send Us into the World*

\*BENEDICTION

†**JAMS** geared toward children 4 yrs to 5th grade and is a time for them to learn about Jesus through activities, games, and crafts.

**A Nursery for those birth - 3 years old** is staffed with trained volunteers during our 11 am service. It is not staffed at the 8:45 service but feel free to use the space and the TV to watch the service with your child(ren).

**THIS WEEK AT RUMC**

**TODAY**

8:45 am Traditional worship service

10 am Advent Study, Fellowship Hall (front half)

10 am Stained Glass Group, Fellowship Hall (back half)

10:15 am Youth Christmas Eve Meeting, TWC

11 am Contemporary worship service

**TUESDAY**

9:30 am - 2:30 pm Office Open

6 pm Surviving the Holidays, Education/Center Entrance

**WEDNESDAY - Christmas Eve, Office Closed**

7:00 pm Family Friendly Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

11:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**THURSDAY– Christmas Day, Office Closed**

***Merry Christmas!***

7 pm AA Meeting, Wesley Room

**FRIDAY**

9:30 am - 2:30 pm Office Open

**NEXT SUNDAY**

8:45 am Traditional worship service

11 am Contemporary worship service

**Holiday Office Hours** The RUMC office will be open Dec. 23, 26, 30, 31 & Jan. 2 from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. The office will be closed as usual on Mondays, and closed on Dec. 24, 25, and Jan. 1 to observe the holidays.

**Please** plan to take home your **poinsettia** on Christmas Eve after the service you attend.

**Thanksgiving Offering/Staff Gift/Year End Contributions** A reminder the Thanksgiving Offering, Staff Gift and Year End Contributions are due in the church office. Place your donation in the offering plate, add it to your online giving or mail/drop it off to the church office by December 28 for 2025 tax filing. Thanksgiving Offering envelopes available in the entrances.

**2026 Offering Envelopes** are available to be picked up in the worship entrance. To save on postage costs, please consider delivering to those who cannot get out easily or are homebound. If you are missing yours, will be giving online, or using distributions from your investment funds and don't need an envelope, contact the church office. Let's try to have all envelopes picked up by mid-January!!

**Today's Bread Pan: Solar Oven Partners** - Solar ovens cook healthy food and pasteurize water using the sun which is clean and free energy so families can direct their savings to pressing needs or even produce supplemental income. With our faith rooted in the story of Jesus, whose example of caring we follow, we deepen awareness of and relationships with Jesus. Solar Ovens cost approximately \$200 to manufacture, deliver, and train recipients.

**Sermon Notes**

**Where to find**

**Church Information** [rockfordumc.org](http://rockfordumc.org)

Get church news, service times, fellowship, missions and more

**Monthly Schedule** [rockfordumc.org/events](http://rockfordumc.org/events)

See what's going on at RUMC this month

**Live Worship/Virtual Bulletin/Attendance** [rockfordumc.org/watch](http://rockfordumc.org/watch)

View live worship; download the bulletin to your mobile device or home computer; or register your in-person or virtual attendance

**Ministries for You** [rockfordumc.org/ministries](http://rockfordumc.org/ministries)

Find a ministry right for you and your family

**Newsletter** [rockfordumc.org/connect-with-us](http://rockfordumc.org/connect-with-us)

Sign up for prayer requests, weekly updates or the monthly newsletter



## Announcements & Upcoming Events

**Grief Share Class** We are offering a Surviving the Holidays class on Tuesday, December 23, 6-8 pm for those who are navigating the loss of a loved one and the upcoming holidays. An RSVP to the church office is preferred but optional.

**ASP Informational Meeting** If you are interested in the Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip, or ASP in general, plan to attend the informational meeting on Sunday, January 4, at 12:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The trip will be June 13-20, 2026. Students must be at least 13 to participate.

**Unhanging of the Greens** will take place after second service on January 4. Please plan to stay after (or return) to help take down and put away Christmas decorations. Many hands will make light work!

**Worship Leader Needed** Rockford UMC is looking for a contemporary service worship leader to lead and grow with our praise team. A more detailed job description is posted on our church website. Please share this information with a worshiper with experience leading worship teams so they can apply. Please pray as we search for a worship leader for our contemporary service. Thank you all!

**The Care Ministry Team** is looking for a pool of drivers to rotate giving rides to someone from church who attends the 8:45 service. If you can help, please contact Kathryn Ricker.

**Reminder for Online Givers**, or those planning to give online, beginning January 1, 2026 we will be using a new company to process our online giving. You will need to sign-up to give with the new company and stop your giving with the old company. The easiest way to do this is to visit [rockfordumc.org](http://rockfordumc.org) and click on the **Give** button. There, scroll down and you will find two red buttons. The **Giving 2** button is for current giving where you can cancel the old transaction(s). Click on **Online Giving** to sign up for the new company where you will need to create a username and password.

### Finance Update through Dec. 14

You are encouraged to give either through US mail or via the website [rockfordumc.org/online-giving](http://rockfordumc.org/online-giving). Thank you for your continued support!

Gifts & Offerings	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Building Needs</u>
Year to Date Needed:	\$444,800.00	has received
Year to Date Received:	\$415,422.99	\$79,071.27 so far.
Thanksgiving Received	\$17,175.00	

Bread Pan: Solar Ovens: \$1695.00

Weekly Attendance	<u>8:45 am/online</u>	<u>11 am/online</u>
Dec. 7	126/15	64/7
Dec. 14	105/23	49/5

At RUMC, we know prayer works. Please contact the church office with prayer concerns. Thank you for your commitment to prayer.

## PRAYER CONCERNS – December 21, 2025

### Praises and Celebrations

**Wendy Helbling**, from Columbia, has a date for her interview, the last step in the process to enter the US. Prayers for no more delays in the paperwork. Daughter-in-law of Kim (Vitacco) Wysocki.

**Mitchell Garrison** His surgery was a success and the biopsy showed the masses were cancerous, but doctors feel all cancer has been removed. Grandson of Nancy Hinton.

### New Prayer Concerns

For those who are struggling with the holidays after losing a loved one.

For our homebound folks, especially Nancy Jensen, George Mayhak and Rosemary & Bill Bauer.

**Jeff Seagle** successfully had a pacemaker inserted Thursday.

**Jerry Hockstra** is home from a hospital stay after losing a lot of blood.

**Diane VanHekken** is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

**Joyce Cantlon**, fell and broke the ball of her shoulder. She is in severe pain and will not be able to work for 3 months (she is the main source of income). Prayers for pain control. Friend of Kim (Vitacco) Wysocki.

**Cass Helfer**, underwent a procedure on Friday, prayers the doctors found what they are looking for. Sister of Pam Wolven.

**Lori Burnette** has been diagnosed with Stage 4 Melanoma Cancer which has spread throughout her body. She is getting ready to begin immunotherapy. Prayers for the Oncologists to find the right treatment to stem the tide. Friend of Mark Self.

**Sandy**, serious condition from an accident in Florida. She is a dear friend of Jackie Cook.

**Sallie**, hospitalized with unknown heart concerns, friend of Jackie Cook.

### Continuing Prayer Concerns

Please keep these people in your prayers: Steven, Linus & Kay Schwartz, Diane Griffiths, Brian Bailey, Sue Darby, Doug DeVries, Cindy Presler, Jim Larson, George Mayhak and Nancy Jensen.

### Serving Next Week, December 28

#### Prayer /Scripture:

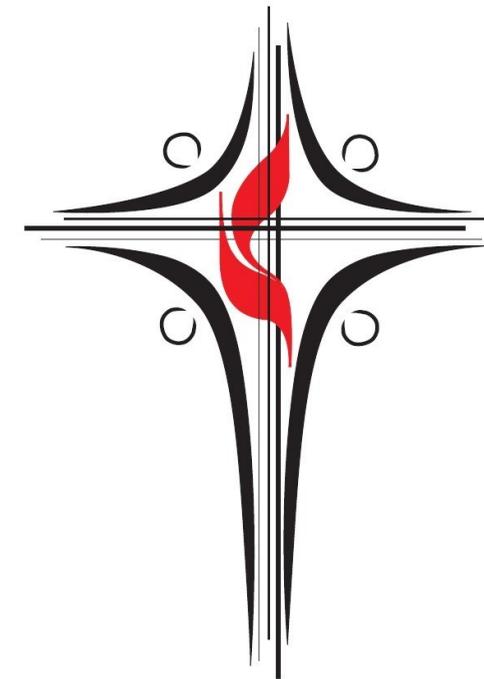
8:45 am: Motu Johnston - Prayer & Scripture  
11:00 am: Jake Lindemer - Prayer & Scripture

#### Greeters:

8:45 am: Mark & Betty Zeilinger  
11:00 am: Chuck & Cathy Schroeder

#### Ushers:

8:45 am: Steve & Jackie Decker  
11:00 am: Jim & Mary Penrod



# Rockford

## United Methodist Church

*A welcoming family of worship growing in our faith, reaching out to serve others and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.*

159 Maple Street / Rockford, MI 49341  
616.866.9515 / [office@rockfordumc.org](mailto:office@rockfordumc.org)  
[www.rockfordumc.org](http://www.rockfordumc.org)



Wi-Fi password  
welcomefriends 

Find us on 