

# ROCKY RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Morning Worship**  
**at Rocky River Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, March 17, 2024**  
**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**11:00 a.m.**

## Gathering

*Nurseries are available for Infants-Age 2 and Age 3-Kindergarten.*

*Please silence your cell phones and refrain from talking.*

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign and pass the welcome pads located at the end of each pew. You may also sign in electronically by scanning the code.*



### PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *Based on Psalm 51:1-2 and Jeremiah 31:31-34 by Cynthia Bond Hopson.*

One: We are alive to see this new day – Shout hallelujah my brothers and sisters.

**All: Hallelujah! We are God's people.**

One: Behold, the Lord has made a new covenant with us. Our hearts and minds will be renewed and restored.

**All: All Glory and honor to our Lord who makes all things new.**

One: Rejoice and be glad for now we will know and see God's awesome power more clearly.

**All: Hallelujah! We are God's people.**

† HYMN #468 *In My Life (Lord, Be Glorified)*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

LITANY OF CONFESSION *From Psalm 51.*

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**All: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

One: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**All: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

One: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner.

**All: Purge me, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

One: Let me hear joy and gladness.

**All: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**All: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

One: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.

† A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON & PASSING THE PEACE

One: Friends believe the good news of the gospel.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*Let us exchange a gesture of peace with our neighbors, and remain standing for our Response to Forgiveness.*

† RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS *Gloria Patri* #581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Laura Smith

## **The Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**In Christ, you make a new covenant with your people of faith. Here in this place, O God, in Christ, through your word and Spirit, write your law of love on our hearts. Meet us here today and teach us through the scriptures to recognize your covenant of justice, peace and love. May our desires become your desires, our work become your work, and our community the place where you are sought and found. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 12:20-33

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Lamb of God*  
Choir (Abi Watson, Flute)

Paris/Courtney

SERMON

"Perception"

Neal Carter

## **Responding to the Word**

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)

**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

† DOXOLOGY *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Source: Words4Worship*

**For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. Amen.**

## Sending

† HYMN #216

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

† CHARGE AND POSTLUDE

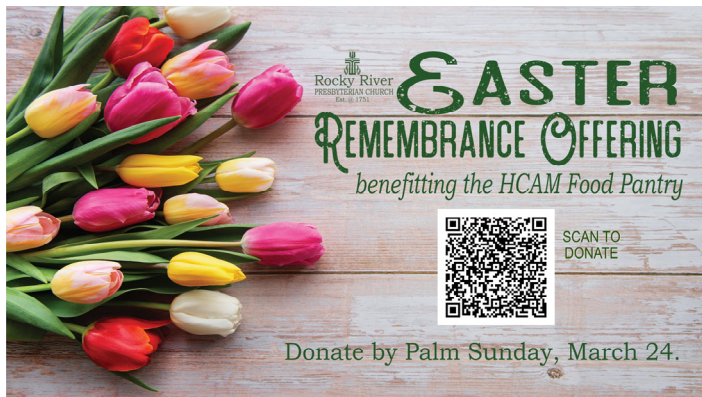
*Please partake of this moment of reflection, staying silently in place through its entirety.*

### **Interested in membership?**

Contact our Church Administrator to arrange a meeting with Pastor Neal Carter.

704.455.2479 or [churchadmin@rockyriver.org](mailto:churchadmin@rockyriver.org)

## LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK



Donate to the HCAM Food Pantry in honor or memory of someone special.

Donations are due by Palm Sunday, March 24, for publication in the Easter bulletin.

Scan the code or pick up an order form in the vestibule.



## YOUTH MINISTRY



**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

**12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Table Talks\* at the church and visit Pharr Mill Park.

*\*Table Talks are targeted faith discussions and lunch.*



**LENTEN  
PANTRY DRIVE**



Now through March 31

FOCUS:

**PEANUT BUTTER**



**During the season of Lent, let's work together to meet the needs of our neighbors.**

**This month we are focusing on a specific item that is most needed.**

***Note: March is Peanut Butter Month!***

*Peanut butter is a critical source of protein for families who visit the pantry.*

***SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE & SHIP DIRECTLY TO RRPC!***



**GRADUATE SUNDAY IS MAY 19**

**If you are graduating from high school or college this year, please contact Hailey Wilson by Sunday, April 14.**

**MEMBER ASSISTANTS ARE NEEDED FOR YOUTH MINISTRY.**

*Interested? Contact Hailey Wilson, rockyriveryouth@gmail.com*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY





## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, March 20  
6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**MENU: SLOPPY JOES & JANES**

**Cost: \$10 per person ~ \$15 per couple ~ \$25 per family maximum**

*In an effort to keep the cost down, we ask for four people each week to bring a dessert.  
Please contact Traci Bird, [tbirdnc@gmail.com](mailto:tbirdnc@gmail.com) / 704.236.8180, if you are bringing a dessert so we can be prepared.*

**March 27: BBQ Chicken**



**TOY- AND CANDY-FILLED PLASTIC EGGS ARE NEEDED FOR THE MARCH 23 EASTER EGG HUNT!  
PLEASE LEAVE FILLED EGGS IN THE LAY OFFICE.**

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



### Game Night

**Friday, March 22, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

*Adults gather for board and card games the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month!  
All are welcome!*

*Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704.706.3203.*



### Rocky River Readers

**Monday, March 25, 7:00 p.m., Parlor**

***Sold on a Monday* by Kristin Morris**

*View the 2024 reading list at*

*[www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers](http://www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers).*

*Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704.706.3203.*

## COMMUNITY OFFERINGS



SCAN TO REGISTER  
TO GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!



Our Session		
CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026
Frank Reynolds <i>Finance and Administration</i>	Scott Jones <i>Finance &amp; Administration</i>	Sandra Thomas <i>Finance &amp; Administration</i>
Kathy Linker <i>Worship</i>	Reggie Hunnicutt <i>Worship</i>	Priscilla Giuliano <i>Worship</i>
Traci Bird <i>Congregational Connections</i>	Nancy Tipton <i>Congregational Connections</i>	Joe Council <i>Congregational Connections</i>
Ben Schneider <i>Building and Grounds</i>	Billy Carriker <i>Building and Grounds</i>	Steve Irminger <i>Building and Grounds</i>
Amy Huster <i>Christian Education</i>	Christian Education	Theresa Watson <i>Christian Education</i>

<b>COMMITTEES MEETING SCHEDULE</b>	Building and Grounds:	The 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
	Worship:	The 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
	Finance & Administration:	The 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
	Christian Education:	The 1st Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m.
	Congregational Connections:	The 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

## Volunteer Schedules

Counters		WNF Set-Up	WNF Clean-Up
Week 1:	Joe Novobilski and Sandra Thomas	Week 1: Alexander	Irminger
Week 2:	Traci Bird and Steve Jewett	Week 2: Daoust	Troops 7 and 83
Week 3:	Ben Burr and Darrell Thomas	Week 3: Rockel	Mitchem / Carter
Week 4:	Scott Jones and Frank Reynolds	Week 4: Siverts	Whaley
Week 5:	Nancy Thomas and Don Chase	Week 5: Tipton	Tipton / Earley



### Online Giving

Give online at [www.rockyriver.org/give](http://www.rockyriver.org/give) or simply scan the code.

**Rocky River Presbyterian Church • 7940 Rocky River Road • Concord NC 28025**  
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Music and Children's Ministries: Laura Smith • 704.796.3198 • [lauraml13@gmail.com](mailto:lauraml13@gmail.com)  
Youth Ministry: Hailey Wilson • 704.455.2479 • [rockyriveryouth@gmail.com](mailto:rockyriveryouth@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.