



Sunday, March 31, 2024

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

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.



The flowers today are given in memory of Walt Burr and Ann Windell by the Burr Family.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP.

One: The Lord has risen!

All: The Lord has risen indeed!

One: The Christ has risen!

All: Christ has risen indeed!

One: The Lord has risen!

All: The Lord has risen indeed!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, www.rev-o-ution.org.

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection; instead, we are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

† HYMN #232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

† A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON & PASSING THE PEACE

Friends believe the good news of the gospel. One:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

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 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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Skye Penelope Johnson

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20).

Hear also these words from Holy Scripture: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called you out of darkness into God's marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice. Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Reggie Hunnicutt, Presenting Elder

Elder: On behalf of the session, I present Skye Penelope Johnson, daughter

of Candace Carter-Johnson and Shawn Johnson, to receive the

sacrament of Baptism.

Pastor: Do you desire that Skye be baptized?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith,

and to teach that faith to your child?

Pastor: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ at Rocky River

Presbyterian Church, promise to guide and nurture Skye by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow

Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?

All: We do.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks. In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past, and have blessed us with signs of your grace. We praise you that through the waters of the sea, you led your people Israel out of bondage, into freedom in the land of your promise. We praise you for sending Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of his death and resurrection, you set us free from the bondage of sin and death, and give us cleansing and rebirth. We praise you that in baptism you give us your Holy Spirit, who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with a variety of gifts, that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood. Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may be the place of new birth. May all who now pass through these waters be delivered from death to life, from bondage to freedom, from sin to righteousness. Bind them to the household of faith, guard them from all evil. Strengthen them to serve you with joy until the day you make all things new. To you be all praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Lord, uphold Skye by your Holy Spirit. Give her the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME

One:

One:

Skye Penelope Johnson has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made her a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Then Came the Morning

Gaither/Christian/Duren

Choir

SERMON

"Somebody Has Got to Say Something"

Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

We dedicate this money, Lord, for the work of the church, and we ask you to use all that we have and all that we are in your service. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Neal Carter

HYMN #507. Verse 1 Come to the Table of Grace

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Table is open to all who trust in Jesus Christ. Please hold each element until everyone is served; as a sign of our unity in Christ, we will partake on cue from the minister.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament, you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #443

There Is A Redeemer

† CHARGE AND POSTLUDE

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



In Honor Of:

Claudia & Donald Bedsole Jeanette Jarman Maggie Linker Marie & Janet Morrison Barbara Murray Barbara Murray Ann Schultz, Children & Grandchildren

In Memory Of:

William and Clara Abernathy Walt Burr Walt Burr Tom Corbitt Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hayner Eric Linker James and Cleone Morrison Elva-Dean Moses Elva-Dean Moses Clyde Nicholson Joe and Margaret Novobilski

Harry Schultz, Edward and Jeanne Daoust Col. And Mrs. A.C. Windell

Charles and Frances Parnell

Ann Windell Ann Windell Ann Windell

Placed By:

Barbara Whaley Barbara Whaley Ann Burr Ann Burr Marie and Janet Morrison Barbara Whaley Tom and Linda Daoust

Placed By:

Bob Windell Ann Burr Kathy Linker Marie and Janet Morrison Joan Nicholson Kathy Linker Marie and Janet Morrison Glen Moses Ruth McConnell Joan Nicholson Joe and Lynnette Novobilski Joe and Lynnette Novobilski Tom and Linda Daoust **Bob Windell** Ann Burr Kathy Linker

Bob Windell

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, April 2

Morning: 10:00 a.m., Parlor

Evening: 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
All women are invited to join a circle!

Morning: Linda Clark, 704.458.2472 / Evening: Elaine Vincent, 704.575.0396





Theology on Tap

Monday, April 8, 7:00 p.m., Pharr Mill Brewing

Join Pastor Neal for a casual time of fellowship and discussion. This gathering is held the second Monday of each month. *Questions? Contact Neal Carter.* 980,280,9688.

Taco Tuesday

Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m., La Unica

Join Pastor Neal for a casual time of tacos and discussion. This gathering is held the second Tuesday of each month. *Questions? Contact Neal Carter,* 980.280.9688.





Game Night

Friday, April 12, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

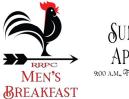
Adults gather for board and card games the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month! All are welcome!

Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704.706.3203.

Men's Breakfast

Sunday, April 21, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Men of all ages are invited to come and share in good food and fellowship. This breakfast is held the third Sunday of each month. *Questions? Contact Jerry Clark at 704.458.9233.*







Rocky River Readers

Monday, April 22, 7:00 p.m., Parlor

A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler

View the 2024 reading list at www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers. Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704.706.3203.

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Wednesday, April 3 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

MENU: ASSORTED SOUPS & STEWS

Members are asked to bring assorted soups and stews.



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 / 704.236.8180, if you are bringing a dessert so we can be prepared.

April 10: Baked Potato Bar

YOUTH MINISTRY



Each month, our Youth encourage us to work together to meet the needs of our neighbors.

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

Note: April is Jelly Month!

Last month's collection of peanut butter needs jelly for sandwiches!

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







Questions about Children's Ministry? Contact Laura Smith, lauraml13@gmail.com/704.796.3198.

RRPC MEETUPS

RRPC'S MeetUps are a casual way for us to experience fun, faith, fellowship, and connection within defined age ranges and interests. MeetUps are less formal than Small Groups and allow folks to jump in and out according to their interest and availability.



Squad 50: Ages 50+ Kannapolis Cannon Ballers vs

Charleston River Dogs
Tuesday, April 23

6:00 p.m., Atrium Health Ballpark, Kannapolis, NC

SQUAD 50 will have their spring MeetUp **Tuesday, April 23** at 6:00 p.m. at the Kannapolis Cannon Ballers VS Charleston River Dogs baseball game at Atrium Health Ballpark in Kannapolis.

Our two private Loge Boxes have a MAXIMUM capacity of 28, so purchase your tickets (\$20/each) ASAP!

Purchase tickets at www.rockyriver.org/events, or scan the code.

Please note that these gatherings are designed specifically for this age group.

If you have an idea for a MeetUp Group or activity, please email Donna Rogers, Church Administrator, churchadmin@rockyriver.org.

COMMUNITY OFFERINGS







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

COMMITTEES
MEETING
SCHEDULE

Building and Grounds: Worship: Finance & Administration: Christian Education: Congregational Connections: The 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The 1st Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. 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 or simply scan the code.

Rocky River Presbyterian Church ● 7940 Rocky River Road ● Concord NC 28025 www.rockyriver.org ● 704.455.2479 ● fax: 704.455.2489

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Neal Carter • 704.455.2479 or 910.280.9688 • nealcarter64@gmail.com Church Administrator: Donna Rogers • 704.455.2479 • churchadmin@rockyriver.org Music and Children's Ministries: Laura Smith • 704.796.3198 • lauraml13@gmail.com Youth Ministry: Hailey Wilson • 704.455.2479 • rockyriveryouth@gmail.com

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