



Rocky River

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established @ 1751



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 14, 2024
The Third Sunday of Easter
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.



The ferns are given in memory of Maggie Linker by her family.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *

One: Here in this place, there are no foreigners, for all are welcome in God's house.

All: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance, for love is the center of our faith.

One: Here in our lives, there are no divisions, for God dwells in each of us.

All: Come, let us worship in unity and love.

† HYMN #234 *Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **

Gracious God, in your love you welcome us as your children, through your care you have shaped the universe, with your mercy you hear our prayers. Hear us, your children, as we come before you in worship. We know we come with doubts and fears. We know we come in ignorance. We know we have failed you, your creation and your people, in many ways. Trusting in your love, we turn again to you. As we open our hearts to your mercy and forgiveness, grant us your peace. Accept these prayers of confession, accept our worship, accept us in your forgiveness, Accept us through your love, Amen.

* *Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012, ©2011 Abingdon Press. Posted on ministrymatters.com. Inspired by Ruth 1 and Mark 12.*

** *Based on Luke 24:36-48, 1 John 3:1-7. Written by Jenny Adams and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website.*

† 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

SERVICE OF WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Nancy Tipton, Presenting Elder

Elder: On behalf of the session, I present K'Hill, Rachel, and Raylynn Lesemann, Sheryl Cheek, and Mary Brown who are being received into the membership of this congregation by reaffirmation of faith.

Neal: You come to us as a member of the one holy catholic church, into which you were baptized, and by which you have been nurtured. We are one with each other, sisters and brothers in the family of God. We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. As you join with us in the worship and service of this congregation, it is fitting that together we reaffirm the covenant into which we were baptized, claiming again the promises of God which are ours in our baptism.

Neal: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

Members: I do.

Neal: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

Members: I will, with God's help.

Neal: You have publicly professed your faith. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Members: I will, with God's help.

All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.

PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Olivia Paige Lesemann

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).

Obedying 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

Nancy Tipton, Presenting Elder

Elder: On behalf of the session, I present Olivia Paige Lesemann, daughter of Rachel and K'Hill Lesemann, to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

Pastor: Do you desire that Olivia Paige 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?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ at Rocky River Presbyterian Church, promise to guide and nurture Olivia Paige 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.

One: 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 Olivia Paige 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: Olivia Paige Lesemann 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 NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 John 3:1-7

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Stone Was Rolled Away
Handbell Choir

Childers

SERMON

"Hey! The Rapture Was Last Week! You Missed It!"

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.

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

Help us who have received so freely from you to give as freely in our turn, and so have the pleasure of giving as well as the happiness of receiving. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #450 *Be Thou My Vision*

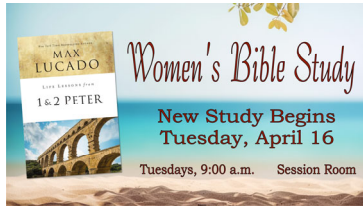
† CHARGE AND POSTLUDE

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*

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Women's Bible Study (NEW STUDY!)

Tuesdays beginning April 16, 9:00 a.m., Session Room

Study: 1 & 2 Peter by Max Lucado

New faces are welcome as we begin this new study!

Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704.706.3203.

Men's Breakfast

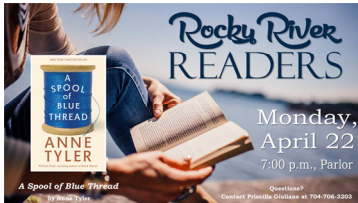
Sunday, April 21, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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.



SUNDAY,
APRIL 21
9:00 A.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL



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.



Friday,
April 26
7:00 p.m.

2nd & 4th Fridays

Fellowship Hall

Game Night

Friday, April 26, 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.

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MIN-



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, April 17

6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

MENU: Beef & Chicken Enchiladas

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

April 24: Matchmaker Chicken

YOUTH MINISTRY



A message from RRPC Youth:

*Rocky River, hear our plea,
Jelly jars, for you and me.
Let's fill their pantry and make history!*



Note: April is Jelly Month!

SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE & SHIP DIRECTLY TO RRPC!

Sunday Vibes: Exclusive Sessions for Middle & High Schoolers
Youth Room, 10:00 a.m.



GRADUATE SUNDAY IS MAY 19

If you are graduating from high school or college this year,
please contact Hailey Wilson by TODAY.

YOUTH MENTORS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
We need monthly mentors and weekly activity volunteers.



Interested? Contact Hailey Wilson, rockyriveryouth@gmail.com or scan the code.

GIVING

HERE I AM

Joyfully Responding With a Grateful Heart!

2024 Operating Fund
Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Here I Am:

Joyfully Responding With a Grateful Heart!

Remember to support RRPC with your giving.

In addition to our Sunday offering plate giving, gifts may be made at www.rockyriver.org/giving (one-time and recurring), or electronically through your financial institution.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

RRPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



BOARD GAMES

Sunday, April 14 3:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

RRPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Faith & Fellowship



Sundays, April 21, May 19, June 16 3:00 p.m., Room 215

RRPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

END OF SCHOOL PARTY:

HEROES & DREDS



SUNDAY, JUNE 9
3:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

RRPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



JOCKO'S
MINI GOLF
and Snow Cones!

Sunday, May 26 3:00 p.m.

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Est. in 1751

VBS

SETSAIL!




July 14-18 Registration Opens May 1

VOLUNTEER NOW!



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

COMMUNITY OFFERINGS




Every drop counts. Donate blood.
Tuesday, April 23
2:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

ROCKY RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Tuesday, April 23
2:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

SCAN TO REGISTER
TO GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!



**The Farmers Market @
Rocky River Presbyterian Church
RETURNS**
Wednesday, April 24
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Miller's Produce returns as our anchor vendor!



THE FARMERS MARKET
@ROCKY RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesdays, Beginning April 24 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



HARRISBURG CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY
FOOD PANTRY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Food Pantry

MONDAYS,
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Est. @ 1751



HARRISBURG CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY
FOOD PANTRY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE


Summer Children's Bags



CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE FROM
AMAZON & SHIP TO RRPC



The YMCA @ Rocky River Presbyterian Church



SilverSneakers

**ACTIVE OLDER ADULT
FITNESS**



Monday thru Friday
9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall



STEVE'S
Mobile Foods & Catering
Good Food Fast

Wednesdays & Fridays
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

RRPC Parking Lot



Our Session

CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026
Frank Reynolds <i>Finance and Administration</i>	Scott Jones <i>Finance & Administration</i>	Sandra Thomas <i>Finance & 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>	<i>Christian Education</i>	Theresa Watson <i>Christian Education</i>

COMMITTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

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 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.