



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, January 11, 2026
Baptism of the Lord
11:00 AM

Gathering

The Nursery is available for Infants-Kindergarten.

The Alternative Worship Room (105) is available for those with sensory needs.

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

One: The voice of the Lord is over the waters.

All: The God of glory thunders.

One: In the waters of baptism, God calls us beloved.

All: In the waters of baptism, God names us and claims us.

One: Come, let us worship the One who meets us in the river.

All: Let us worship the Lord

† HYMN #482

Baptized In Water

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us your beloved, yet we confess that we live as though we must earn your favor. We forget our baptism and seek our worth in success, approval, and control. We resist standing with those who suffer, preferring distance to community, certainty to trust, and safety to faithfulness. Forgive us, O God. Return us to the waters that named us yours. Wash away what does not give life, and renew us by your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

† 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 ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Neal: We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as elders, and as ministers of the Word and Sacrament. Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us, providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance of the church, and preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.

Joe: Representing the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the session of Rocky River Presbyterian Church now ordains Claudia Bedsole to the office of ruling elder, and installs her to active service. The session also installs to active service those who have been previously ordained, Ashelyn Earley, Jim Pharr, Jimmy Stafford, and Elaine Tankersley.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Neal: Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Elders: **I do.**

Neal: Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Elders: **I do.**

Neal: Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Elders: **I do and I will.**

Neal: Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Elders: **I will.**

Neal: Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Elders: **I will.**

Neal: Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Elders: **I will.**

Neal: Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Elders: I do.

Neal: Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Elders: I will.

Neal: Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Elders: I will.

Joe: Do we, the members of the church, accept Ashelyn, Claudia, Elaine, Jim, and Jimmy as elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Joe: Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

Congregation: We do.

PRAYER OF ORDINATION

Neal: God of grace, pour out your Holy Spirit on Ashelyn, Claudia, Elaine, Jim, and Jimmy, that they may be your faithful elders in the church. Give them prudence and sound judgment, wisdom and courage to order the life of the church in obedience to your Word. Nourish them in the life of the Holy Spirit, that they may exercise the ministry of discipline with humility and compassion. Guide them in governance, on this session and in every court of the church, that they may be servant leaders following Christ who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life to set others free. Give them joy in their walk of faith and a sure sense of your abiding presence for their work of ministry.

† Please Stand • **Congregation reads words in bold.**

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Neal: Ashelyn, Claudia, Elaine, Jim, and Jimmy, you are now elders in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ.

WELCOME

CHARGE

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, as your Spirit descended upon Jesus at the Jordan, so send your Spirit upon us now. Open our hearts and minds to hear your Word, to remember who we are, and to follow where Christ leads. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3:13–17

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“ My Jesus, I Love Thee ” Gordon, arr. by Gumma
Stephanie Campbell

SERMON

“ Getting in Line with the Rest of Us ”

Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from a Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

In baptism, we are claimed by God, joined to Christ, and empowered by the Spirit to live as faithful disciples.

In life and in death we belong to God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

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

God of grace, you have given us a new name in baptism and a new life in Christ. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and use them for the work of your kingdom, that your love may flow through us into a thirsty world. Amen.

Sending

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows - A Call to Discipleship

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ, in the waters of baptism we were claimed by God, joined to Christ, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

All: We remember with thanksgiving that we belong to God.

One: Do you renounce sin and the powers of this world that rebel against God's rule of justice and love?

All: We renounce them.

One: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and trust him as Lord and Savior, putting your whole trust in his grace and love?

† Please Stand • **Congregation reads words in bold.**

All: We do.

One: Do you promise, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be Christ's faithful disciple — to hear his Word, to share in his table, and to follow him in the way of the cross?

All: We do, with God's help.

One: Remember your baptism. In these waters, God named you beloved before you could earn it, claimed you before you could respond, and sent you before you were ready.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Baptism is not the end of our calling; it is the beginning. In baptism, we are sent into the world to proclaim the good news, to seek justice and love kindness, to walk humbly with our God, and to invite others into the life of Christ.

All: Strengthen us, O God, to live out our baptism every day.

One: Will you seek Christ in all people, love your neighbors, bear witness to the gospel in word and deed, and call others to follow Jesus?

All: We will, trusting in God's grace.

One: Will you persevere in resisting evil, confess Christ in the face of injustice, and live as people who belong not to the world, but to the One who meets us in the water?

All: We will, with God's help.

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE

May the God of Hope Go with Us

#765

† POSTLUDE

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

Attendance for Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026

Sanctuary: 102 Online: 46

Interested in membership?

Contact our Church Administrator to arrange a meeting with Pastor Neal Carter.
704-455-2479 or churchadmin@rockyriver.org

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

**Wednesday Night
Fellowship Meal**

**Parm Chicken
Pasta**

Jan. 14, 2026
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

\$10/PERSON -
\$15/COUPLE - \$25/FAMILY



**Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Menu: PARM CHICKEN PASTA

We ask for four people each week to bring a dessert. Please contact Nancy Tipton, ntipton71@gmail.com / 704-309-0369



**American
Red Cross
Blood Drives**

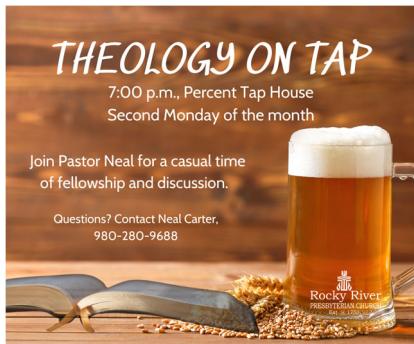
RRPC Blood Drive

**Tuesday, Jan. 27
2:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Rocky River to schedule an appointment.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

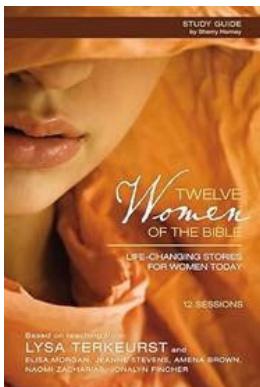


Theology On Tap

Monday, Jan. 12, 7:00 p.m., Percent Tap House

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



Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Jan. 13, 2026 - 9:00 AM

Room 216 - 2nd floor

Twelve Women of the Bible by Lysa Terkeurst, Elisa Morgan, et.al. and the study guide by Sherry Harney.

For further information contact Barbara Whaley at rnbwhaley@ctc.net

Taco Tuesday

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7:00 p.m., La Unica

Young adults, join Pastor Neal for a casual time of tacos and discussion. Let's Taco 'Bout It!

Questions? Contact Neal Carter, 980-280-9688





Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Jan. 18, 9:00 am, 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

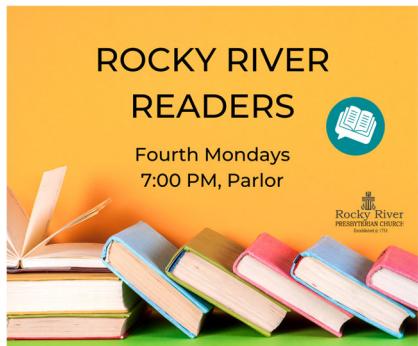


Game Night

Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Adults gather for board and card games the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month! No registration required. All are welcome for a bit of laughs and friendly competition!

Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203



Rocky River Readers

Monday, Jan. 26, 7:00 pm, Parlor

***Traveling Through History* by Janet Morrison**

*View the 2026 reading list at www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers.
Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203*



Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Morning: 10:00 am, Session Room

Evening: 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to join a circle!

Morning: Linda Clark, 704-458-2472

Evening: Elaine Vincent, 704-575-0396

RRPC's Bread Ministry

RRPC's Bread Ministry is looking for volunteers. This is a wonderful, welcoming ministry that provides the opportunity to meet and get to know our visitors.

The rotation for those providing bread is approximately once every four months. The loaves can be store bought or homemade.

Interested? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, tttandsp@gmail.com / 704-706-3203

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Card Games for Kids

Jan. 25, 2026 – 12:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

On Jan. 25th following worship, children are invited to play card games such as Uno, Go Fish, and Memory. If you'd like to bring an easy-to-play card game to share with the group, please do! Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please RSVP to Laura Smith, laura.rrpc@gmail.com, by Jan. 21st to ensure we have enough food for everyone.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

Children's Faith and Fellowship
Feb. 1, 2026 – 12:15 PM
Room 215

We have a new schedule for 2026! CF&F returns on Feb. 1st at 12:15pm. Elementary-aged children are invited to join us in Room 215 (Children's Sunday School classroom) for games, crafts, Bible lessons, and lunch. Parents and adults will have the opportunity to sign up to provide a simple lunch for the group each month. Moving forward after February, CF&F will meet on the second Sunday of each month at 12:15pm.

For more information, contact Laura Smith, laura.rrpc@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Sunday Fellowship
Fundraiser Planning + Games
January 11, 2026, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Youth, stick around after worship for lunch, taking down decorations, and planning our Valentine's Dinner fundraiser. We'll wrap up with games if there's time!

Questions? Contact Hailey Lebada at RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com.

Upcoming Youth Events

Mark your calendars! Join us for fun, faith, and service—games, movies, Bible talks, and planning ways to bless our church and community.

Save the Dates:

- Jan. 11, 25 | 12:30–2 PM
- Feb. 8 | 12:30–2 PM – Final Valentine's prep
- Feb. 13 | 4–8 PM – Valentine's Fundraiser
 - Feb. 22 | 12:30–2 PM
- March 15, 22 | 12:30–2 PM

More details to come—we can't wait to see you there!

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

Youth Pantry Drive
JAN.: BABY WIPES

SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE & SHIP DIRECTLY TO RRPC!
Questions - Hailey Lebada or email us at RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com.



Join the RRPC Youth Mailing List

Join our mailing list to stay connected and help shape the upcoming programs.
Receive our weekly newsletter with updates and quick lessons for all ages.
Scan the QR code or email RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com.



The YMCA @ Rocky River Presbyterian Church



ACTIVE OLDER ADULT FITNESS



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

THURSDAYS AND FRIDAY COMING SOON!

Thursdays starting Feb. 5, 2026.



BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY

NEW PLAYGROUND PROJECT!

RRPC's Building & Grounds Ministry has begun work to rebuild our playground!

Your donations will help provide a safe, functional place for children to play.

Scan the code to donate, write "Playground" on your check, or give online at www.rockyriver.org/give



Our Session

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027
Scott Jones <i>Finance and Administration</i>	Sandra Thomas <i>Finance & Administration</i>	Shirley Rockel <i>Finance & Administration</i>
Reggie Hunnicutt <i>Worship</i>	Priscilla Giuliano <i>Worship</i>	Barbara Whaley <i>Worship</i>
Nancy Tipton, Clerk of Session <i>Congregational Connections</i>	Joe Novobilski <i>Congregational Connections</i>	Robert Remsburg <i>Congregational Connections</i>
Billy Carriker <i>Building and Grounds</i>	Steve Irminger <i>Building and Grounds</i>	David Murray <i>Building and Grounds</i>
Amy Huster <i>Christian Education</i>	Theresa Watson <i>Christian Education</i>	Nicole Schneider <i>Christian Education</i>

COMMITTEES	Building and Grounds:	The 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
MEETING	Worship:	The 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
SCHEDULE	Finance & Administration:	The 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
	Christian Education:	The 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 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: C3	Irminger
Week 2:	Steve Jewett and Kathy Linker	Week 2: Daoust	Troops 7 and 83
Week 3:	Shirley Rockel and Darrell Thomas	Week 3: (Open)	Mitchem / Carter
Week 4:	Scott Jones and Frank Reynolds	Week 4: (Open)	Whaley/ Bedsole/ Glosson
Week 5:	Bob Remsburg and Don Chase	Week 5: Tipton	Tipton / Earley

STEWARSHIP REPORT

2026 BUDGET:	\$465,561
TOTAL GIVEN YTD:	\$5,868
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR JAN.:	\$5,868
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR JAN. 4:	\$5,868

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: Macie Melton • 704.455.2479 • churchadmin@rockyriver.org

Music and Children's Ministries: Laura Smith • 704.796.3198 • laura.rrpc@gmail.com

Youth Ministry: Hailey Lebada • 704.455.2479 • rockyriveryouth@gmail.com

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