



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, January 18, 2026
Second Sunday after Epiphany
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 (Based on Psalm 40)

One: I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

All: He drew me up from the desolate pit and set my feet upon a rock.

One: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

All: Blessed are those who trust in the Lord.

One: Let us worship God.

All: Let us worship God together.

† HYMN #749

Come! Live In the Light!

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you send us Jesus, the Lamb of God, yet we do not always recognize him or follow where he leads. We hear the invitation to come and see, but we remain where we are comfortable and afraid of change. Forgive us when we turn away from your call. Open our eyes to see Christ among us, and give us courage to follow, so that our lives may bear faithful witness.

Amen.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

† 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 *Sandra Thomas, Presenting Elder*

Sandra: On behalf of the session I present Bob and Martha Morrison who have been received into the membership of this congregation by reaffirmation of faith.

Neal: You come to us as members 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.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Hear 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)

Neal: Now, as you publicly declare your faith, I ask you to reject sin, to profess your faith in Jesus Christ, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which you were baptized. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Members: I do.

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 faithful members 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

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

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your Word is living and active. By your Holy Spirit, open our ears to hear and our hearts to receive what you reveal to us this day. Show us Christ, that seeing him, we may follow faithfully. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:29–42

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“ Be Still, My Soul ”

Sibelius, arr. by Bartsch, Jr.

Handbell Choir

SERMON

“ Hey! Check this Out! ”

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.

† 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

**Generous God, you have given us more than we can name - life, grace, and
the gift of your Son. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and
use them to extend your invitation of love to a world in need. Through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sending

† HYMN #726 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE *May the God of Hope Go with Us* #765

† POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026

Sanctuary: 144 Online: 55

Interested in membership?

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

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: BAKED POTATO BAR

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**

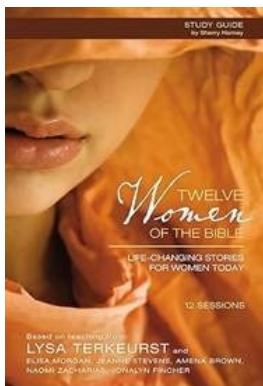
RRPC Blood Drive

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



Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Jan. 20, 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

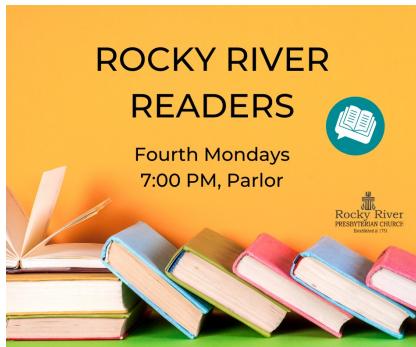


Game Night

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

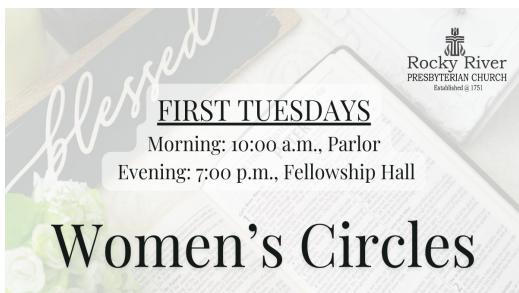
Monday, Jan. 26, 7:00 pm, Parlor

***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 Circles

Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, Feb. 3

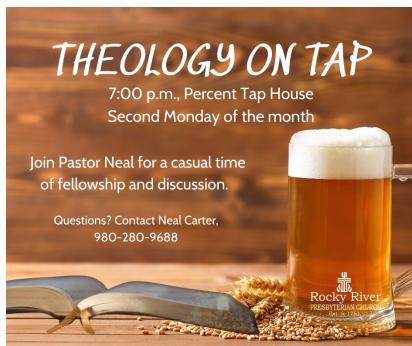
Morning: 10:00 am, Session Room

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



Theology On Tap

Monday, Feb. 9, 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**

Taco Tuesday

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 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, Feb. 15, 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

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.

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

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 25 | 12:30–2 PM - Valentine's Dinner Planning and Preparation
- Feb. 7 | 12:30–2 PM - Valentine's Fundraiser
 - Feb. 8 | Souper Bowl Sunday
 - 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!

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.

Our Session

CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
Sandra Thomas <i>Finance & Administration</i>	Shirley Rockel <i>Finance & Administration</i>	Jim Pharr <i>Finance & Administration</i>
Priscilla Giuliano <i>Worship</i>	Barbara Whaley <i>Worship</i>	Claudia Bedsole <i>Worship</i>
Joe Novobilski, Clerk of Session <i>Congregational Connections</i>	Robert Remsburg <i>Congregational Connections</i>	Ashelyn Earley <i>Congregational Connections</i>
Steve Irminger <i>Building and Grounds</i>	David Murray <i>Building and Grounds</i>	Jimmy Stafford <i>Building and Grounds</i>
Theresa Watson <i>Christian Education</i>	Nicole Schneider <i>Christian Education</i>	Elaine Tankersley <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:	\$9,523
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR JAN.:	\$9,523
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR JAN. 11:	\$3,654

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.