

Established @ 1751



Morning Worship at Rocky River Presbyterian Church Sunday, January 4, 2026 The Second Sunday of Christmas 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 148)

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come,

All: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

One: Nations shall come to the light,

All: and kings to the brightness of God's dawn.

One: We have seen the star in the East.

All: We come to worship the Christ who is revealed to all the world.

One: Today we celebrate Epiphany, the revelation of Christ as the light of the world.

All: We have seen the light, and we come to worship.

One: Long ago, a star appeared in the East, guiding travelers to the Christ child.

All: The light of Christ still shines, calling us to follow.

One: As the Magi brought gifts and knelt in worship, we come offering our lives in

response to God's grace.

All: We come to honor Christ, the light revealed to all nations.

(The Christ candle is lit.)

One: The light shines in the darkness,

All: And the darkness did not overcome it.

One: Let us walk in the light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

- † HYMN #151
- † CALL TO CONFESSION
- † PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Revealing God, you shine your light into the world, yet we confess that we often prefer the shadows. We cling to familiar paths when you call us to follow your light. We know the Scriptures, but we resist the cost of obedience. We honor Christ with our words, while giving our loyalty to lesser kings. Forgive us, O God. Turn us from the ways that protect our comfort rather than your truth. Free us from fear that keeps us from kneeling before your Son. By your mercy, lead us into the light of Christ, that we may walk in newness of life. 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 10-Cents-A-Meal Offering Neal Carter

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of light and truth, by your Spirit open our eyes to see your glory and our hearts to receive your Word. As the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, guide us by your light, that we may follow Christ with faith and courage. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 12: 1-12

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "I Call Him Lord" Dottie Rambo

Stephanie Campbell, Ann Carroll, Laura Smith

SERMON "When the Wrong People Get It Right" Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

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

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. In life and in death we belong to God. 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.

† Please Stand · Congregation reads words in bold.

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, the Magi offered gifts in response to your revealing light. We now offer ourselves and these gifts in gratitude for your grace. Use them to extend your light into places of darkness, to welcome those who feel far away, and to bear witness to the true King, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #145 What Child Is This

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE Go, Tell It on the Mountain #136, Refrain

† POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025

Sanctuary: 89 Online: 46

Interested in membership?

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

Annual Congregational Meeting

Following the service on January 4, 2026, a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of reporting the Annual 2026 Budget will be held, and this will include the 2026 Corporation Meeting.

Please refer to the insert in regard to the 2026 Congregational Budget.

† Please Stand · Congregation reads words in bold.



CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: SOUPS

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



RRPC Blood Drive

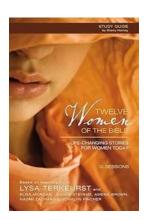
Tuesday, Jan. 27 2:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY





Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study Jan. 6, 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



Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Morning: 10:00 am, Session Room Evening: 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

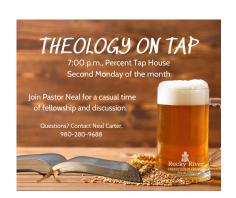
All women are invited to join a circle! Morning: Linda Clark, 704-458-2472 Evening: Elaine Vincent, 704-575-0396



Game Night Friday, Jan. 9, 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



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

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

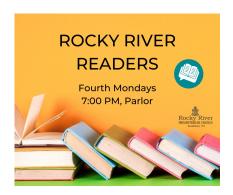




Men's Breakfast Sunday, Jan. 18, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

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



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

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

Handbell and Choir rehearsals will resume this week at their regularly scheduled times.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Faith and Fellowship Coming Soon!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sign Up for the 2026 Youth Mission Trip June 21–26, 2026



Join us for the 2026 Youth Mission Trip, happening June 21–26 in Western North Carolina. Open to youth ages 14+ and adult leaders, this trip will focus on disaster relief efforts in communities still recovering from Hurricane Helene. The total cost is \$245 per person, with a \$100 deposit due by January 1, 2026 to hold your spot, with final payment due Feb. 27. We'll spend the week working on repair projects, sharing meals, worshiping together, and building lasting connections.

Sign up via the newsletter link or scan the QR code.

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

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.



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	Sandra Thomas	Shirley Rockel			
Finance and Administration	Finance & Administration	Finance & Administration			
Reggie Hunnicutt	Priscilla Giuliano	Barbara Whaley			
<i>Worship</i>	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Worship</i>			
Nancy Tipton, Clerk of Session	Joe Novobilski	Robert Remsburg			
Congregational Connections	Congregational Connections	Congregational Connections			
Billy Carriker Building and Grounds	Steve Irminger Building and Grounds	David Murray Building and Grounds			
Amy Huster	Theresa Watson	Nicole Schneider			
Christian Education	Christian Education	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 Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Volunteer Schedules

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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	

STEWARDSHIP REPORT				
2025 BUDGET:	\$459,641			
TOTAL GIVEN YTD:	\$447,101			
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,303			
TOTAL FOR DEC.:	\$40,684			
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,839			
TOTAL FOR DEC. 24 & 28:	\$15,859			

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.