

Committee Meeting Schedule

|                                                                             |                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Building and Grounds:</u><br>1st Monday of each month at 6:30 pm         | <u>Christian Education:</u><br>2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 am        |
| <u>Worship:</u><br>3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm                     | <u>Congregational Connections:</u><br>2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 am |
| <u>Finance &amp; Administration:</u><br>4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm |                                                                           |

Counters

|                                   |        |            |                 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|-----------------|
| Week 1:                           |        | WNF Set-Up | WNF Clean-Up    |
| Joe Novobilski and Sandra Thomas  | Week 1 |            |                 |
| Week 2:                           | Week 2 | Daoust     | Troops 7 & 83   |
| Steve Jewett and Kathy Linker     | Week 3 |            | Mitchem/ Carter |
| Week 3:                           | Week 4 |            | Whaley/ Glosson |
| Shirley Rockel and Darrell Thomas | Week 5 | Tipton     | Tipton/ Earley  |
| Week 4:                           |        |            |                 |
| Scott Jones and Frank Reynolds    |        |            |                 |
| Week 5:                           |        |            |                 |
| Bob Remsburg and Don Chase        |        |            |                 |

Stewardship Report

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 2026 Budget:         | \$465,561 |
| Total Given YTD:     | \$320,890 |
| Needed Each Month:   | \$38,797  |
| Total For October:   | \$7,682   |
| Needed Weekly:       | \$8,953   |
| Total For October 4: | \$7,682   |

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

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



Morning Worship  
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, October 11, 2026



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
11:00 AM

Rocky River Presbyterian Church • 7940 Rocky River Road • Concord NC 28025  
www.rockyriver.org • 704-455-2479

Gathering

The Nursery is available for Infants-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.



PRELUDE  
CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 23)

One: The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.  
**All: God leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.**  
One: When we walk through valleys of shadow and fear,  
**All: We will not be afraid, for God is with us.**  
One: God prepares a table before us in the presence of all that would trouble us.  
**All: Our cup overflows with grace and mercy.**  
One: Surely goodness and steadfast love shall follow us all the days of our lives.  
**All: And we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**  
One: Come, let us worship the God who gathers us at the table.  
**All: Let us worship God!**

† HYMN #720 *Jesus Calls Us*

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.



|                            | Our Session                         |                  |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                            | CLASS OF 2026                       | CLASS OF 2027    | CLASS OF 2028     |
| Finance & Administration   | Sandra Thomas                       | Shirley Rockel   | Jim Pharr         |
| Worship                    | Priscilla Giuliano                  | Barbara Whaley   | Claudia Bedsole   |
| Congregational Connections | Joe Novobilski,<br>Clerk of Session | Robert Remsburg  | Ashelyn Earley    |
| Building and Grounds       | Steve Irminger                      | David Murray     | Jimmy Stafford    |
| Christian Education        | Theresa Watson                      | Nicole Schneider | Elaine Tankersley |

## COMMUNITY OFFERINGS



The Community Carnival and Trunk or Treat are on October 25th from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. Volunteers are needed for games, trunks, and supervision of the bounce houses. Please see Bob Remsburg, Traci Bird, or Ashelyn Earley to volunteer, or a sign-up sheet is available in the vestibule & at Wednesday Night Fellowship. Please help with candy donations that may be placed in the Lay Office's designated box.



**GGC Smokehouse Food Truck**  
**Wednesdays - 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

Make sure to give them a follow!  
@ggcsmokehouse

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, You prepare a table before us, yet we are often too busy to come. You invite us into the joy of your kingdom, yet we become distracted by lesser things. You call us to lives shaped by gratitude and grace, yet we cling to resentment, pride, and self-sufficiency. Like those first guests in Jesus' parable, we sometimes ignore your invitation. We assume there will always be another opportunity, another day to respond, another time to follow. Forgive us, O Lord. Gather us again into your mercy. Clothe us with the righteousness of Christ. Renew in us grateful hearts, that we may joyfully accept your invitation and gladly share your welcome with others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

**The Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious God, Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Send your Holy Spirit upon us now, that as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, we may hear not merely ancient words, but your living invitation to us today. Open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive, and our lives to respond in faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON (Unison Reading)

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
3 he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.**

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

**Youth Pantry Drive**

**OCT.: SOUP**

**SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE & SHIP DIRECTLY TO  
RRPC!**

Questions - Hailey Lebada or email us  
at [RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com).



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### RRPC Youth Fall 2026 Dates

Mark your calendars for a fun and busy fall with RRPC Youth!

**Oct. 25 @ 3–5 PM** - Silent Auction during Carnival & Trunk or Treat

Then, on **Oct. 25**, during Carnival + Trunk or Treat, we will hold a Silent Auction. Donations may include gift baskets, gift cards, handmade items, toys, services, baked goods, or other items that would be great for bidding.

You can support either fundraiser or both. To donate, please see Hailey Lebada or email [rockyriveryouth@gmail.com](mailto:rockyriveryouth@gmail.com).

All proceeds support the Youth Mission Fund, helping our youth serve our community and beyond.

**Oct. 25 @ 5:30 PM** - Youth Halloween Party & Movie Night

RRPC Youth are invited to stick around after Carnival + Trunk or Treat for a Halloween Party and Movie Night! Come ready for food, fun, fellowship, and a great movie together.

**Nov. Nov. 15** - Salvation Army Youth Volunteer Night

Our youth will spend the evening serving tacos at the Salvation Army and helping care for members of our community. This is a meaningful opportunity to serve together and share Christ's love through action. Additional details will be shared with the youth and families participating.

**Dec. 5 @ 5:30 PM** - Youth Christmas Party

Celebrate Christmas with RRPC Youth! Join us for food, fellowship, and a White Elephant gift exchange. Please bring a fun or silly wrapped gift to participate. More details will be shared as we get closer.

## THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 22:1-14

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Fairest Lord Jesus*  
Handbells

arr. by Lloyd Larson

SERMON

“Wrong Number”

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 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, from your hand comes all good gifts. Receive these offerings and use them for the work of your kingdom throughout the world. Bless the ministries they support, the lives they touch, and the witness they strengthen. May these gifts bear fruit for your glory and for the healing of your people everywhere. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Sending**

† HYMN #749                      *Come! Live in the Light!*

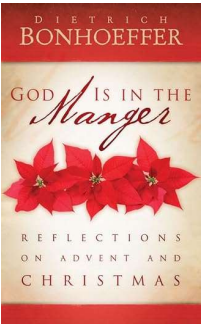
† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE                      *You Shall Go Out with Joy*                      #80

† POSTLUDE

**The Church Administrator, Macie Melton, will be out of the office October 19-23.**

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold



**Men's Advent Study**  
**Tuesdays, 12:30 pm - Session Room**  
Tuesday, December 1, 2026, weekly until December 22, 2026  
**Studying: *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

This book can be ordered online. Please register with Macie by Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> and feel free to bring your own lunch this year.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**



**Children's Christmas Program**  
**December 13, 10:00am**

The Children's Christmas Program will begin rehearsals on Oct. 11, 12:15pm-1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch to enjoy together. Rehearsals will continue every week until the program is presented on Dec. 13 at 10:00am. Please see Laura Smith for more details.

## Taco Tuesday

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:00 pm, 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



## Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, Nov. 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

## Women's Retreat

November 13 - 15, 2026

Montreat Women's Retreat is coming soon, November 13-15th. This year's fees are \$260.00 for a double room, \$320.00 for a single room. With a deposit of \$50.00 due by September 20th. Secure your spot today!

Forms available in the vestibule.  
Contact Priscilla Giuliano - ttandsp@gmail.com



## Attendance for Sunday, October 4, 2026

Sanctuary: 119

Online: 74

## Online Giving

Scan the QR code to give tithes and offerings online.



## 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 MEAL

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026

6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: Baked Potato Bar

We ask for four people each week to bring a dessert. Please contact Robert Remsburg, rremsburg@yahoo.com.



## RRPC Blood Drive

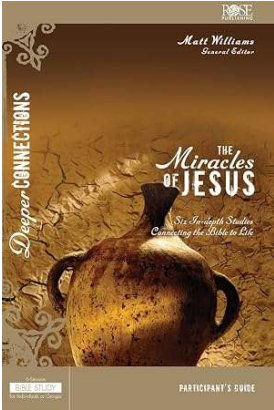
Tuesday, October 27

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

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



# SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

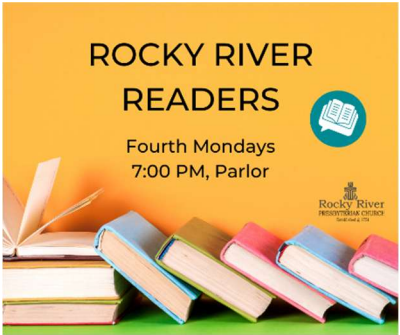


## Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Oct. 13, 2026 - 9:00 am  
Room 214 - 2nd floor

**The Miracles of Jesus** edited by Matt Williams.

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



## Rocky River Readers

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

**The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife** by Anna Johnston

View the 2026 reading list at  
[www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers](http://www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers).  
Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203



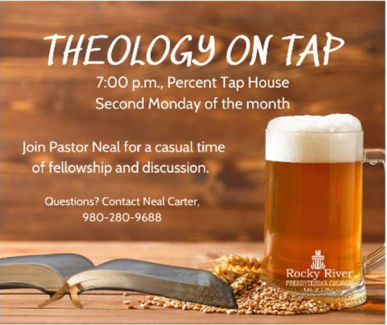
## Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Oct. 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 on the third Sunday of each month.

Questions? Contact Jerry Clark at 704-458-9233

**\*\*Please note updated dates this month for Theology On Tap and Taco Tuesday.**



## Theology On Tap

Monday, Oct. 26, 7:00 pm, Percent Tap House

Join Pastor Neal for a casual time of fellowship and discussion. This gathering is held on the second Monday of each month.

Questions? Contact Neal Carter, 980-280-9688



## Game Night

Friday, Oct. 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