Committee Meeting Schedule

Building and Grounds: 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm	Christian Education: 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 am
Worship: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm	Congregational Connections: 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 am
Finance & Administration: 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm	

Counters

Week 1:
Joe Novobilski and Sandra Thomas
Week 2:
Steve Jewett and Kathy Linker
Week 3:
Shirley Rockel and Darrell Thomas
Week 4:
Scott Jones and Frank Reynolds
Week 5:
Bob Remsburg and Don Chase

	WNF Set-Up	WNF Clean-Up
Week 1		
Week 2	Daoust	Troops 7 & 83
Week 3		Mitchem/ Carter
Week 4		Whaley/ Glosson
Week 5	Tipton	Tipton/ Earley

Stewardship Report

2026 Budget YTD:	$405,876
Total Given YTD:	$358,086
Needed Each Month:	$38,797
Total For November:	$18,771
Needed Weekly:	$8,953
Total For November 8:	$6,927

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

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established @ 1751

Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 15, 2026



Twenty-Fifth 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 123)

Call to Worship Based on Psalm 123

One: To you, O Lord, we lift up our eyes; to you, who are enthroned in the heavens.

All: Our hope is in the Lord, whose mercy is new every morning.

One: As servants look to the hand of their master, so we look to the Lord our God.

All: We trust not in our own strength, but in the steadfast love of God.

One: God has entrusted us with gifts for the work of the kingdom.

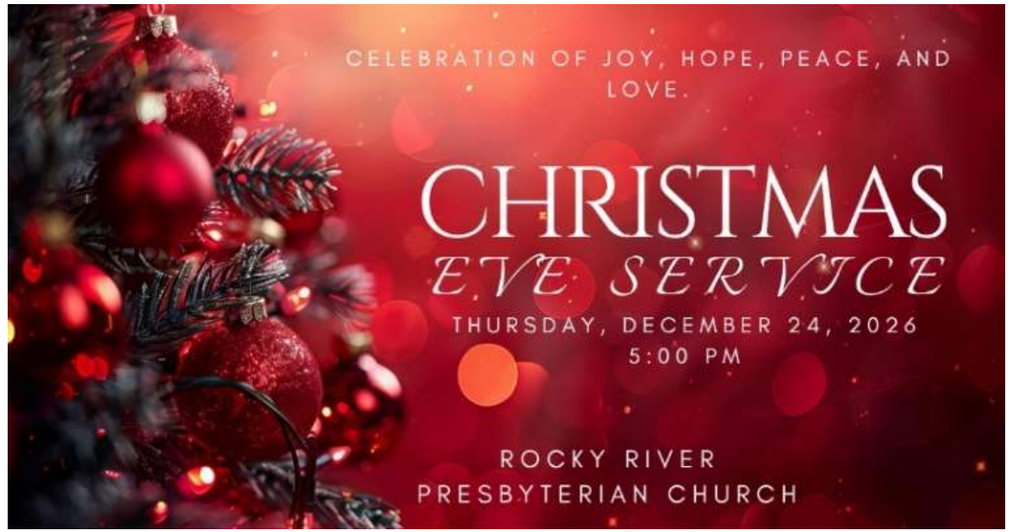
All: We come with willing hearts, ready to offer ourselves in joyful service.

One: Come, let us worship the God who calls us from fear into faithfulness.

All: Let us worship God!

† HYMN #697 *Take My Life*

† 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, Clerk of Session	Robert Remsburg	Ashelyn Earley
Building and Grounds	Steve Irminger	David Murray	Jimmy Stafford
Christian Education	Theresa Watson	Nicole Schneider	Elaine Tankersley





† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, You have entrusted us with so much—life and breath, gifts and abilities, opportunities to serve, and the good news of Jesus Christ. Yet we confess that too often we live not by faith but by fear. We fear that there will not be enough. We fear change. We fear failure. We fear disappointment. We fear risking what is precious to us. And so we sometimes hold back what you have asked us to offer. We bury gifts that were meant to bless others. We protect what was meant to be shared. We cling tightly to what you intended to be invested in your kingdom. Forgive us, O Lord. Deliver us from the fear that keeps us from following where Christ leads. Replace our anxiety with trust, our hesitation with courage, and our self-protection with generous hearts. By your Holy Spirit, teach us to be faithful—not because we know what tomorrow holds, but because we know the One who holds tomorrow. 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.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

† 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

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we hear the stories of courage and faith, send your Holy Spirit among us. Open our minds to understand your truth. Open our hearts to receive your grace. Open our hands to serve your kingdom. Where fear has taken root, plant faith. Where complacency has settled in, awaken holy imagination. Where we have buried your gifts, call us once again into joyful obedience. May the words we hear today become the life we live tomorrow. Through Jesus Christ, the living Word. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 25:14–30

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You* Jay Althouse
Ann Carroll, Scott Jones, David Murray, Laura Smith

SERMON "The Sin is Playing It Safe" Neal Carter

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

Rocky River Presbyterian Church cookbook, *Come to the Table*, is finished!

Thank you to everyone who shared recipes, family favorites, and memories to help make this cookbook such a special reflection of our church family. You can browse the entire cookbook online, along with the newly digitized 1989 Rocky River Recipes booklet. Print copies of *Come to the Table* are also available for purchase through the website.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped preserve these recipes and stories for generations to come!

View via the QR Code below or via the website:
https://rrpccookbook.netlify.app/



Lobster Dogs Food Truck

Friday, December 18, 2026

4:00 PM to 6:30 PM

They will be in the RRPC lot serving up a delicious dinner!



GGC Smokehouse Food Truck

Wednesdays - 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Make sure to give them a follow!
@ggcsmokehouse

SANCTUARY POINSETTIA DONATION

We will soon be ordering Poinsettias for the decoration of the sanctuary during Advent. If you would like to make a **$12** donation in honor or memory of someone, please complete the form below and place it with your check or cash in the offering plate or give it directly to the church office.

A list of those honored and remembered will be in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Funds collected will benefit the Harrisburg Crisis Assistance Ministry Food Pantry at RRPC. Submit your order by scanning the code or picking up an order form in the vestibule.

DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, December 6



Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit calls women and men to all ministries of the Church, gives them gifts for the common good, and empowers them to share Christ's ministry in the world. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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.

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.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, everything we have comes from your hand, and every good gift bears witness to your abundant love. Receive these offerings and receive our lives as well. Take what we bring today—our gifts, our abilities, our time, our compassion, and our resources—and use them to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Strengthen the ministries of this congregation, encourage our mission partners near and far, care for those in need, and plant seeds of hope in places where despair has taken root. May our giving this day be an act of worship, a declaration of trust, and a witness that all we are and all we have belong to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

† POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, November 8, 2026

Sanctuary: 96 **Online: 71**

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

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

RRPC Youth Fall 2026 Dates

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

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.

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.

COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

RRPC Salvation Army Dinner

November 15-21, 2026

Every year, for one week in November, the Rocky River Presbyterian Church Community serves dinner at the Salvation Army. The Scouting groups, choir, youth, Women of the Church, and the Lectionary Sunday School class volunteer to prepare these meals. This is an outreach ministry that provides an opportunity to share the love of Christ with members of our community. Please pray for those who will be serving this year.



Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Dec. 20, 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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Children's Christmas Program

December 13, 10:00am

The Children's Christmas Program rehearsals are on Sundays, 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Pantry Drive

NOV.: GRAVY & CRANBERRY SAUCE

SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE & SHIP DIRECTLY TO RRPC!

Questions - Hailey Lebada or email us at RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: Pasta Primavera w/ Grilled Chicken

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

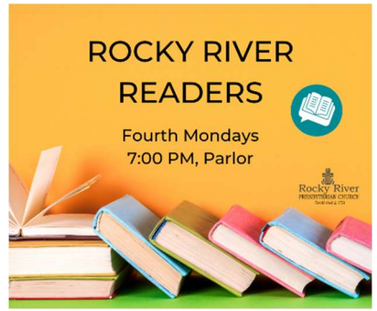


RRPC Blood Drive

Tuesday, Nov. 24
2:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Rocky River Readers

Monday, Nov. 23, 7:00 pm, Parlor

Black Cake **by Charmaine Wilkerson**

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

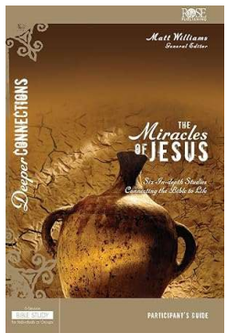


Game Night

Friday, Nov. 27, 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

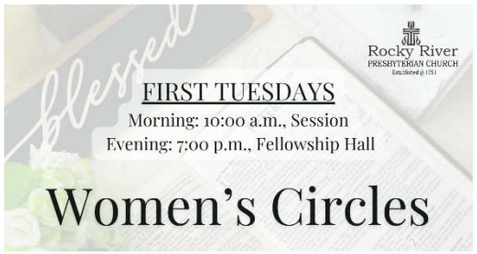


Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Will resume Dec. 1, 2026 - 9:00 am
Room 214 - 2nd floor

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

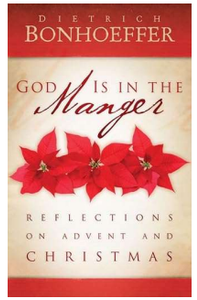
For further information contact Barbara Whaley at rnbwhaley@ctc.net



Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, Dec. 1
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

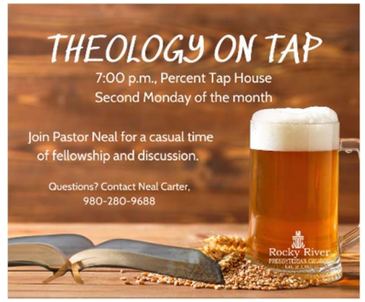


Men's Advent Study

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. 19th and feel free to bring your own lunch this year.



Theology On Tap

Monday, Dec. 7, 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



Taco Tuesday

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 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