

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established @ 1751



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, November 23, 2025
Christ the King Sunday
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: Come, people of God, let us worship the One who reigns in glory!
- All: We come to worship Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords!**
- One: On the cross, he revealed the power of love over the love of power.
- All: In his mercy, he welcomed a dying thief and opened paradise.**
- One: Let every heart proclaim: "Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom."
- All: To Christ, our sovereign and Savior, be glory forever!**

† HYMN #268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, You are our King, yet we have not always wanted your kind of kingdom. We confess that we have sought power without compassion, glory without grace, and triumph without the cross. We have ignored your suffering neighbors and turned away from your reign of love. Forgive us, Lord. Remember us when you come into your kingdom. By your mercy, bring us with you into life everlasting. 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

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious Lord, open our hearts to your Word, and your Word to our hearts,
that we may see your glory revealed—even on the cross. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 23:33 - 43

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“ God You Reign ” Brewster, Fieldes, arr. by Ross
Choir

SERMON

“ A Strange Kind of King ”

Neal Carter

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

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith - PCUSA)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. 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. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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

Gracious God, you reign not with the power, but with the mercy of the Crucified One. We offer these gifts as signs of our loyalty to his kingdom—a kingdom where the hungry are fed, the lonely are welcomed, the suffering are embraced, and the lost are remembered. Take what we offer and use it for your glory. Turn our giving into gratitude, our gratitude into generosity, and our generosity into lives shaped by Christ's cross and kingdom. May our gifts, our time, and our service bear witness that Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives and Lord of this world. In his holy name we pray, Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

HYMN #507, Verse 1 *Come to the Table of Grace*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Table is open to all who trust in Jesus Christ. Please hold each element until everyone is served, as a sign of our unity in Christ. We will partake on cue from the minister.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. Help us to see your kingdom in our midst and to live as your faithful people until Christ comes in glory. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #363 Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! #263, Verse 1

† POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025

Sanctuary: 116 Online: 62

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.

ADVENT AT ROCKY RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, November 29, 2025 - 9:00 AM - Sanctuary

Join us as we prepare our church for Advent with garlands, wreaths, bows and our Chrismon Tree! There are many tasks and many skill levels.

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 pick up an order form in the vestibule.

DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, December 7.



TOYS FOR TOTS

December 14 - 15

4:00 - 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

SORT TOYS:

Immediately following worship on December 14 in the fellowship hall.

Distribution & Shop:

Sunday, December 14 & Monday, December 15

Help families shop and pick out toys!



See Nancy Tipton for details, ntipton71@gmail.com





CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY



RRPC Blood Drive

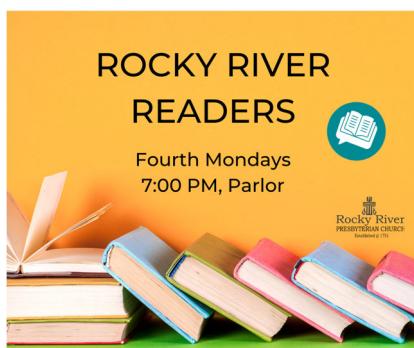
Tuesday, Nov. 25

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

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 7:00 pm, Parlor

One More for Christmas by Sarah Morgan

View the 2025 reading list at
www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers.
Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203

Men's Advent Study
Tuesdays, 12:30 pm - Session Room

The Men's Advent Study will begin on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 and be each week until December 23, 2025.

Studying: *The Weary World Rejoices* by Kate Bowler

This 24-day devotional points toward a future we can almost glimpse. Copies will be in the vestibule for pick up.



Women's Circle Meetings
Tuesday, December 2
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 Breakfast
Sunday, Dec. 21, 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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 14, 2025

Please join us on Dec. 14th at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall as the children present this year's Christmas program. There will be music, narration, and children in costumes! This will take the place of Sunday School that day. We hope you will all come to support our children.

Birthday Party for Jesus
Sunday, December 28, 2025

Children of all ages are invited to join us Dec. 28th following worship for a party to celebrate Jesus's birth! We will have a light lunch, games, crafts, and fun. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please RSVP to laura.rrpc@gmail.com to let Laura Smith know how many will be attending so we'll have enough food for everyone.

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 November 28 to hold your spot, with final payment due Feb. 27. We'll spend the week working on repair projects, sharing meals, worshipping together, and building lasting connections.

Sign up via the newsletter link or scan the QR code.
Questions? Contact Hailey Lebada at RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com.



Billy Graham Library Christmas Visit
Friday, December 19, 2025

Experience the beauty of Christmas lights and decorations at the Billy Graham Library.
A festive evening to celebrate the season together.

Youth Pantry Drive
NOV.: CANNED VEGGIES

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.

Veteran's Christmas Tree
Return bags before Dec. 7th

1. Select a tag from the tree
2. Sign out the tag on the forms on the table next to the tree. Put your name on the line next to the veteran's name. They are listed alphabetically. If you are not a member of RRPC, please put down a phone number.
3. Shop for the items on the list. You do not have to buy everything listed on the tag; these are suggestions.
4. Place them in a gift bag and put the tag on the bag so that it doesn't get detached and is visible. Please use a gift bag so we can add any extra items that are donated.
5. Return the bags to the church on or before December 7th.

You are welcome to add a Christmas card if you desire. Our veterans ask for very little, please feel free to add items not on the tag. Personal hygiene items, socks, candy and gift cards are always good ideas. Gift cards to Walmart are the best since the stores are everywhere and they can use them for goods, groceries and prescriptions.

You can donate items even if you can't adopt a whole tag or put extra items in a grocery bag marked "Extra".

If you have any questions or need help, please contact Ben Schneider at bschneider73@gmail.com or 980-258-9267

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 MEETING SCHEDULE	Building and Grounds:	The 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
	Worship:	The 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
	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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT	
2025 BUDGET:	\$459,641
TOTAL GIVEN YTD:	\$392,623
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,303
TOTAL FOR NOV.:	\$30,306
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,839
TOTAL FOR NOV. 16:	\$8,533

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.