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:	$423,782
Total Given YTD:	$376,458
Needed Each Month:	$38,797
Total For November:	$37,143
Needed Weekly:	$8,953
Total For November 15:	$8,567

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 29, 2026 - 11:00 AM

The First Sunday of Advent



HOPE

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
LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE — Youth

One: Today we begin the journey of Advent.

All: We watch, we wait, and we worship the coming King.

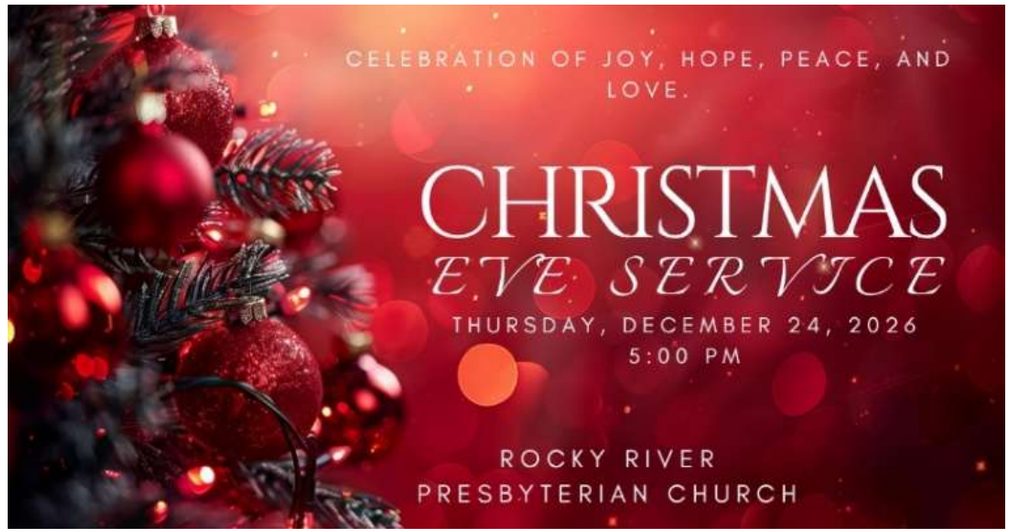
One: Advent reminds us that God always keeps God's promises.

All: We place our hope in the Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever.

One: The prophets spoke of a Savior. The people waited with hope. In the fullness of time, Christ came into the world.

All: We rejoice that Christ has come, Christ is present with us, and Christ will come again.

† 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





Reader: Today we light the Candle of Hope. This light reminds us that even in seasons of waiting, God is at work. When the world seems uncertain, God remains faithful. When darkness surrounds us, the light of Christ shines. Our hope is not built upon circumstances, but upon the promises of God fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

(Light the first purple candle.)

One: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

All: **Thanks be to God for the light of Christ.**

Prayer: Faithful God, you are the One who keeps every promise. As we begin this season of waiting, turn our hearts toward Jesus Christ. Awaken our hope, strengthen our faith, and prepare us to receive again the gift of Emmanuel, God with us. May the light of this candle remind us that no darkness can overcome your light, and no promise of yours will ever fail. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1-3)

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, you call us to watch and wait for the coming of your kingdom, yet we confess that we often become distracted by lesser things. We place our hope in possessions rather than your promises, in our own plans rather than your providence, and in temporary comforts rather than your eternal love. Forgive us for the times we lose sight of Christ. Awaken us from spiritual complacency. Renew our hope, strengthen our faith, and teach us to live as people who eagerly await the coming of your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

† 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

Living God, send your Holy Spirit upon us that your Word may awaken our hearts, renew our hope, and prepare us for the coming of Christ. Open our ears to hear, our minds to understand, and our lives to respond with faithful obedience. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

A Season of Giving. A Legacy of Faith.

Year-End Giving at Rocky River Presbyterian Church

As the year draws to a close, we are reminded of the many ways God has blessed our congregation and the ways our church continues to be a blessing to others. As you consider your year-end giving, we invite you to prayerfully reflect on the role Rocky River Presbyterian Church plays in your life and the importance of sustaining its ministry for generations to come.

Your year-end gift helps support:

- Worship and the spiritual life of our congregation.
- Christian education and faith formation for all ages.
- Mission and outreach to those in need.
- Congregational care, fellowship, and community.
- The ongoing ministries and future vitality of Rocky River Presbyterian Church.

Whether through a year-end contribution, a gift of appreciated securities, or a distribution from an IRA, there may be meaningful ways to support the church's ministry while also considering your personal financial and charitable goals.

Thank You for Being Part of Our Story

Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. Your generosity is an expression of faith, gratitude, and commitment to the life and mission of Rocky River Presbyterian Church.

Scan to give your recurring or one-time gift!

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 pick up a form in the vestibule or scan the QR Code below. Place your check/cash, along with the form, in the offering plate or put it directly in the Church Admin. door box.

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.

DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, December 6



THE GOSPEL LESSON — Mark 13:24-37

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *Long Ago, Prophets Knew* — Green, arr. by Larson
Choir

SERMON — "First Leaves of Hope" — Hailey Lebada

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

God of hope, every good gift comes from your gracious hand. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to serve our neighbors, and to extend your kingdom until that day when Christ comes again in glory. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 4-7)

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE *While We Are Waiting, Come* #92 (vs. 1)

† POSTLUDE

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

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.

RRPC Youth Fall 2026 Dates

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.

COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

TOYS FOR TOTS
December 12 – 13, Fellowship Hall
Volunteers Needed!

SORT TOYS: DEC. 12
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Kids, teens, & adults welcome
to sort toys.

Distribution & Shop: DEC. 12-13
2:00 PM -6:00 PM
Adults needed to assist
families with selecting toys.

Can you host a Toy Drive?
Contact Nancy Tipton:
704-309-0369 or ntipton71@gmail.com



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!

Attendance for Sunday, November 22, 2026

Sanctuary: 120 **Online: 69**

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 COMMUNITY MEAL

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: Assorted Soups

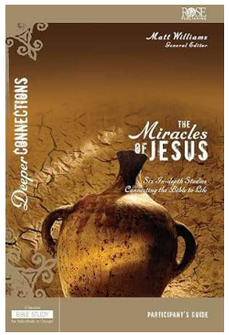
We ask for four people each week to bring a dessert. Please contact Robert Remsburg, rremsburg@yahoo.com.



RRPC Blood Drive

Tuesday, Dec. 22
2:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Rocky River to schedule an appointment.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

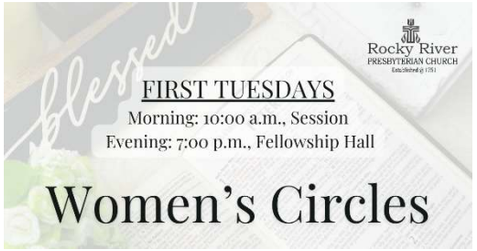


Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

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

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

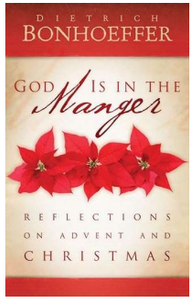
For further information contact Barbara Whaley at rnbwhaley@ctc.net



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.

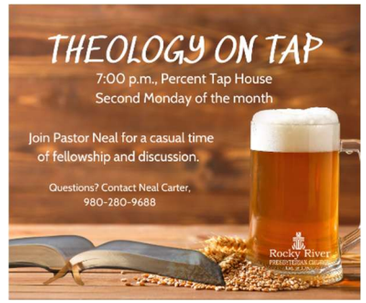


Taco Tuesday

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



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



Game Night

Friday, Dec. 11, 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