

*The Second Sunday
of
Advent*



PEACE
December 7, 2025


Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Est. @ 1751

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

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Jeanette Jarman

One:

Today we light the candle of **Peace**.

Christ comes to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Scripture:

"And a little child shall lead them." — *Isaiah 11:6*

One:

We light this candle, praying for God's peace to fill our hearts and our world.

(Light the first and second purple candles.)

Prayer:

Holy God, make us instruments of your peace.

Where the world is hurting, bring healing.

Where hearts are troubled, bring calm.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

All: The peace of Christ is lighting our way.

† HYMN #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

† ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of truth and grace, you send messengers to prepare your way, but we ignore the voices that challenge us. You call us to repentance, but we prefer the comfort of familiar habits. You invite us to bear fruit worthy of our calling, but we settle for half-hearted discipleship. Forgive us for the ways we resist your refining fire. Turn us again toward your kingdom. Clear away everything in us that does not honor you. Make us ready for the coming of Christ, who brings mercy, justice, and new 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 FOR ADVENT

God of the prophets and the promise, as your Word is read and proclaimed, open our ears to hear John's cry and open our hearts to receive Christ's coming. By your Spirit, awaken us, shape us, refine us, until our lives bear the fruit of your kingdom. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSONS

Matthew 3:1–12

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter
Handbell Choir

Arnold B. Sherman

SERMON

“The Trouble With Advent Is John the Baptist”

Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*From the Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who came to proclaim good news to the poor, release to the captives, and justice for the oppressed. He came with grace and truth to save us from our sin and to establish God’s kingdom on earth. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, who sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and who gives us courage to repent, to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace, and to witness to the good news that Christ is Lord of all. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Generous God, you call us to prepare the way for Christ and to bear fruit that honors your kingdom. Take these gifts and use them to make paths straight—paths of justice, mercy, and hope. As we offer our resources, make us ready to offer our lives, serving you with joy until Christ comes again in glory. 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

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope. We give in hope. Hope for your coming reign; hope because of your presence with us even now. Receive these generous offerings, and use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #93, *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE While We Are Waiting, Come #92, Verse 1

† POSTLUDE

ADVENT AT ROCKY RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 a form 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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SCOUT NIGHT



Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal

BAKED ZITI

Dec. 10, 2025
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

\$10/PERSON -
\$15/COUPLE - \$25/FAMILY

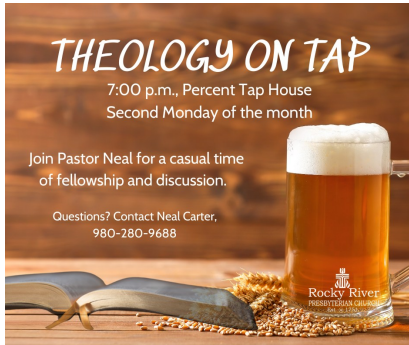


Wednesday, Dec. 3
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: BAKED ZITI
**Meatless option available

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

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Theology On Tap

Monday, Dec. 8, 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, Dec. 9, 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, 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

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

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

White Elephant Youth Christmas Party **Sunday, December 7, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Fellowship Hall**

Hey RRPC Youth, parents, and volunteers, get ready for an evening filled with laughter, festive fun, and the most creative gift exchanges of the season. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater, bring a wrapped wacky gift (\$10 limit), and your holiday spirit.

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

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, 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
DEC.: SHAMPOO

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.

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:	\$406,417
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,303
TOTAL FOR NOV.:	\$44,099
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,839
TOTAL FOR NOV. 30:	\$6,123

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.