



**Rocky River**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Established @ 1751



**Morning Worship**  
**at Rocky River Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, February 22, 2026**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**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: In the wilderness of life, God calls us to return.

**All: We come seeking mercy, seeking renewal, seeking grace.**

One: The journey of Lent begins with honesty before God.

**All: We bring our whole selves — our hopes, our fears, our failures, and our faith.**

One: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

**All: God leads us through the wilderness and does not abandon us.**

One: Let us worship the One who calls us, redeems us, and walks with us.

**All: Let us worship God.**

† HYMN #166      *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we are often drawn to the easy path—to satisfy hunger in ways that estrange us from you, to demand proof of your love, to bow to powers that promise what only you can give. Forgive us our half-hearted faith. Restore us in your word and your way, that we might walk with Jesus through wilderness and emerge rooted in grace. 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 God, open our eyes to see the living Christ in Scripture, open our  
ears to hear truth that sustains us, open our hearts to trust in God's faithful  
presence. By your word and Spirit, shape us for life in the wilderness and life  
in your realm. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:1–11

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Come to the Cross of Jesus  
Choir

Spitzer, Livingston, Jr.

## Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967 (PC(USA)))

**God’s forgiving love in Jesus Christ gives rise to a new community of faith, a community committed to peace, freedom, and justice. The Spirit enables the community to understand God’s word and to witness to the gospel in worship and mission. In steadfast hope, the community serves God as agents of reconciliation in the world. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF 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.**

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, as you sustained Christ in the wilderness, may these gifts sustain your mission in the world. Use them to feed the hungry, comfort the weary, and proclaim your faithful love to all in need of grace. Amen.**

## Sending

† HYMN #819

*Be Still, My Soul*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

#765

† POSTLUDE

## Attendance for Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026

**Sanctuary: 86      Online: 61**

### Interested in membership?

Contact our Church Administrator to arrange a meeting with Pastor Neal Carter.  
704-455-2479 or [churchadmin@rockyriver.org](mailto:churchadmin@rockyriver.org)

## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY



### Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal

#### TACO BAR

Feb. 25, 2026  
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

**Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026  
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

### Menu: TACO BAR

We ask for four people each week to bring a dessert. Please contact Robert Remsburg, [rremsburg@yahoo.com](mailto:rremsburg@yahoo.com).

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.



### RRPC Blood Drive

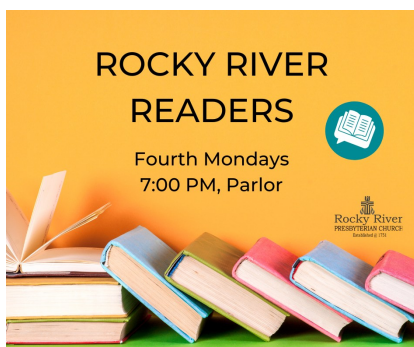
Tuesday, Feb. 24

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

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Rocky River to schedule an appointment.



## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



### Rocky River Readers

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

**Traveling Through History** by Janet Morrison

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

### Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

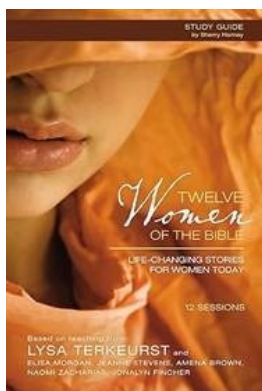
Feb. 24, 2026 - 9:00 am

Room 216 - 2nd floor

**Twelve Women of the Bible** by Lysa Terkeurst, Elisa Morgan, et.al. and the study guide by Sherry Harney.

Starting March 3:

**The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi** by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel



For further information contact Barbara Whaley at [rnbwhaley@ctc.net](mailto:rnbwhaley@ctc.net)

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

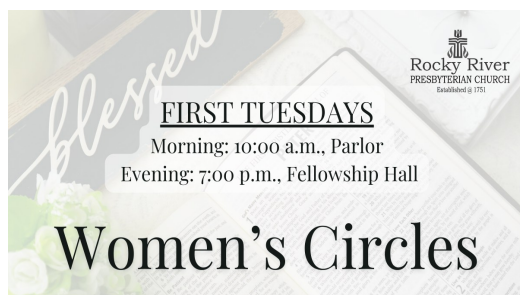


## Game Night

**Friday, Feb. 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*



## Women's Circle Meetings

**Tuesday, March 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*

## Taco Tuesday

**Tuesday, March 10, 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*

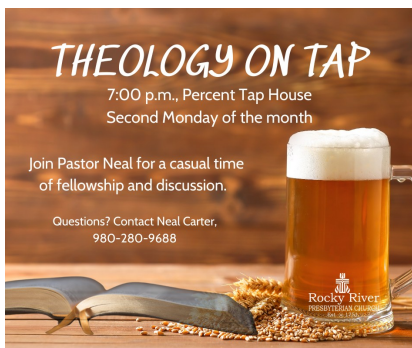


## Men's Breakfast

**Sunday, March 15, 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*



### **Theology On Tap**

**Monday, March 16, 7:00 pm, 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*

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

### **Children's Communion Class**

**Feb. 22, 2026 – 12:15 PM**

**Room 215**

All elementary aged children are invited to come learn about the sacrament of communion. Pastor Neal will be joining us to teach about why we take communion and the meaning behind the sacrament. Lunch will be served.



### **SAVE THE DATES!**

This year's VBS will be July 12-16.  
More information coming soon!

## **The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!**

**March 1, 2026 – 2:30 PM**

Families of all ages are invited to join us for The Uwharrie Players' production of *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* on Sunday, March 1st. Please use the QR code to sign up for tickets by February 22nd. Tickets are free for ages 13 and under and \$10 for those over 13. Once you reserve your tickets, Laura will make the group purchase and distribute them to you. We will meet at The Albemarle Neighborhood Theatre at 2:30 PM to get seats together. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact Laura Smith, [laura.rrpc@gmail.com](mailto:laura.rrpc@gmail.com)



## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

### **Upcoming Youth Events**

Mark your calendars! Join us for fun, faith, and service—games, movies, Bible talks, and planning ways to bless our church and community.

#### **Save the Dates:**

- Feb. 22 | 12:30–2 PM
- March 15 | 12:30–2 PM
- March 22 | 12:30–2 PM
- March 28 | 8 AM to 2 PM: Easter Hunt Fundraiser

### **Youth Pantry Drive FEB.: CANNED FOOD**

**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).



### GGC Smokehouse Food Truck Every Wednesday

**Wednesdays - 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM**

Make sure to give them a follow! - @ggcsmokehouse

**The YMCA @ Rocky River Presbyterian Church**

## ACTIVE OLDER ADULT FITNESS



**Monday thru Thursday  
9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

A sign for the Harrisburg Crisis Assistance Ministry Food Pantry, set against a background of shelves stocked with various food items like canned goods and bags of rice. The sign is white with a logo of two stylized figures in a heart shape.

**FOOD PANTRY**

**HARRISBURG CRISIS  
ASSISTANCE MINISTRY**  
FOOD PANTRY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

**MONDAYS,  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Rocky River  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Est. @ 1751

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY**

### ***NEW PLAYGROUND PROJECT!***

RRPC's Building & Grounds Ministry has begun work to rebuild our playground!

Your donations will help provide a safe, functional place for children to play.

Scan the code to donate, write "Playground" on your check, or give online at [www.rockyriver.org/give](http://www.rockyriver.org/give)

A sign for the RRPC Playground Fun Raiser, featuring a background of green grass. On the left is a photo of a playground with a slide and climbing structure. In the center is a QR code with the text 'SCAN TO GIVE' and an arrow pointing to it. On the right, the text 'RRPC PLAYGROUND FUN RAISER' is written in large, white, serif capital letters.

**RRPC  
PLAYGROUND  
FUN  
RAISER**

Rocky River  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SCAN TO GIVE

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

|  |                             |  |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>COMMITTEES<br/>MEETING<br/>SCHEDULE</b> | 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:    | Irminger         |
| Week 2:  | Steve Jewett and Kathy Linker     | Week 2:    | Troops 7 and 83  |
| Week 3:  | Shirley Rockel and Darrell Thomas | Week 3:    | Mitchem / Carter |
| Week 4:  | Scott Jones and Frank Reynolds    | Week 4:    | Whaley/ Glosson  |
| Week 5:  | Bob Remsburg and Don Chase        | Week 5:    | Tipton / Earley  |

| STEWARDSHIP REPORT |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 2026 BUDGET:       | \$465,561 |
| TOTAL GIVEN YTD:   | \$46,973  |
| NEEDED EACH MONTH: | \$38,797  |
| TOTAL FOR FEB.:    | \$24,029  |
| NEEDED WEEKLY:     | \$8,953   |
| TOTAL FOR FEB. 15: | \$7,120   |

**Rocky River Presbyterian Church • 7940 Rocky River Road • Concord NC 28025**  
[www.rockyriver.org](http://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](mailto:nealcarter64@gmail.com)  
Church Administrator: Macie Melton • 704.455.2479 • [churchadmin@rockyriver.org](mailto:churchadmin@rockyriver.org)  
Music and Children's Ministries: Laura Smith • 704.796.3198 • [laura.rrpc@gmail.com](mailto:laura.rrpc@gmail.com)  
Youth Ministry: Hailey Lebada • 704.455.2479 • [rockyriveryouth@gmail.com](mailto:rockyriveryouth@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.