



**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

Spitzer, Livingston, Jr.

Choir

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

SERMON

“ Gets Real ”

Neal Carter

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.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

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

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.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.



**American
Red Cross**
Blood Drives

RRPC Blood Drive

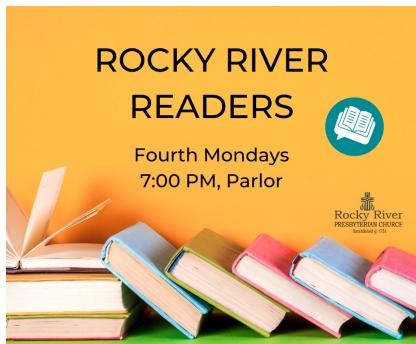
Tuesday, Feb. 24

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, 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.

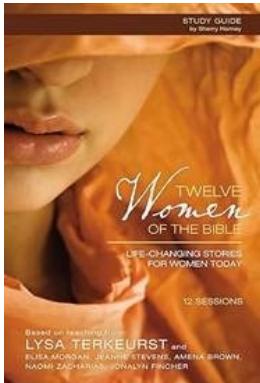
Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203

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

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

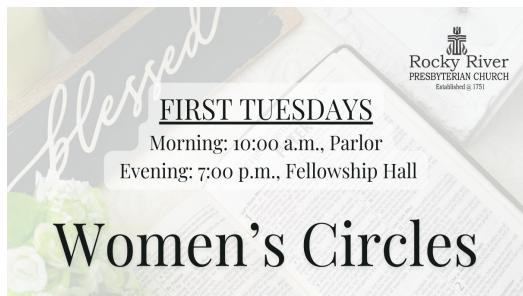


Game Night

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 Circles

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*



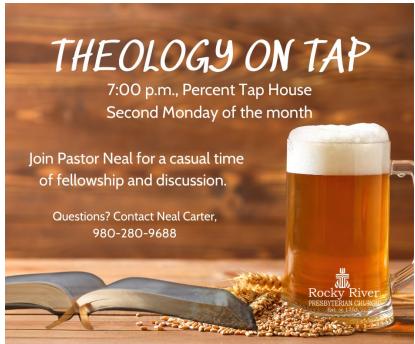
Men's Breakfast

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*

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.



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.

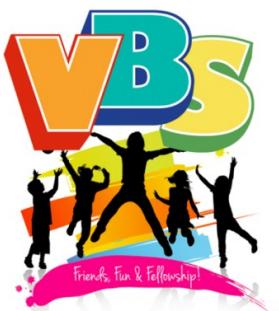
Questions? Contact Neal Carter, 980-280-9688

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



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.





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.



GGC Smokehouse Food Truck Every Wednesday

Wednesdays - 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Make sure to give them a follow! - [@ggcsmokehouse](https://www.instagram.com/ggcsmokehouse)

 The YMCA @ Rocky River Presbyterian Church 

ACTIVE OLDER ADULT FITNESS



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



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



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

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