

Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday
11:00 AM

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna in the highest heaven!

One: We gather to welcome Christ—not in triumph as we expect, but in humility, riding toward suffering.

All: We wave our branches and raise our voices, yet we know the road leads to the cross.

One: Come, let us worship the One who comes to us—full of grace, truth, and steadfast love.

All: Hosanna! Come, Lord Jesus. We worship you.

† HYMN #196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that our praise is often shallow and short-lived. We welcome you with hosannas, but resist the way you lead us. We want a king who conquers, not a Savior who suffers. We celebrate you in moments of joy, yet turn away when following you becomes costly. We cling to power, comfort, and control, rather than trusting your way of humility and peace. Forgive us, O God. Turn our hearts again toward you. Teach us to follow Christ not only in praise, but in obedience and love. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

**Holy God, as we hear your Word this day, open our hearts and minds by the
power of your Spirit. Help us to see Christ not only in the crowds' praise, but
in the path he walks toward the cross. Give us ears to hear, and courage to
follow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 21:1-11

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Raise the Wave of Praise

Pepper Choplin

Choir

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith, adapted for congregational use)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children. He was rejected by his own people, handed over to suffer and die, and crucified. But God raised him from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, and delivering us from death to life eternal. 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. 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

Generous God, you have given us all that we need—and more than we deserve. Receive these gifts we offer, and use them for your purposes in the world. May they bear witness to your kingdom, serve those in need, and reflect the love of Christ who gave himself for us. In his name we pray. Amen.



Forms are located in the vestibule. Please submit during worship or online by Palm Sunday, March 29.

The 2026 RRPC College Scholarship Applications are open!

2026 Graduates who are interested in applying will be sent an application form upon request.

The scholarship is a one-time award of \$1,000. Up to three scholarships will be awarded this year. To be eligible, the student must be an active, confirmed member of the congregation.

Interested students can reach out to the contact below for questions and application.

All scholarship forms must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on May 28th to the church office.

Questions - Contact Shirley Rockel, rockelshirley1@yahoo.com.

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY MEAL

**Wednesday, April 1, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Menu: SALADS

We ask for four people each week to bring a dessert.

Please contact Robert Remsburg,
rremsburg@yahoo.com.



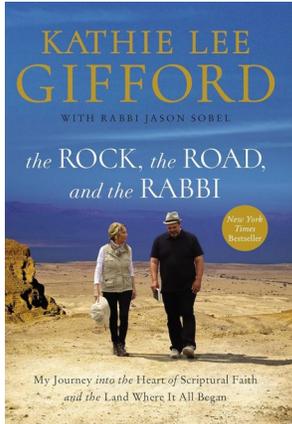
Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Rocky River to schedule an appointment.

RRPC Blood Drive

**Tuesday, April 28
2:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall**



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

March 31, 2026 - 9:00 am

Room 214 - 2nd floor

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

The Parables of Jesus starting on April 14

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



Men's Lent Book Study

March 31 - Session Room - 12:30 pm

This year, bring your own lunch. Discussion guides are available in the vestibule.

Week 4: Lent Week 06



Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, April 7

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



Game Night

Friday, April 10, 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

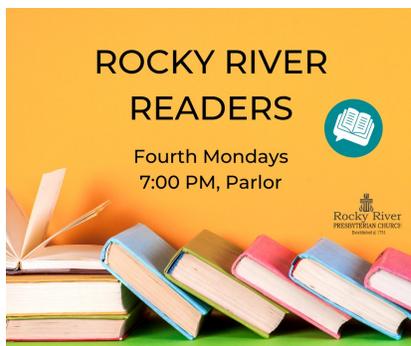


Men's Breakfast

Sunday, April 19, 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



Rocky River Readers

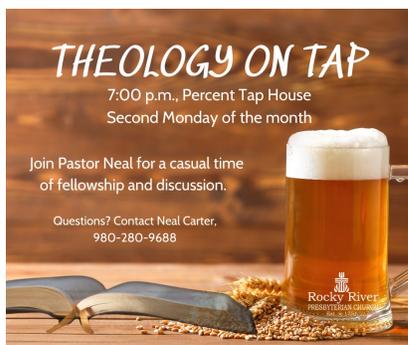
Monday, April 27, 7:00 pm, Parlor

***The Nature of Fragile Things* by Susan Meissner**

View the 2026 reading list at

www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers.

Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203



Theology On Tap

Monday, May 11, 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

Taco Tuesday
Tuesday, May 12, 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



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Children's Faith and Fellowship
April 12, 2026 – 12:15 PM
Room 220

Children, K-5, are invited for a time of learning and fun! Lunch will be provided.

Please email Laura Smith to be counted for lunch.
laura.rrpc@gmail.com

Card Games for Kids
April 19, 2026 – 12:00 PM
Fellowship Hall



On April 19th following worship, children are invited to play card games such as Uno, Go Fish, and Memory. If you'd like to bring an easy-to-play card game to share with the group, please do! Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please RSVP to Laura Smith, laura.rrpc@gmail.com, by April 15th to ensure we have enough food for everyone.



Vacation Bible School Snowball Mountain Challenge July 12 - 16, 2026

This year's VBS is "Snowball Mountain Challenge." Children will learn that God is the source of their strength. Look for more information on how you can get involved coming soon!

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

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:

- **Saturday, March 28** | 7:30 AM to 2 PM: Easter Egg Hunt Fundraiser Breakfast
- **Sunday, April 12** | 12:30–2 PM: Pre-Mission Trip Meeting (Mandatory for Participants)
- **Wednesday, April 15** | 4 PM - 6:30 PM: Wednesday Night Fellowship - Serve Potato Bar
 - **Sunday, April 26** | 1 –3 PM: Picnic at Pharr Mill Park

Youth Pantry Drive

MARCH: LAUNDRY DETERGENT

SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE & SHIP DIRECTLY TO RRPC!

Questions - Hailey Lebeda 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 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 MEETING SCHEDULE	Building and Grounds: Worship: Finance & Administration: Christian Education: Congregational Connections:	The 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m.
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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:	Daoust	Troops 7 and 83
Week 3:	Shirley Rockel and Darrell Thomas	Week 3:		Mitchem / Carter
Week 4:	Scott Jones and Frank Reynolds	Week 4:	Bedsole	Whaley/ Glosson
Week 5:	Bob Remsburg and Don Chase	Week 5:	Tipton	Tipton / Earley

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2026 BUDGET:	\$465,561
TOTAL GIVEN YTD:	\$83,417
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR MARCH:	\$28,704
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR MARCH 22:	\$8,828

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 Lebeda • 704.455.2479 • rockyriveryouth@gmail.com

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