


Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Est. @ 1751



EASTER WORSHIP

Sunday, April 5, 2026

11:00 am, Sanctuary

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: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

One: The stone is rolled away, death has lost its hold.

All: Life has broken forth in the darkness.

One: Come, let us worship the God of resurrection—who brings new life out of every ending.

All: Alleluia! Let us worship God.

† HYMN #232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Risen Lord, we confess that we do not always live as Easter people. We cling to fear instead of trusting your promises. We hold onto old wounds rather than receiving new life. We walk as if death still has the final word. Forgive us, O God. Roll away the stones that keep us bound. Call us again by name and lead us out into the light of your grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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 10-Cents-A-Meal Offering Neal Carter

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to hear the good
news of the resurrection. As the risen Christ was made known in the breaking
of the bread and the speaking of the Word, make him known to us today. Give
us ears to hear, faith to believe, and courage to follow. Through Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 28:1–10

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Then Came the Morning

G. Gaither, W. Gaither,
Christian, arr. by Duren

Choir

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

SERMON

“ The God Who Will Not Stay Dead ”

Neal Carter

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.

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 new life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Receive these gifts we offer and use them for the work of your kingdom. Let them bear witness to hope where there is despair, life where there is loss, and love that will not let the world go. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Neal Carter

HYMN #507, Verse 1

Come to the Table of Grace

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Table is open to all who trust in Jesus Christ. Please hold each element until everyone is served; as a sign of our unity in Christ, we will partake on cue from the minister.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament, you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #826

Lift High the Cross

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE

Amen

#600

† POSTLUDE

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

Church offices will be closed on Easter Monday.

Attendance for Sunday, March 29, 2026

Sanctuary: 153 Online: 50

Interested in membership?

Contact our Church Administrator to arrange a meeting with Pastor Neal Carter.
704-455-2479 or churchadmin@rockyriver.org



In Memory Of:

Kenneth Christenbury
Paul Christenbury
June & Sam Cummings
Larry Cummings
Jo Ann Jones
Joe & Margaret Novobilski
Charles & Kathryn Morse
Cindy Morse
Charles & Frances Parnell
Jenna Taylor
Mercer & Elizabeth Wilson

Placed By:

Sandra Thomas
Sandra Thomas
Gwen Wallace
Gwen Wallace
Sandra Thomas
Joe & Lynnette Novobilski
Deb Morse
Deb Morse
Joe & Lynnette Novobilski
Sandra Thomas
Barbara Whaley

In Honor Of:

HCAM Volunteers
Frank M. Wilson

Placed By:

Barbara Whaley
Barbara Whaley

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 Meal**

**Matchmaker
Chicken**

April 8, 2026
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: MATCHMAKER CHICKEN

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

Please contact Robert Remsburg,

rremsburg@yahoo.com.

American Red Cross

Give blood.

Help save lives.



RRPC Blood Drive

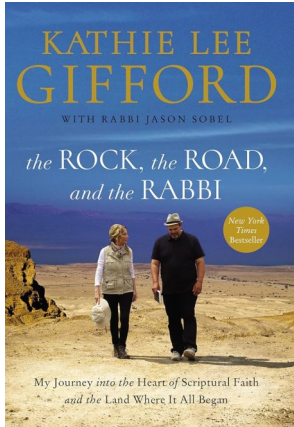
Tuesday, April 28

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

April 7, 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



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

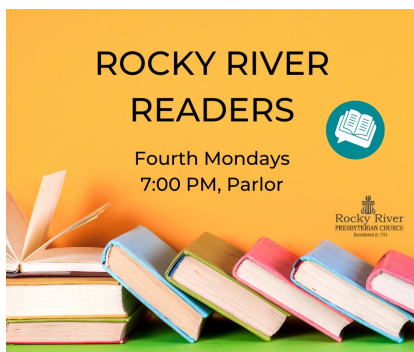


Men's Breakfast

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

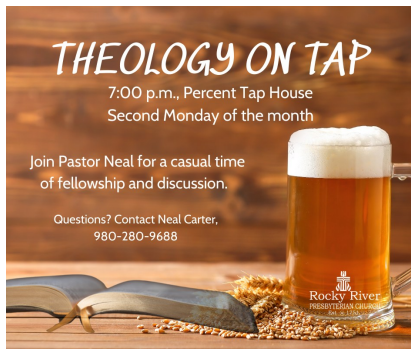


Rocky River Readers

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:

- **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

APRIL: PASTA

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 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:	\$92,575
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR MARCH:	\$37,863
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR MARCH 29:	\$9,158

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.