



Rocky River

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established @ 1751



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, May 31, 2026
Trinity 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 electronically by scanning the code.*



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

All: The Triune God calls us into life and relationship.

One: In Jesus Christ, we see God's love made flesh.

All: In the Holy Spirit, we are sustained and sent.

One: Come, let us worship the living God—

All: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

† HYMN #15

All Creatures of Our God and King

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Triune God, we confess that we do not always live as your people. You call us into relationship, yet we choose isolation. You send us into the world, yet we hold back in fear. You invite us to trust you; yet we cling to our own understanding. Forgive us, O God. Renew us by your Spirit. Draw us more deeply into your life and send us with courage and compassion. In Jesus' name 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

Laura Smith

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds by your
Word. As the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, reveal your truth to us, and
lead us in the way of Christ. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

How Great Are You Lord

Lynn DeShazo

Arianna Murray and Laura Smith

SERMON

“ Go! But Not Too Far! ”

Neal Carter

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ava Spicer

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18–20).

Hear also these words from Holy Scripture: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called you out of darkness into God’s marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ’s ministry of love, peace, and justice. Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Ed Watson, Presenting Elder

EI: On behalf of the session, I present Ava Spicer to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

Neal: Do you desire to be baptized?

Ava: I do

Neal: Relying on God’s grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith?

Ava: I do.

Neal: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ at Rocky River Presbyterian Church, promise to guide and nurture Ava by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?

All: We do.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

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

One: Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks. In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past, and have blessed us with signs of your grace. We praise you that through the waters of the sea, you led your people Israel out of bondage, into freedom in the land of your promise. We praise you for sending Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of his death and resurrection, you set us free from the bondage of sin and death, and give us cleansing and rebirth. We praise you that in baptism you give us your Holy Spirit, who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with a variety of gifts, that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood. Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may be the place of new birth. May all who now pass through these waters be delivered from death to life, from bondage to freedom, from sin to righteousness. Bind them to the household of faith, guard them from all evil. Strengthen them to serve you with joy until the day you make all things new. To you be all praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever.

SERVICE OF WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Ed Watson, Presenting Elder

Ed: On behalf of the session, I present Ava Spicer who has been received into the membership of this congregation by affirmation of faith.

Neal: You come to us professing your faith as a member of the one holy catholic church, into which you were baptized. We are one with each other, sisters and brothers in the family of God. We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. As you join with us in the worship and service of this congregation, it is fitting that together we reaffirm the covenant into which we were baptized, claiming again the promises of God which are ours in our baptism.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Neal: Now, as you publicly declare your faith, I ask you to reject sin, to profess your faith in Jesus Christ, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which you were baptized. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Ava: I do.

Neal: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

Ava: I do.

Neal: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

Ava: I will, with God's help.

Neal: You have publicly professed your faith. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Ava: I will, with God's help.

All: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.

Prayer

Welcome

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.

† 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

Gracious God, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them for your work in the world, that others may come to know your love. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #1 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE *May the Love of the Lord* #549

† POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, May 24, 2026

Sanctuary: 110 Online: 56

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

**Wednesday, June 3, 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.



RRPC Blood Drive

Tuesday, June 23

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

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



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



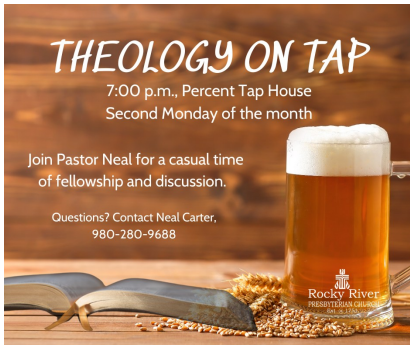
Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, June 2

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



Theology On Tap

Monday, June 8, 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, June 9, 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



Game Night

Friday, June 12, 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



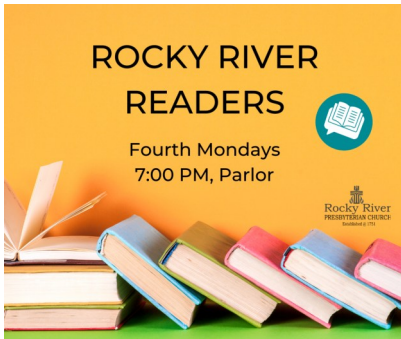
Men's Breakfast

Sunday, June 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

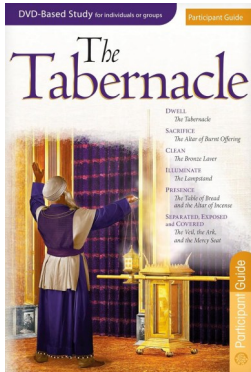




Rocky River Readers
Monday, June 22, 7:00 pm, Parlor

Finding Chika, a Little Girl, an Earthquake, & Making of a Family by Mitch Albom

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
Sept. 1, 2026 - 9:00 am
Room 214 - 2nd floor

The Tabernacle by Shawn Bernard, M. Div. with Jeanne Whittaker

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

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY



Bible Trivia Game:
June 7, 2026 – 12:00 PM
Fellowship Hall



All elementary-aged children are invited to join us for lunch and a Bible trivia game. Please email Laura Smith with how many will be attending for lunch, laura.rrpc@gmail.com.



Children’s Faith and Fellowship
June 14, 2026 – 12:15 PM
Room 215

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



Register Here!



Volunteer Here!

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

Registration is open for Snowball Mountain Challenge! Children age 3 through finishing 5th grade are invited to come and learn that God is the source of their strength. Please use the appropriate QR for either registering or for volunteering to help. Forms can also be found at rockyriver.org. Contact Laura Smith for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY

SUMMER BREAK!

We look forward to this summer's upcoming Youth Mission Trip! Wishing everyone a great summer break. Look out for upcoming events in the bulletin and newsletter once we return.

**Youth Pantry Drive
MAY: FLOUR**

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:	\$153,349
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR MAY:	\$25,470
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR MAY 24:	\$5,376

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.