



# Rocky River

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established @ 1751



**Morning Worship**  
**at Rocky River Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, June 21, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**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 (Psalm 69)

Arianna Murray

One: For it is for your sake that we have borne reproach, that shame has covered our faces.

**All: Yet we come, trusting in God's steadfast love.**

One: Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good.

**All: According to your abundant mercy, turn to us.**

One: Do not hide your face from your servants, for we are in distress—make haste to answer us.

**All: Draw near to us, O God, and redeem us.**

† HYMN #307

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Hailey Lebada

**Gracious God, you call us to follow Christ, yet we cling to what feels safe. We confess that we prefer comfort to courage, approval to faithfulness, and security to trust. We have been silent when we should have spoken. We have held back when we should have followed. We have tried to save our lives on our own terms. Forgive us. Free us from fear that binds us. Reorient our hearts toward you. Give us courage to take up the cross and trust the life you promise. 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

Ian Baker

**Holy God, your Word challenges and calls us. By your Spirit, open our ears to  
hear your truth, open our hearts to receive your call, and open our lives to  
follow where Christ leads. Give us courage to hear, and grace to respond.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON (Kinley Robinson & Adi Lebeda)

Matthew 10:24–39

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Wonderful, Merciful Savior* Rodgers, Wyse, arr. by Foster

Laura Smith

SERMON

“ Not Safe, Just Faithful ”

Neal Carter

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

## 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.**

### 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

Madelyn Keyser

**Generous God, you have given us life—not to cling to, but to offer in your service. Receive these gifts, signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to further your work in the world, to bring hope where there is fear, and to bear witness to your truth. And send us, O God, as people willing to follow Christ—not seeking safety, but trusting your faithfulness. Through him we pray. Amen.**

## Sending

† HYMN #819

*Be Still, My Soul*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE

*May the Love of the Lord*

#549

† POSTLUDE

## Attendance for Sunday, June 14, 2026

**Sanctuary: 107    Online: 76**

### Online Giving

Scan the QR code to give tithes and offerings online.



### Interested in membership?

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

### **The 2026 Elder Nomination Committee is asking for your suggestions of members to nominate for the Class of 2029 Elders.**

Nominations may be submitted by returning the paper form located in the vestibule to the Church Admin Box on the door #106.

Nominating Committee: Priscilla Giuliano, David Murray, Tammi Remsburg, Brandon Earley, and Kinley Robinson

† Please Stand • **Congregation reads words in bold.**

## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

### Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal

#### TUMBLEWEED CHICKEN

June 24 2026  
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, June 24, 2026  
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: TUMBLEWEED CHICKEN

We ask for four people each week to bring a dessert.  
Please contact Robert Remsburg,  
rremsburg@yahoo.com.



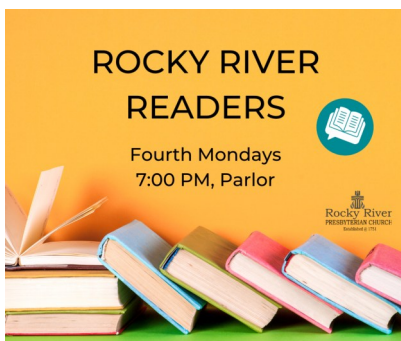
### RRPC Blood Drive

Tuesday, June 23  
2:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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



## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



### 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](http://www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers).  
Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203



### Game Night

**Friday, June 26, 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, July 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*

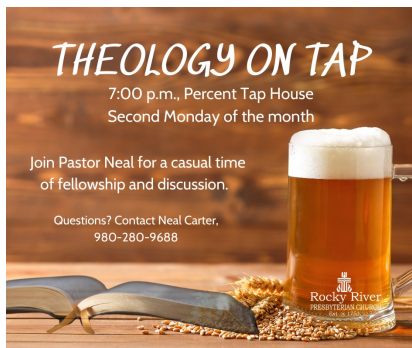


### Men's Breakfast

**Sunday, July 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*



### Theology On Tap

**Monday, Aug. 10, 7:00 pm, Percent Tap House**

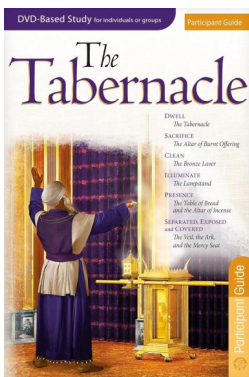
Join Pastor Neal for a casual time of fellowship and discussion. This gathering is held the second Monday of each month.

*Questions? Contact Neal Carter, 980-280-9688*

**Taco Tuesday**  
Tuesday, Aug. 11 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



**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](mailto:rnbwhaley@ctc.net)

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**



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](http://rockyriver.org). Contact Laura Smith for more information.

## **School Supplies Drive**

**July 12 - Aug. 2**

We will be collecting donations to support Rocky River Elementary School again this year. The teachers at the school have shared with us a specific list of their most needed items, which is available in the vestibule. A donation box will be available during VBS July 12-16 and continuing until Aug. 2. Thank you for any help you can provide.

## **VBS Donations**

**Needed by July 11th**

We need your help! There are some items we need to borrow for our VBS activities. Almost all of them will be returned after VBS. If you have any of the following items that we can use, please contact Laura Smith, [laura.rrpc@gmail.com](mailto:laura.rrpc@gmail.com) to arrange delivery details. We need all supplies by July 11th.

- Strips of fabric (will return only what is not used for crafts)
  - Stuffed animals/Dolls (need 15-20)
- Two of each: scarves, winter hats, coats, pairs of gloves/mittens, pairs of adult-sized snow boots
  - Children's chess board and pieces

## **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**

**JUNE: CANNED VEGGIES**

**SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE & SHIP DIRECTLY TO RRPC!**

Questions - Hailey Lebada or email us at [RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com](mailto:RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com).



## OUR GOAL: \$5,000

Your generosity helps fund mission trips, service projects, and faith-building experiences for our youth.

- 1 SELECT AN ENVELOPE**  

- 2 DONATE THAT AMOUNT**  
  
Donate the dollar amount written on the outside.
- 3 PLACE YOUR ENVELOPE**  
  
Place your filled envelope in the drop box in the vestibule.

**YOUR GIVING IS AMAZING!**  
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH AND THEIR MISSION!

### RRPC Youth Envelope Fundraiser

Help support the RRPC Youth Mission Fund! Visit the envelope board in the vestibule, choose any envelope, and donate the dollar amount written on the outside. Place your filled envelope in the drop box next to the poster. Every gift helps our youth participate in mission trips, service projects, and faith-building experiences. Thank you for supporting our youth and their mission!



### 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).

### COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

 The YMCA @ Rocky River Presbyterian Church 

# ACTIVE OLDER ADULT FITNESS



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

## GRIEF SHARE: 13-WEEK SERIES

Tuesdays, August 18 - November 10, 2026  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm , Room 216

You don't have to go through  
the grieving process alone.



Scan to Register!

### **GriefShare Facilitators Needed**

Have you experienced the deep grief of losing a loved one to death? Have you learned valuable lessons and experienced healing from the hurt? Would you like to help others do the same? Our GriefShare group is looking forward to adding more Facilitators to our team. Please prayerfully consider joining us! Call or email to learn more about the opportunities with our GriefShare ministry. Joan Nicholson: [jnich1@hotmail.com](mailto:jnich1@hotmail.com) or 704-239-1573.

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY**

### **THE PLAYGROUND IS ALMOST FINISHED!**

We are close to the finish line of completing the playground. Please feel free to donate what you can to help us get across the line! We are so thankful to all who have made this dream come true for our fellowship and community.



## Our Session

CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
Sandra Thomas <i>Finance &amp; Administration</i>	Shirley Rockel <i>Finance &amp; Administration</i>	Jim Pharr <i>Finance &amp; 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>

<b>COMMITTEES MEETING 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.
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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:	\$185,606
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR June:	\$18,192
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR June 14:	\$10,712

**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.