

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established @ 1751



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, July 26, 2026
Nineth 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 (Based on Psalm 105 and Psalm 128)

One: O give thanks to the Lord; call upon God's name. Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

All: We come to remember the mighty works of God and to worship with grateful hearts.

One: Blessed are those who walk in the ways of the Lord and delight in God's presence.

All: We come seeking wisdom, joy, and the blessing of God's kingdom.

One: The Lord remembers the covenant forever, the promises made to every generation.

All: God's faithfulness endures from age to age.

One: Come, let us worship the God who plants small seeds and brings forth abundant harvests.

All: We will praise the Lord with all our hearts.

† HYMN #625

O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, you place treasures before us, but we become distracted by lesser things. You offer pearls of great value, but we settle for what is convenient and familiar. Forgive us, O God. Open our eyes to the hidden ways you are at work among us. Teach us to recognize your kingdom in acts of kindness, in faithful service, in persistent love, and in quiet obedience. Renew our hearts that we may gladly give ourselves to the things that matter most in your sight. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† 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, send your Holy Spirit upon us now, that the eyes of our hearts may be opened. Give us ears to hear your Word, wisdom to discern your kingdom, and courage to follow wherever you lead. May the Scriptures become for us not merely words upon a page, but the living voice of the One who calls us into abundant life. Amen.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

ANTHEM

Plenty Good Room

arr. by John Horman

Stephanie Campbell, Ann Carroll, Laura Smith

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“ In Plain Sight ”

Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

† 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

Generous God, you have sown your gifts among us abundantly. Receive these offerings, which we return with gratitude and joy. Use these gifts and our lives to bear fruit for your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #310 *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

† POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, July 19, 2026

Sanctuary: 104 Online: 67

The RRPC Elder Nominating Committee nominates the following slate to be the Elders for the Class of 2029

Stephen Sigler - Building & Grounds
Erica Council - Congregational Connections
Stephanie Campbell - Worship
Ashley Carriker - Christian Education
Frank Reynolds - Finance & Administration

The Session has called a **Congregational Meeting** for Sunday, August 16, 2026, following the worship service to elect the new officers.

*Names can be entered from the floor of the meeting by RRPC members.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

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

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal

Chicken Parmesan

July 29, 2026
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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



**Wednesday, July 29, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Menu: CHICKEN PARMESAN

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



RRPC Blood Drive

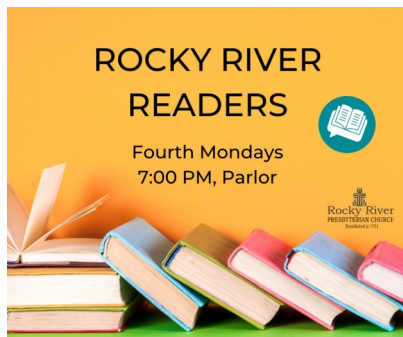
Tuesday, July 28

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, July 27, 7:00 pm, Parlor

All the Broken Places by John Boyne

View the 2026 reading list at
www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers.
Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203



Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, Aug. 4

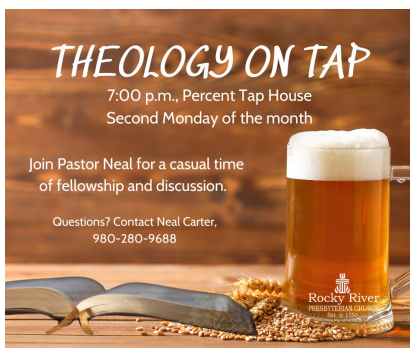
Morning: 10:00 am, Session Room

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, 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



Game Night

Friday, Aug. 14, 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



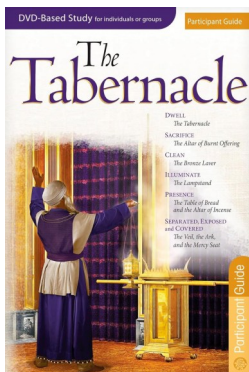


Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Aug. 16, 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



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

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.

Sorting School Supplies

Aug. 2 - 12:15 pm

Please have children meet after worship for lunch and to sort the school supplies that have been collected. We ask that each family **bring their own lunch**. Contact Laura Smith for more information.



Children's Faith and Fellowship

Aug. 9, 2026 – 12:15 pm

Room 215

Children, K-5, are invited for a time of learning and fun! Please bring your own lunch.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, Aug. 9, 2025, 11:00 AM Worship

All are invited to bring their backpacks or work bags for a special blessing!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Pantry Drive

JULY: CANNED TUNA/ CHICKEN

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.

COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

GRIEFSHARE: 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.

 **GRIEF SHARE**


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 or 704-239-1573.

GGC Smokehouse Food Truck

Wednesdays - 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Make sure to give them a follow! - @ggcsmokehouse




**RRPC
Farmers
MARKET**
Wednesdays,
Starting April 29
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
HOMEMADE PRODUCTS, FRESH PRODUCE, BAKED GOODS, AND MORE!





Lobster Dogs Food Truck

Friday, July 31, 2026

4:00 PM to 6:30 PM

They will be in the RRPC lot serving up a delicious dinner!



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 & 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:	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.

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:	\$230,738
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR July:	\$17,195
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR July 19:	\$3,890

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.