

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established @ 1751



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, August 16, 2026
Twelfth 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 133)

One: How very good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.

All: God calls us together as one body in Christ.

One: It is like oil of blessing poured out in abundance.

All: God's grace renews and restores us.

One: It is like dew upon the mountains, bringing life to the earth.

All: God refreshes weary hearts with mercy and peace.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord who gathers strangers into family.

All: Let us worship God!

† HYMN #263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: Merciful God, you call us to love beyond boundaries and fear.

All: Yet we often choose comfort over compassion.

One: You call us to welcome the stranger.

All: Yet we build walls in our hearts and in our lives.

One: You call us to trust your mercy.

All: Yet we decide too quickly who belongs and who does not.

One: We confess our prejudices, spoken and unspoken.

All: We confess the ways we turn away from the suffering of others.

One: Forgive us, O God.

All: Break open our hardened hearts and teach us the wideness of your grace.

One: In Jesus Christ, mercy is stronger than fear.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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.**

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your Word unsettles us and renews us. Send your Spirit among us now, that we may hear not only with our ears but with our hearts. Where we are resistant, soften us. Where we are fearful, encourage us. Where we are divided, unite us in Christ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 15: 21-28

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Holy Is The Lord

Holcomb, arr. by Hayes

Choir

SERMON

“ Crossing Boundaries ”

Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith*

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. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace, and to witness to Christ as Lord and Savior. 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 blessed us beyond measure. Receive these gifts and use them to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, heal the hurting, and bear witness to your mercy in the world. Teach us to live with open hands and open hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

† POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, August 9, 2026

Sanctuary: 113 Online: 113

Please note - Macie, Church Administrator, will be out of the office starting Monday August 24 - September 3. She will be working from home.

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

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal

**LASAGNA,
CAESAR SALAD**

Aug. 19, 2026
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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





WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

**Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Menu: Lasagna - Caesar Salad

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



RRPC Blood Drive

**Tuesday, Aug. 25
2:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

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



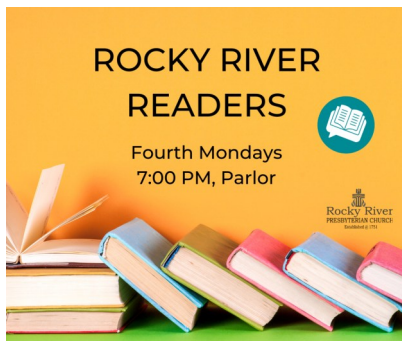
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Annual Presbyterian Women's Meeting Sunday, August 23 - 3:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

On Sunday August 23rd at 3:00, the women will have their annual meeting and a memorial service for Bill Alexander, Gary Drinnen, and Jonathan Donnelly.

Please join us as we remember and honor these three men.



Rocky River Readers

Monday, Aug. 24, 7:00 pm, Parlor

The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau by Kristin Harmel

View the 2026 reading list at

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

Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203

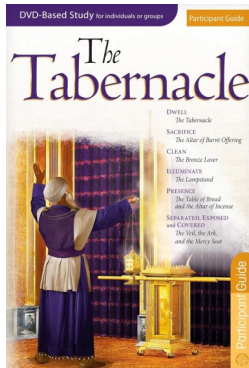


Game Night

Friday, Aug. 28, 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



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



Women's Circle Meetings

Tuesday, Sept. 1

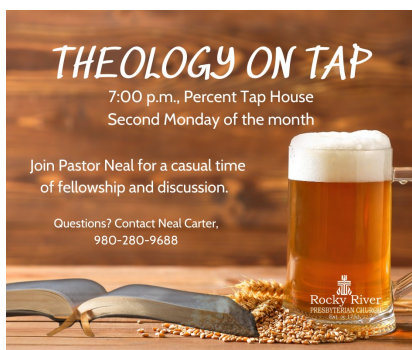
Morning: 10:00 am, Session Room

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, Sept. 14, 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, Sept. 15, 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



Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Sept. 20, 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



Women's Retreat

November 13 - 15, 2026

Montreat Women's Retreat is coming soon, November 13-15th. This year's fees are \$260.00 for a double room, \$320.00 for a single room. With a deposit of \$50.00 due by September 20th. Secure your spot today!

Forms available in the vestibule.
Contact Priscilla Giuliano - tttandsp@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Baptism Class

Aug. 23, 2026 – 12:15 PM

Room 220

Elementary aged children are invited to join us for a class about the sacrament of Baptism. Pastor Neal will be our guest. Come prepared to go out to the spring, if weather permits. Lunch will be provided.

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

No Children's Faith and Fellowship in September



Jocko's Mini Golf & Sno Cones

Sept. 27, 3:00pm

Families of all ages are invited to meet us at Jocko's Mini Golf - 259 N Cannon Blvd, Kannapolis, NC 28083 - by 3:00pm on 9/27/26. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Costs for all children and one adult per family will be covered. The cost for all others is \$10 per person and should be turned into Laura Smith.

Contact - laura.rrpc@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Fun + Fellowship

Aug. 16, 2026 - 12:15 pm - 2 pm

Youth are invited to stay after worship on Sunday, August 16, until 2 p.m. Please meet in the Youth Room. We'll share lunch, catch up, enjoy time together, and help plan activities for the fall. Come ready with your ideas!

Youth Pantry Drive

AUG: SALT

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



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 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 & 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:	
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:	\$252,703
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR August:	\$13,583
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR Aug. 9:	\$3,181

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.