



**Rocky River**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Established @ 1751



**Morning Worship**  
**at Rocky River Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, August 2, 2026**  
**Tenth 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 17 and anticipating Matthew 14)

One: Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear the prayers of your people.

**All: We come seeking the One whose steadfast love never fails.**

One: Guard us as the apple of your eye.

**All: Hide us in the shadow of your wings.**

One: Christ has seen the hungry and had compassion upon them.

**All: Christ sees us in our hunger and calls us to his table.**

One: Come, let us worship the God who satisfies every longing soul.

**All: We come to worship the God of abundant grace, whose mercy is new every morning.**

### † HYMN #35

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

### † CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Romans 9 and Matthew 14 )

Gracious and merciful God, you have shown us your steadfast love again and again, yet we confess that our hearts are often smaller than yours. We confess that we have grown comfortable with a world where some have more than enough, while others wonder whether anyone sees their need. Forgive us, O God. Expand our hearts to reflect the compassion of Christ. Transform us by your Holy Spirit, that we may become faithful disciples who are willing to hear your call: "You give them something to eat." Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. 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

10-Cents-A-Meal Offering

Neal Carter

## **The Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, your Word has the power to nourish hungry hearts and awaken weary souls. By the gift of your Holy Spirit, open our ears that we may hear Christ's voice. Open our minds to understand your truth. Open our hands to receive your gifts. Open our lives that your Word may become flesh again through the way we love, the way we serve, and the way we share. Through Christ our Living Word. Amen.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:13-21

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*How Great Is Our God*

Tomlin, Reeves, and Cash

Laura Smith

SERMON

“ You Give Them Something to Eat ”

Neal Carter

**Responding to the Word**

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *From A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. 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, everything we have has first come from your gracious hand. You have taken the ordinary— a few loaves, a couple of fish, the simple gifts of your people—and transformed them into signs of your kingdom. Receive these offerings, and receive our lives. Then send us into the world not merely to admire your compassion, but to participate in it. May we hear again the words of Jesus: "*You give them something to eat.*" And by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we become the hands through which Christ continues to feed a hungry world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Sending**

† HYMN #542 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

† POSTLUDE

**Attendance for Sunday, July 26, 2026**

**Sanctuary: 103    Online: 86**

**Online Giving**

Scan the QR code to give tithes and offerings online.



† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

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.

### **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 COMMUNITY MEAL**

**Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026  
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

**Menu: ASSORTED SALADS**

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



### Women's Circle Meetings

**Tuesday, Aug. 4**

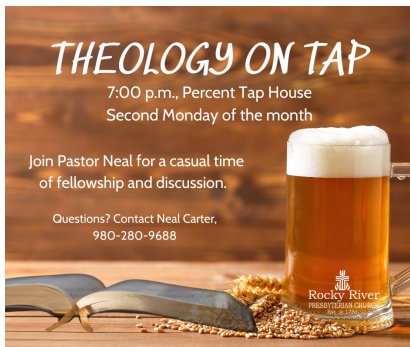
**Morning: 10:00 am, Session Room**

**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*



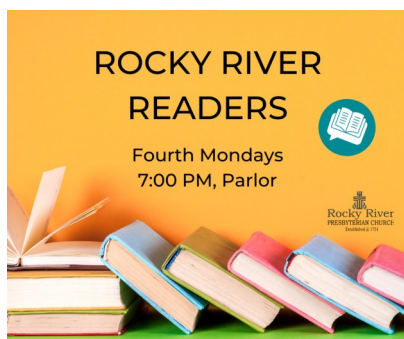


### **Men's Breakfast**

**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*



### **Rocky River Readers**

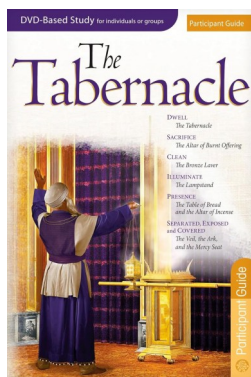
**Monday, Aug. 24, 7:00 pm, Parlor**

**The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau by Kristin Harmel**

*View the 2026 reading list at*

*[www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers](http://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**

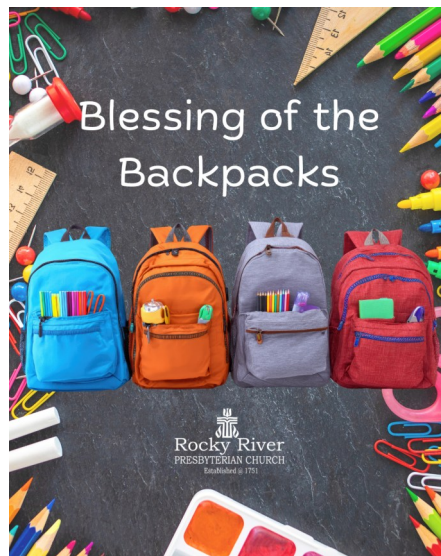
*For further information contact Barbara Whaley at [rnbwhaley@ctc.net](mailto:rnbwhaley@ctc.net)*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### 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.



### Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, 11:00 AM Worship

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



### Children's Faith and Fellowship

Aug. 9, 2026 – 12:15 pm

Room 220

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

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Youth Sunday School Returns

**Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026**

Middle and high school students are invited to join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room as we begin a new Sunday School year. Come enjoy special back-to-Sunday-School refreshments, reconnect with friends, welcome new faces, explore meaningful questions, and grow closer to God together.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:RockyRiverYouth@gmail.com).

## TEN CENTS-A-MEAL



Donations accepted the first  
Sunday of each month  
and every  
Wednesday Night Fellowship  
Dinner!



## COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

A poster for the GriefShare 13-week series. The background is a soft-focus image of a lake and mountains under a blue sky. The text is centered and reads: 

**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.

**GRIEF SHARE**

Scan to Register!

A QR code is located to the right of the text.

### 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.

A poster for the RRPC Playground Fun Raiser. The background is a lush green field. On the left, there is a photo of a playground with a slide and a swing set. Below the photo is the text: 

Rocky River  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SCAN TO GIVE

Below this text is a white arrow pointing to the right.

A QR code is located to the right of the photo.

On the right side of the poster, the text reads: 

**RRPC  
PLAYGROUND  
FUN  
RAISER**

| Our Session                                                           |                                                       |                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| CLASS OF 2026                                                         | CLASS OF 2027                                         | CLASS OF 2028                                       |
| Sandra Thomas<br><i>Finance &amp; Administration</i>                  | Shirley Rockel<br><i>Finance &amp; Administration</i> | Jim Pharr<br><i>Finance &amp; Administration</i>    |
| Priscilla Giuliano<br><i>Worship</i>                                  | Barbara Whaley<br><i>Worship</i>                      | Claudia Bedsole<br><i>Worship</i>                   |
| Joe Novobilski, Clerk of Session<br><i>Congregational Connections</i> | Robert Remsburg<br><i>Congregational Connections</i>  | Ashelyn Earley<br><i>Congregational Connections</i> |
| Steve Irminger<br><i>Building and Grounds</i>                         | David Murray<br><i>Building and Grounds</i>           | Jimmy Stafford<br><i>Building and Grounds</i>       |
| Theresa Watson<br><i>Christian Education</i>                          | Nicole Schneider<br><i>Christian Education</i>        | Elaine Tankersley<br><i>Christian Education</i>     |

|                                            |                             |                                            |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>COMMITTEES<br/>MEETING<br/>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.  |

## 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:   | \$239,119 |
| NEEDED EACH MONTH: | \$38,797  |
| TOTAL FOR July:    | \$25,576  |
| NEEDED WEEKLY:     | \$8,953   |
| TOTAL FOR July 26: | \$8,381   |

**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.