

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established @ 1751



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, August 23, 2026
Thirteenth 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 124)

One: If the Lord had not been on our side—

All: Let all God's people say: the Lord has been our help.

One: When fear rose against us and troubles surrounded us,

All: God did not abandon us to despair.

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All: Who made heaven and earth.

One: Come, give thanks to the God who delivers and sustains us.

All: Let us worship God!

† HYMN #81 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we often place our trust in the wrong things. We trust in power more than compassion, certainty more than faith, success more than obedience. You call us to confess Christ with courage, yet we remain silent when discipleship is costly. You call us to follow Jesus, yet we are tempted to follow the crowd instead. Forgive us, O God. Build your church again within our hearts. Teach us to trust not in ourselves, but in the living Christ, through whom grace and truth have come. 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

**Living God, through your Holy Spirit open our ears and hearts this day. As the
Scriptures are read and proclaimed, help us hear anew Christ's question:
"Who do you say that I am?" Give us faith to answer with courage, and grace
to follow where Christ leads; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:13-20

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Mann, arr. by Allen Pote

Stephanie Campbell, Elaine Tankersley

SERMON

" Inside the Collective Opinion "

Neal Carter

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

SERVICE OF WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Presenting Elder, Ashelyn Earley

Ashelyn: On behalf of the session, I present Matt and Amber Long who have been received into the membership of this congregation by reaffirmation of faith.

Neal: You come to us professing your faith as members 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.

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?

Members: I do.

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

Members: I do.

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

Members: I will, with God's help.

Neal: You have publicly professed your faith. Will you be faithful members 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?

Members: 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 *Adapted from The Confession of 1967*

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. Yet God raised him from the dead. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. 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, everything we have comes from your hand. Receive these gifts and use them for the work of your church in the world: to proclaim good news, to serve the hurting, to welcome the stranger, and to bear witness to Jesus Christ. Make us faithful stewards not only of our possessions, but of the gospel itself; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE

May the Love of the Lord

#549

† POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, August 16, 2026

Sanctuary: 119 Online: 96

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

Interested in membership?

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



Do you need a new photo for the RRPC online Church Directory? If so, there will be an opportunity to have photos taken on September Meeting Sunday, 9-13-26. Look for Ann Carroll in the Grove after worship and choose from several locations for your new photo!

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday Night

Fellowship Meal

Parm Chicken

Pasta

Aug. 26, 2026
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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



Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026

6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: Parm Chicken Pasta

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

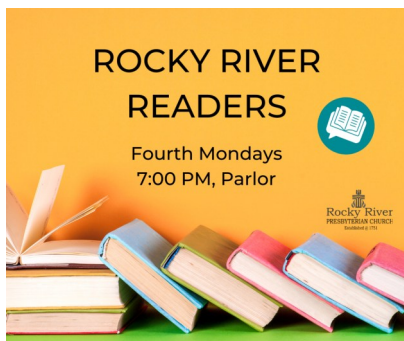


Annual Presbyterian Women's Meeting

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

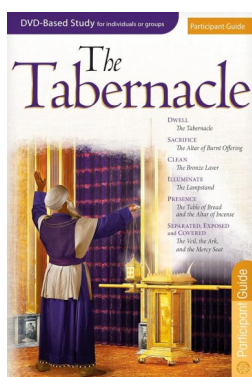


Game Night

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

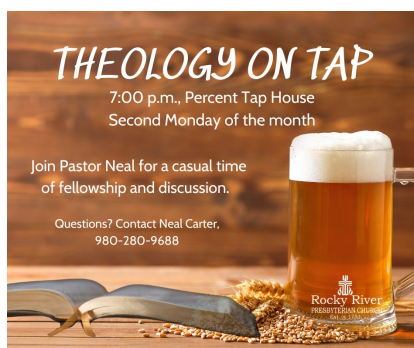
Morning: 10:00 am, Session Room

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



Montreat 20 Year T-Shirts

Available now. Order forms on table in vestibule or contacting Priscilla Giuliano.

tttandsp@gmail.com or calling 704-706-3203.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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 in to Laura Smith.

Contact - laura.rrpc@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

RRPC Youth Fall 2026 Dates

Mark your calendars for a fun and busy fall with RRPC Youth!

Sept. 7 @ 1 PM - Youth Service Day (details coming soon!)

Sept. 26 @ 6:30 PM - Badin Road Drive-In Movie Night*

Oct. 4 @ 3–5 PM - Stars and Strikes Bowling & Laser Tag

Oct. 10 - Youth Bake Sale (During Brunswick Stew Event)

Oct. 25 @ 3–5 PM - Silent Auction during Carnival & Trunk or Treat

Oct. 25 @ 5:30 PM - Youth Halloween Party & Movie Night

Nov. 7 - Service Day (Details TBD)

Dec. 5 @ 5:30 PM - Youth Christmas Party

*For the Badin Road Drive-In, please email rockyriveryouth@gmail.com to confirm participation and coordinate rides.

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



Lobster Dogs Food Truck

Friday, Sept. 4, 2026

4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

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

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:	\$258,509
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR August:	\$19,389
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR Aug. 16:	\$5,806

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.