

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established @ 1751



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, August 30, 2026
Fourteenth 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)

One: O give thanks to the Lord; call on God's holy name.

All: We will make known God's deeds among the peoples.

One: Sing to the Lord; sing praises to God.

All: We will tell of all God's wonderful works.

One: Seek the Lord and God's strength.

All: We will seek God's presence continually.

One: Remember the covenant God has made forever.

All: The steadfast love of the Lord endures through every generation.

One: Come and worship the God who remains faithful through every season.

All: Let us worship God!

† HYMN #620 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we prefer comfort to discipleship. We want the promise of resurrection without the cost of the cross. We want faith that inspires us but does not change us. We want to follow Christ so long as the road remains familiar and safe. Forgive us, O God. When fear keeps us from loving boldly, restore our courage. When selfishness narrows our vision, teach us again the way of mercy. When we cling too tightly to our own lives, lead us into the freedom of trusting you. 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

Holy God, your Word often challenges us before it comforts us. Send your Spirit among us now, that we may hear Christ's call with open hearts. Give us courage to follow where Jesus leads, even when the path is difficult, and trust that your grace is sufficient for every step. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:21- 28

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

God's Promises

Mayo, Williams

Arianna Murray, Isabella Murray

SERMON

" It gets Heavy "

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.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

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 entrusted us with gifts meant to be shared. Receive these offerings and use them for the work of your kingdom: to bring hope to the weary, justice to the oppressed, and compassion to all in need. Teach us to follow Christ not only with our words, but with our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #697 *Take My Life*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

† POSTLUDE



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!

Attendance for Sunday, August 23, 2026

Sanctuary: 130 Online: 68

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 COMMUNITY MEAL



Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: SALADS

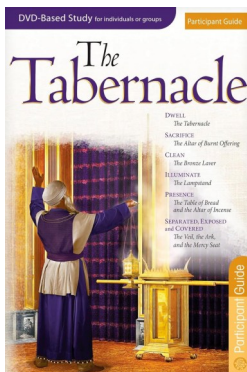
We ask for four people each week to bring a dessert.
Please contact Robert Remsburg,
rremsburg@yahoo.com.

RRPC Blood Drive

Tuesday, Sept. 22
2:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



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

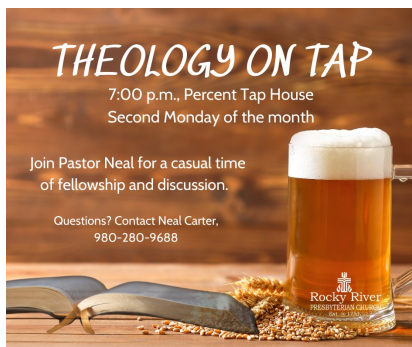


Game Night

Friday, Sept. 11, 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



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



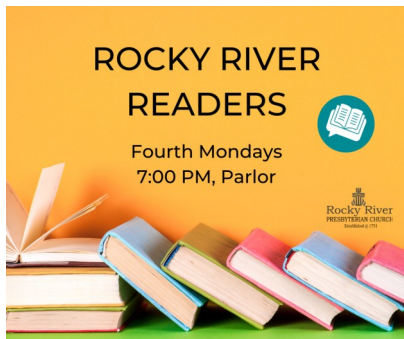
Men's Breakfast

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





Rocky River Readers

Monday, Sept. 28, 7:00 pm, Parlor

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

View the 2026 reading list at

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

Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203



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 - ttandsp@gmail.com

Montreat 20 Year T-Shirts

Order forms are available on the table in the vestibule or by contacting Priscilla Giuliano.

ttandsp@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.

We hope to see you this fall!

**Youth Pantry Drive
SEPT.: CEREAL**

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

GGC Smokehouse Food Truck

Wednesdays - 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Make sure to give them a follow! - @ggcsmokehouse



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:	\$249,522
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR August:	\$10,402
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR Aug. 23:	\$10,402

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.