

Established @ 1751



Morning Worship at Rocky River Presbyterian Church Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 11:00 AM

Gathering

The Nursery is available for Infants-Kindergarten.

The Alternative Worship Room (105) is available for those with sensory needs.

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

One: Jesus said, "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

All: Love is more powerful than fear; it is mightier than hatred.

One: Let the love which God has lavished upon us be poured out to those in

need.

All: Help us, O Lord, to witness to you by the ways in which we care for

others.

One: Remind us, Lord, that we are called to be your disciples.

All: As we worship this morning, heal our hearts and spirits and prepare

us for service. AMEN.

† HYMN #645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O Lord, for we confess our struggle with the very attitudes that Jesus rebuked in the Pharisees. We ask for Your forgiveness for our vain efforts to earn our place at your table, rather than relying on Your grace and the promise that those who humble themselves will be exalted. 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, help us so to hear your Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe; and believing, we may follow your way in all faithfulness, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke: 14:1-14

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "God Wants to Hear You Sing" Rodney Griffin

Stephanie Campbell

SERMON "Cheap Seats" Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate: he suffered 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 with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and to life in 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.

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

Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our Sovereign and our God. Amen.

Sending

- † HYMN #306 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
- **† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**
- † RESPONSE May the Love of the Lord #549
- † POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, Aug. 24, 2025

Sanctuary: 119 Online: 56

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 COMMUNITY MEAL

Wednesday, Sept. 3 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: SALADS

We ask for four people each week to bring a dessert. Please contact Nancy Tipton, ntipton71@gmail.com / 704-309-0369

† Please Stand · Congregation reads words in bold.



RRPC Blood Drive

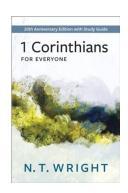


Tuesday, Sept. 23 2:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study September 2, 2025 - 9:00 AM Session Room - 2nd floor

We will continue reading and discussing 1st Corinthians for Everyone by N.T. Wright.

For further information contact Barbara Whaley at rnbwhaley@ctc.net



Women's Circle Meetings
Tuesday, September 2
Morning: 10:00 am, Parlor
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



GriefShare 13 - Week Class Aug. 19 - Nov. 11 10:30 am - 12:00 pm



Questions? Contact Joan Nicholson, jnich1@hotmail.com, 704-239-1573



Game Night Friday, Sept. 12, 2025 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!

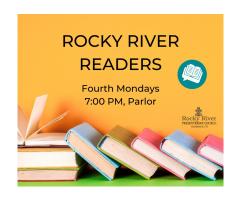
Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203



Men's Breakfast Sunday, Sept. 21, 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. 22, 7:00 pm, Parlor

The Women by Kristin Hannah

View the 2025 reading list at www.rockyriver.org/connect/rocky-river-readers.

Questions? Contact Priscilla Giuliano, 704-706-3203



Women's Retreat November 7 - 9, 2025

This is our 19th year, so come and join us for a weekend of spiritual enlightenment, fellowship, and fun. Double room \$240.00 each - Single room \$300.00 *includes meals. \$50.00 deposit due by September 14, 2025.

Forms available in the sanctuary.

Contact Priscilla Giuliano - tttandsp@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Children's Faith & Fellowship Sunday, Sept. 21 - 3:30 pm Room 215

Children, K-5, are invited for a time of learning and fun!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Fellowship Lunch September 7, 2025 - 12:00 PM

Stay after church for youth fellowship until 2:00 PM. We'll share lunch, games, and a short devotional together.

Youth Pantry Drive AUG.: RICE

SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE & SHIP DIRECTLY TO RRPC!

Questions - Hailey Wilson 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.



GGC Smokehouse Food Truck Every Wednesday

Wednesdays - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm

Make sure to give them a follow! - @ggcsmokehouse

Morning Coffee Cart

Provided By:

Wonderfully Made Bakery and Coffee Co.

Wednesday & Friday:

6:30 AM - 10:00 AM



SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 am

Lectionary Class (Adults):

Taught by Pastor Neal Carter, Sanctuary
Seekers (Young Adults +):
Reformed Study Curriculum, Room 216

Sunday Vibes (Youth):

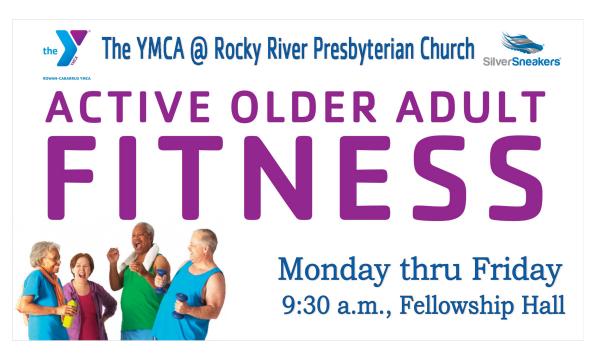
Taught by Hailey Wilson, Room 218

Grades K-5:

Taught by Laura Smith, Room 215

The Nursery is available for Infants-Kindergarten during Sunday School.







BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY

NEW PLAYGROUND PROJECT!

RRPC's Building & Grounds Ministry has begun work to rebuild our playground!

Your donations will help provide a safe, functional place for children to play.

Scan the code to donate, write "Playground" on your check, or give online at www.rockyriver.org/give



Our Session					
CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027			
Scott Jones	Sandra Thomas	Shirley Rockel			
Finance and Administration	Finance & Administration	Finance & Administration			
Reggie Hunnicutt	Priscilla Giuliano	Barbara Whaley			
<i>Worship</i>	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Worship</i>			
Nancy Tipton, Clerk of Session	Joe Novobilski	Robert Remsburg			
Congregational Connections	Congregational Connections	Congregational Connections			
Billy Carriker Building and Grounds	Steve Irminger Building and Grounds	David Murray Building and Grounds			
Amy Huster	Theresa Watson	Nicole Schneider			
Christian Education	Christian Education	Christian Education			

COMMITTEES
MEETING
SCHEDULE

Building and Grounds: Worship: Finance & Administration:

Christian Education:
Congregational Connections:

The 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Volunteer Schedules

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	Counters		WNF Set-Up	WNF Clean-Up	
Week 1:	Joe Novobilski and Sandra Thomas	Week 1:	C3 and Gero	Irminger and Gero	
Week 2:	Steve Jewett and Kenza Mitchem	Week 2:	Daoust	Troops 7 and 83	
Week 3:	Shirley Rockel and Darrell Thomas	Week 3:	(Open)	Mitchem / Carter	
Week 4:	Scott Jones and Frank Reynolds	Week 4:	(Open)	Whaley/ Bedsole/ Glosson	
Week 5:	Bob Remsburg and Don Chase	Week 5:	Tipton	Tipton / Earley	

STEWARDSHIP REPORT				
2025 BUDGET:	\$459,641			
TOTAL GIVEN YTD:	\$285,088			
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,303			
TOTAL FOR AUG.:	\$36,145			
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,839			
TOTAL FOR AUG. 17:	\$15,854			

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 Wilson • 704.455.2479 • rockyriveryouth@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.