

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established @ 1751



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, August 9, 2026
Eleventh 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)

One: Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to our cry.

All: Incline your ear to our prayers this day.

One: You have searched us and known us.

All: Yet still you call us beloved.

One: Guard us as the apple of your eye.

All: Hide us in the shadow of your wings.

One: In the storms of life, God remains faithful.

All: Christ comes to us across the troubled waters.

One: Lift up your hearts and trust in the Lord.

All: We come to worship the living God.

† HYMN #353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we are often people of little faith. When the winds rise around us, we become fearful and forget your presence. We focus on the waves instead of your grace. We cling to control instead of trusting your Spirit. Too often we live anxiously, imagining we must save ourselves. We build walls instead of communities, weapons instead of peace, resentment instead of mercy. Forgive us, O God. When we sink beneath worry and fear, reach out your hand once more. Teach us to trust not in our own strength, but in the steadfast love revealed in Jesus Christ. Quiet the storms within us and make us people of courage and compassion; through 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

Blessing of the Backpacks

Laura: When it's the night before going to school, and I'm picking out my clothes and making sure I have all my school supplies...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Hailey: When I'm waking up and eating a healthy breakfast to start the day...

Children: Jesus is with me

Laura: When I meet my teachers and new friends in my class...

Children: Jesus is with me.

Hailey: When I'm praying at night and thanking God for my family, my friends, and my school...

Children: Jesus is with me.

PRAYER

Stuart: O God, we pray for these cherished children, whom we have promised to love and nurture. Keep them safe; keep them excited; keep them ever seeking to learn more and to develop their gifts. Through their study, may they gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service to others.

Laura: And now, O God, we pray over all of the bags and backpacks. We ask a blessing on these bags and backpacks in which they carry their books, lunches, papers, and projects; signs of their hopes and dreams, as well as their worries. May the tag they receive today remind them of your love and our prayers.

Hailey: And now, O God, we pray for teachers and school staff. Give these servants the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children.

Stuart: Finally, O God, we pray for the Christian Education leaders here at our church. May your Spirit be upon each one of these leaders; give them the energy to prepare and lead well and do so with grace and love. Bless each one gathered here that we may seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you – in our worship, Nursery, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and all our Sunday School classes. We give ourselves to you, O Lord, the author and perfecter of our faith. And all of God's people said, "**Amen!**"

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your Word comes to us in the midst of wind and waves. Open our hearts now by the power of your Spirit, that we may hear the voice of Christ calling to us: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Give us courage to trust you when the path ahead feels uncertain, and faith to follow where Christ leads; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

My Life Flows On

Robert Lowry

Choir

SERMON

“When You Need to Walk on Water ”

Rev. Dr. Stuart Dugan

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *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. Crucified, dead, and buried, he rose from the dead and lives to rule all things for the church. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. 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.

† 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

Gracious God, all that we have is a gift from your hand. Receive these offerings and use them for the work of your kingdom: to bring hope to the fearful, bread to the hungry, welcome to the stranger, and good news to a weary world. Teach us to trust you more deeply, not hoarding what we have in fear, but offering our lives with joy and gratitude; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

† POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, August 2, 2026

Sanctuary: 107 Online: 56

Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients!

Kingston Young
Lily Carriker
Dylan Cagle
Ava Spicer

We wish you all well on this next chapter in life and know you have the support of the Rocky River Presbyterian fellowship.

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 Meal

Beef - Chicken Enchiladas

August 12, 2026
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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


Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established in 1751



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

**Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Menu: Beef / Chicken Enchiladas

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



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



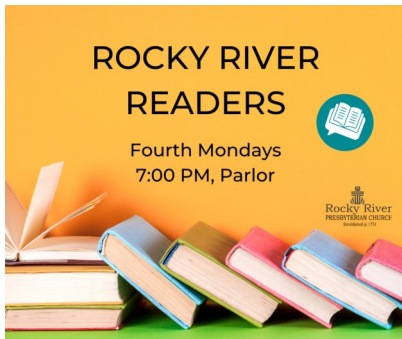
Men's Breakfast

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

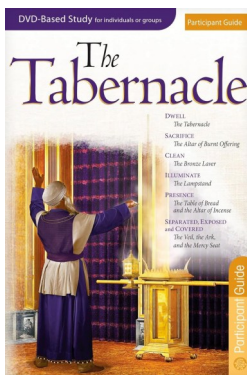
Monday, Aug. 24, 7:00 pm, Parlor

The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau by Kristin Harmel

View the 2026 reading list at

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

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

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

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.



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

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 easy to read.

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!

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.

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 various equipment. The text is bold and clear.

**RRPC
PLAYGROUND
FUN
RAISER**



Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SCAN TO GIVE



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:	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:	\$249,522
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR August:	\$10,402
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR Aug. 2:	\$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.