

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established @ 1751

CELEBRATING 275 YEARS!



...of Worship, Giving, Love and Fellowship.

Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 13, 2026
Sixteenth 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 114)

One: When God's people journeyed through the wilderness,

All: The Lord led them with power and mercy.

One: The sea looked and fled; the mountains skipped like rams.

All: The earth trembles before the presence of the Lord.

One: God turns rock into pools of water and dry ground into springs of life.

All: The Lord still brings hope where the world sees only emptiness.

One: Come, worship the God whose mercy makes all things new.

All: Let us worship God!

† HYMN #234 *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you have forgiven us more than we can measure, yet we struggle to forgive one another. We cling to old wounds, rehearse old arguments, and carry resentments that harden our hearts. Too often we demand grace for ourselves while withholding mercy from others. Forgive us, O God. Free us from bitterness and pride. Teach us again the costly gift of forgiveness, not as weakness, but as the way of Christ. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

**Holy God, your Word has the power to unsettle us and heal us. By your Spirit,
open our hearts this day that we may hear not only what comforts us, but
what transforms us. Teach us the way of mercy, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Let All Creation Praise

Cindy Berry

Choir

SERMON

“The Weight We Carry ”

Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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 mercy. Receive these gifts and use them to bring healing where there is hurt, hope where there is despair, and reconciliation where relationships are broken. Teach us to live with open hands and generous hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #754 *Help Us Accept Each Other*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE *You Shall Go Out with Joy* #80

† 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!

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.



RRPC T-Shirts

New Church T-shirt coming by September Meeting! The Congregational Connections Committee will have a variety of sizes available for purchase at September Meeting. The Committee will also have clings/stickers with the church logo available to put on your car, water bottle, etc. Join us as we celebrate 275 years of RRPC!

RRPC History Display

At September Meeting, a history display including photo albums, pictures you may not have seen before, a special cake, and other items will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. Please take time to look at these items. For some of you, it will bring back memories. For others, it will be a way to learn more about our church's history.

You may find even more items of historical interest in Room 213 in the "new" education building. We are excited to be celebrating 275 years of RRPC!

Attendance for Sunday, September 6, 2026

Sanctuary: 111 Online: 65

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 Meal

Matchmaker

Chicken

Sept. 16, 2026
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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


Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established 1791

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026

6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: MATCHMAKER CHICKEN

We ask for four people each week to bring a dessert.

Please contact Robert Remsburg,
rremsburg@yahoo.com.

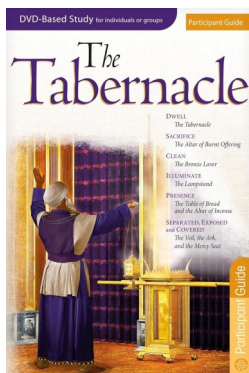
RRPC Blood Drive

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. 15, 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*



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

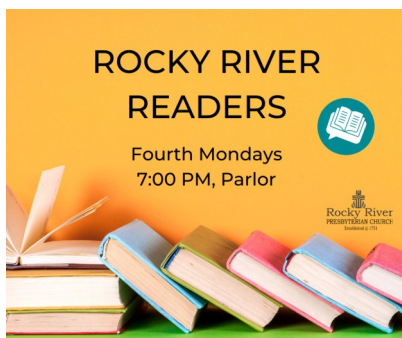


Game Night

Friday, Sept. 25, 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



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 Circle Meetings

Tuesday, Oct. 6

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



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

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



**FOOD PANTRY**

HARRISBURG CRISIS
ASSISTANCE MINISTRY
FOOD PANTRY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE



MONDAYS,
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.


Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Est. @ 1751



 The YMCA @ Rocky River Presbyterian Church  SilverSneakers

**ACTIVE OLDER ADULT
FITNESS**

Monday thru Thursday
9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall



RRPC FARMERS MARKET

WEDNESDAYS
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

HOMEMADE PRODUCTS, FRESH PRODUCE, BAKED GOODS, AND MORE!

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:	\$284,329
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR September:	\$8,038
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR Sept. 6:	\$8,038

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.