

Established @ 1751



Morning Worship at Rocky River Presbyterian Church Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025 Fourteenth 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 (Psalm 100)

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing

One: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are

his people and the sheep of his pasture.

All: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give

thanks to him; bless his name.

One: For the Lord is good;

All: his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all

generations.

† HYMN #475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, You are our Good Shepherd, yet we have often wandered away from Your loving care like lost sheep. We confess that we have gone astray, following our own desires rather than Your righteous paths. Through our own foolishness and negligence, we have allowed ourselves to become lost, failing to live up to the value You have placed upon us. Have mercy on us, O God, for we have gone astray and feel lost in our own ways. Forgive our sinfulness and help us to live more faithfully as Your servants. Guide us with Your loving hand and lead us back to the safety and joy of Your fold. In Jesus' name, 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

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 15:1-10

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Not by Might, Nor by Power" Lloyd Larson

Choir

SERMON "A Matter of Perspective" Neal Carter

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

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.

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, it is our prayer that this money, symbol of all that we have received as a gift from you, will be used through our church community and beyond to further your never-ending project of renewal in our world. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE HYMN #507, Verse 1 Come to the Table of Grace

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Table is open to all who trust in Jesus Christ. Please hold each element until everyone is served, as a sign of our unity in Christ. We will partake on cue from the minister.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament, you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Sending

- † HYMN #649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
- † CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
- † RESPONSE God Be with You Till We Meet Again #542, Verse 1
- † POSTLUDE

Attendance for Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025

Sanctuary: 116 Online: 39

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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, Sept. 17 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: BBQ Chicken

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



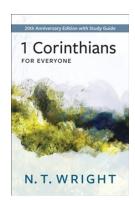
RRPC Blood Drive

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 16, 2025 - 9:00 AM Session Room - 2nd floor

September - 1 Corinthians for Everyone by N.T. Wright.

October - *Twelve Women of the Bible* by Lysa Terkeurst, Elisa Morgan, et.al. Using the study guide by Sherry Harney.

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



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



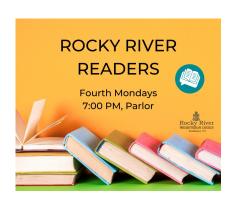
Questions? Contact Joan Nicholson, jnich1@hotmail.com, 704-239-1573



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



Game Night Friday, Sept. 26, 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

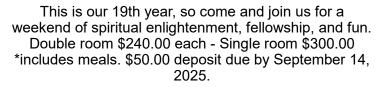




Women's Circle Meetings Tuesday, October 7 Morning: 10:00 am, Session Room Evening: 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to join a circle! Morning: Linda Clark, 704-458-2472 Evening: Elaine Vincent, 704-575-0396

> Women's Retreat November 7 - 9, 2025



Forms available in the sanctuary. Contact Priscilla Giuliano - tttandsp@gmail.com



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

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



Lunch & Mini Golf Sunday, Sept. 28 - 12:00 pm



All families are invited to join us for lunch after worship. We will leave the church around 1:15pm to go to Jocko's Mini Golf in Kannapolis to be there for our 2:00pm reservation. All children need to be accompanied by an adult. Each family must provide their own transportation to and from Jocko's. If you plan to join us, please sign up by 9/24/25.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Carowinds Day September 27, 2025

We're headed to Carowinds! Spend the day riding coasters and enjoying fellowship.

Details on tickets and departure times coming soon.

Haunted Trail October 18, 2025 - 12:00 PM

An evening of fall fun and thrills! We'll visit a haunted trail (location TBD). Invite a friend for a spooky night together.

Youth Pantry Drive SEPT.: SPAGHETTI SAUCE

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.

Morning Coffee Cart

Provided By:

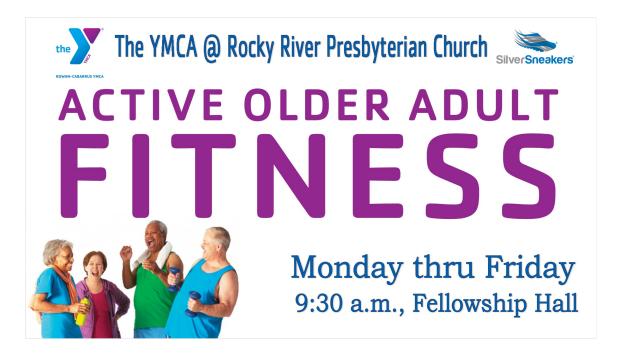
Wonderfully Made Bakery and Coffee Co.

Wednesday & Friday:

6:30 AM - 10:00 AM









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

V Oldillool Solloddies					
	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:	\$308,664			
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,303			
TOTAL FOR SEPT.:	\$11,663			
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,839			
TOTAL FOR SEPT. 7:	\$11,663			

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.