

Committee Meeting Schedule

<u>Building and Grounds:</u> 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 pm	<u>Christian Education:</u> 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 am
<u>Worship:</u> 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm	<u>Congregational Connections:</u> 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 am
<u>Finance & Administration:</u> 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm	

Counters

Week 1: Joe Novobilski and Sandra Thomas		WNF Set-Up	WNF Clean-Up
Week 2: Steve Jewett and Kathy Linker	Week 1		
Week 3: Shirley Rockel and Darrell Thomas	Week 2	Daoust	Troops 7 & 83
Week 4: Scott Jones and Frank Reynolds	Week 3		Mitchem/ Carter
Week 5: Bob Remsburg and Don Chase	Week 4		Whaley/ Glosson
	Week 5	Tipton	Tipton/ Earley

Stewardship Report

2026 Budget:	\$465,561
Total Given YTD:	\$296,876
Needed Each Month:	\$38,797
Total For September:	\$20,585
Needed Weekly:	\$8,953
Total For September 20:	\$6,020

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

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



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 AM

Rocky River Presbyterian Church • 7940 Rocky River Road • Concord NC 28025
www.rockyriver.org • 704-455-2479

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 78)

One: Give ear, O people of God, to the teaching of the Lord.
All: We will listen for the wisdom of God.
One: We will remember the mighty deeds of the Lord.
All: We will tell the coming generations of God’s power and grace.
One: God has been faithful from age to age.
All: Even when we wander, God remains steadfast.
One: Do not harden your hearts as those who forgot the works of God.
All: We will place our trust in the Lord.
One: Let us worship the God of mercy, who calls us not merely to speak faithful words, but to walk in faithful obedience.
All: Let us worship God together.

† HYMN #65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.



**HARRISBURG CRISIS
ASSISTANCE MINISTRY**
FOOD PANTRY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

FOOD PANTRY



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



Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Est. @ 1751

	Our Session		
	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
Finance & Administration	Sandra Thomas	Shirley Rockel	Jim Pharr
Worship	Priscilla Giuliano	Barbara Whaley	Claudia Bedsole
Congregational Connections	Joe Novobilski, Clerk of Session	Robert Remsburg	Ashelyn Earley
Building and Grounds	Steve Irminger	David Murray	Jimmy Stafford
Christian Education	Theresa Watson	Nicole Schneider	Elaine Tankersley

TEN CENTS-A-MEAL



Donations accepted the first
Sunday of each month
and every
Wednesday Night Fellowship
Dinner!



 The YMCA @ Rocky River Presbyterian Church 

ACTIVE OLDER ADULT FITNESS



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

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, we confess that our words and our lives are not always aligned. We say “yes” to you with our lips, but resist you with our actions. We promise faithfulness, yet cling to comfort and self-interest. We speak of love, yet withhold compassion. We praise justice, yet ignore those who suffer. Too often we mistake good intentions for discipleship. We confuse religious language with faithful living. We want the appearance of righteousness without the cost of obedience. Forgive us, O God. Turn our hearts again toward your ways. Give us courage not only to hear your call, but to follow where Christ leads. Teach us humility enough to repent, honesty enough to change, and grace enough to begin again. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. 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.**

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Word

Faithful God, send your Holy Spirit upon us that the Scriptures may become for us a living word. Open our ears to hear honestly, open our hearts to repent sincerely, and open our lives to follow Christ faithfully. Keep us from empty religion, and lead us into joyful obedience. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 21:23–32

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Prayer for Humanity
Handbells

Linda R. Lamb

SERMON

“Which One?”

Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From The Confession of 1967)

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace. Amen.

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.



EVERYONE WELCOME!

ANNUAL COMMUNITY

BRUNSWICK STEW & BBQ



4:00 PM – UNTIL

SECOND SATURDAY

IN OCTOBER

The Fall Brunswick Stew and Barbecue is on October 10th starting at 4:00 PM. Invite your friends, family, and anyone in the community to join us for an evening of great food and fellowship. Meals are eat-in only. Donations will be accepted. The Youth Group will have delicious treats at their bake sale as a fundraising activity.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

COMMUNITY CARNIVAL &

TRUNK OR TREAT



4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

LAST SUNDAY IN

OCTOBER

The Community Carnival and Trunk or Treat are on October 25th from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. Volunteers are needed for games, trunks, and supervision of the bounce houses. Please see Bob Remsburg, Traci Bird, or Ashelyn Earley to volunteer or a sign-up sheet is available in the vestibule & at Wednesday Night Fellowship. Please help with candy donations that may be placed in the Lay Office’s designated box.

YOUTH MINISTRY

RRPC Youth Fall 2026 Dates

Mark your calendars for a fun and busy fall with RRPC Youth!

Oct. 4 from 3–5 PM – Bowling & Laser Tag

RRPC Youth are heading out for an afternoon of bowling, laser tag, and fellowship! More details will be shared with youth families. Please RSVP to rockyriveryouth@gmail.com.

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

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.



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

Gracious God, you call us not only to speak of faith, but to live it. Receive these gifts, and receive our lives as offerings of gratitude. Use what we give for the work of your kingdom: for healing, for justice, for compassion, and for hope. Shape us into disciples whose actions bear witness to the grace we proclaim. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #462 I Love to Tell the Story

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE You Shall Go Out with Joy #80

† POSTLUDE

† Please Stand • Congregation reads words in bold.

Attendance for Sunday, September 20, 2026

Sanctuary: 100

Online: 81

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

Baked Ziti

Sept. 30, 2026
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026

6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: **Baked Ziti**

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



RRPC Blood Drive

Tuesday, October 27

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

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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 into Laura Smith.

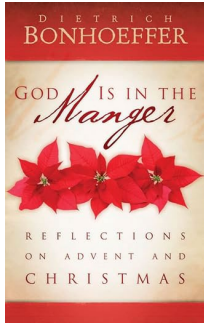
Contact - laura.rrpc@gmail.com



Children's Christmas Program

December 13, 10:00am

The Children's Christmas Program will begin rehearsals on Oct. 11, 12:15pm-1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch to enjoy it together. Rehearsals will continue every week until the program is presented on Dec. 13 at 10:00am. Please see Laura Smith for more details.



Men's Advent Study

Tuesdays, 12:30 pm - Session Room

Tuesday, December 1, 2026, weekly until December 22, 2026

Studying: *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

This book can be ordered online. Please register with Macie by Nov. 19th and feel free to bring your own lunch this year.

Quilts of Love

Have you noticed a small rack of quilts in the corner of the vestibule? These are lap quilts made by women of the church and are available for anyone who is going through a difficult experience. You are welcome to take a quilt for someone you know who needs the comfort of God during a hard time.

For more information, or if you would like to make a quilt, contact Carol Lyerly at 704-455-5892



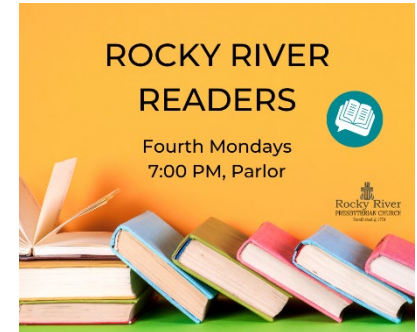
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

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



Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

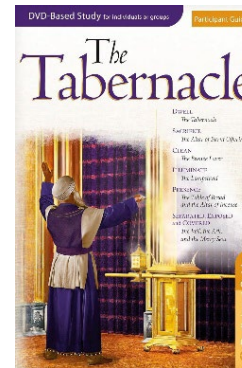
Sept. 29, 2026 - 9:00 am

Room 214 - 2nd floor

The Tabernacle by Shawn Bernard, M. Div. with Jeanne Whittaker

Starting on October 13, The Miracles of Jesus edited by Matt Williams.

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



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





Game Night

Friday, Oct. 9, 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



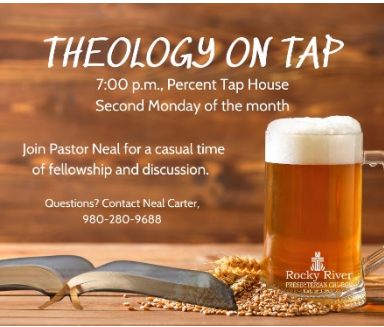
Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Oct. 18, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Men of all ages are invited to come and share in good food and fellowship. This breakfast is held on the third Sunday of each month.

Questions? Contact Jerry Clark at 704-458-9233

****Please note updated dates this month for Theology On Tap and Taco Tuesday.**



Theology On Tap

Monday, Oct. 26, 7:00 pm, Percent Tap House

Join Pastor Neal for a casual time of fellowship and discussion. This gathering is held on the second Monday of each month.

Questions? Contact Neal Carter, 980-280-9688



Taco Tuesday

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 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



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

