

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established @ 1751



Morning Worship
at Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 6, 2026
Fifteenth 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 149)

One: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song.

All: We will praise God in the assembly of the faithful.

One: Let the people of God rejoice in their Maker.

All: We will delight in the One who gives us life.

One: The Lord takes pleasure in God's people.

All: God lifts up the humble with mercy and grace.

One: Come, let us worship the God who gathers us together in love.

All: Let us worship God!

† HYMN #611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you call us to live together in truth and love, yet we often choose avoidance instead of reconciliation. We wound one another with careless words, harbor resentment in our hearts, and allow division to grow where forgiveness is needed. Too often we would rather win an argument than seek understanding. Too often we remain silent when honesty and grace are required. Forgive us, O God. Teach us the difficult work of reconciliation. Give us courage to speak truth with love, humility to confess our own failures, and compassion to seek the healing of your people. Through Jesus 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

10-Cents-A-Meal Offering

Neal Carter

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your Word calls us into deeper faithfulness. By the power of your Spirit, open our hearts and minds that we may hear your truth with humility and courage. When your Word challenges us, give us grace to listen. When your Word comforts us, give us grateful hearts. And in all things, draw us closer to Christ, through whom we are made one. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:15–20

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Temple, arr. by Larson

Tammi Remsburg and Laura Smith

SERMON

“The Hard Work of Staying Together”

Neal Carter

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted 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. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. 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.

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, you have entrusted us with gifts to serve your kingdom. Receive these offerings and use them to strengthen your church, care for those in need, and bear witness to the reconciling love of Christ. Teach us to give not only from our abundance, but from grateful and faithful hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

† HYMN #306 *Blest Be The Tie That Binds*

† 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!



RRPC T-Shirts

New Church T-shirt is here! The Congregational Connections Committee has 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, August 30, 2026

Sanctuary: 124 Online: 66

Please note the church office will be closed Monday, September 7, for the Labor Day holiday.

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 SCOUT NIGHT

Wednesday Night
Fellowship Meal

BREAKFAST

September 9, 2026
Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

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

Rocky River
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MINISTRIES LTD.



Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Menu: BREAKFAST

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

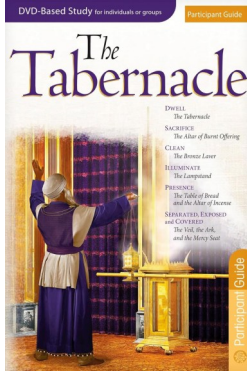
RRPC Blood Drive

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. 8, 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

Game Night

Friday, Sept. 11, 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, 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



ROCKY RIVER READERS

Fourth Mondays
7:00 PM, Parlor



Rocky River
Presbyterian Church
Buckeye, OH

Rocky River Readers

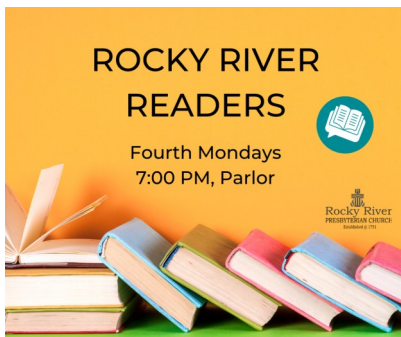
Monday, Sept. 28, 7:00 pm, Parlor

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. 7 @ 1 PM** - Youth Service Day (details coming soon!)
- 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.

We hope to see you this fall!

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.

TEN CENTS-A-MEAL



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



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:	\$249,522
NEEDED EACH MONTH:	\$38,797
TOTAL FOR August:	\$10,402
NEEDED WEEKLY:	\$8,953
TOTAL FOR Aug. 23:	\$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.