

ROCK PRAIRIE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, April 26, 2026

10:30 a.m.



8605 East County Road A

Janesville, WI 53546

(608) 752-1172

office@rockprairiechurch.org

Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Jones

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE

SYLVIA O'CONNOR

"Soliloquy" | Wagner

"Prelude in Classic Style" | Young, Wells

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" | Elvey, McDonald

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERLUDE

SYLVIA O'CONNOR

"Coming Home" | Martin

*CALL TO WORSHIP –

One: Lord, you send us the sun and rain to nourish the earth and make it fruitful.

All: We praise you Lord for the fields, gardens and all that grows.

One: You scatter the seeds, and help it grow and prosper in hidden ways.

All: Plant your world in us, and make our lives bear fruit for your glory.

One: You call us into your fields and communities to do your work.

All: Send us out as your workers to serve our neighbors, and care for your creation.

*HYMN *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*

[377] +HFG

THE CHURCH CONFESSES AND SEEKS ASSURANCE

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord and God, we confess that we have not always sown in love, nor harvested in faith. We have neglected the fields of your creation, and the care and compassion of our neighbors. Forgive us when our work has served ourselves rather than that of your kingdom. Cultivate in us humble hearts, and willing hands, that we may bear fruit worthy of your harvest.

TIME FOR PERSONAL PRAYER AND EXAMINATION

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

PSALM 130

One: Hear the Good News: By God's great mercy, we have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Alleluia!

All: In the name of the risen Lord, we are forgiven, renewed, and restored. Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

PASSING THE PEACE

***RESPONSE** *"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"* [287 vs. 3] +HFG
***But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!***

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13: 3-8, 18-23

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

The Parable of the Sower is one of Jesus' most searching stories. That's because it is not just about ancient farmers—it is about us. In the parable, Jesus describes a sower - a farmer - who scatters seed on four different kinds of ground: a hard path, rocky places, thorny ground, and good soil. Each type of soil represents a different kind of heart. Each soil refers to a different way people respond when they hear God's word. Some hear but remain hard, some receive it quickly but fall away when life gets difficult, some let worries and the pull of this world choke their faith, and some receive the word deeply and bear lasting fruit. As we listen to this parable today, the question is not, "What is wrong with the seed?", rather, the question is, "What kind of soil is my heart?". Let's listen to the word of God.

"A farmer went out to sow seed. While he was scattering the seed, some of it fell by the road. The birds came and ate all that seed. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where there was not enough dirt. It grew very fast there, because the soil was not

deep. But when the sun rose, it burned the plants. The plants died because they did not have deep roots. Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and stopped the good plants from growing. But some of the seed fell on good ground. There it grew and made grain. Some plants made 100 times more grain, some 60 times more, and some 30 times more.

“So listen to the meaning of that story about the farmer: “What about the seed that fell by the path? That is like the people who hear the teaching about God’s kingdom but do not understand it. The Evil One comes and takes away what was planted in their hearts.

“And what of the seed that fell on rocky ground? That is like the people who hear the teaching and quickly and gladly accept it. But they do not let the teaching go deep into their lives. They keep it only a short time. As soon as trouble or persecution comes because of the teaching they accepted, they give up. “And what of the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That is like the people who hear the teaching but let worries about this life and love for money stop it from growing. So it does not produce a crop in their lives. “But what about the seed that fell on the good ground? That is like the people who hear the teaching and understand it.

KIDS KIRK

“Corn Dust”

RICK JANEZIC

Children are invited to come up to the front chancel as we sing.

***“King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory hallelujah!”***

SPECIAL MUSIC *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”* | John Rutter

CHOIR

THE EPISTLE

MARK 4:1-2, 9-14

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Let’s listen to Jesus’ own explanation of the parable of the sower from the Gospel of Mark. In a world crowded with noise, Jesus calls us to be people who truly hear. Jesus speaks of a sower, an image of God’s living word generously sown into every kind of heart. As we hear His words, let us ask the Spirit to open our hearts and minds, clear away distractions, and make us receptive soil to his message, so that we may understand, turn, and be forgiven.

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people

were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said:

Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!

Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word.

One: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

SERMON *"Spring Has Sprung"*

RICK JANEZIC

THE CHURCH RESPONDS IN FAITH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

RPPC VISION STATEMENT

**Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church,
will follow God's call to build a path of spiritual growth
to engage in ministry and mission for community impact**

*HYMN *"Now the Green Blade Rises"*

[Insert] //GG

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

*RESPONSE *"Doxology"*

[382] +HFG

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts and generosity of this congregation, offered in love and faith today. Use what we bring to grow and strengthen your church's ministry among your people, that we might care for and encourage one another in Christ. Let these offerings reach into our community with compassion, service, and hope, bearing witness to your mercy in word and deed. Bless these gifts and our lives, that through them we may grow

closer to you and join in your work of healing and renewal in the world. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Amazing Grace”

[107] +HFG

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah! What a Savior” | Bliss, Berry

SYLVIA O’CONNOR

** Please stand if you are able*

THIS WEEK AT RPPC

Thursday, April 30

6:30pm ~ Choir Practice

Sunday, May 3

9:00am ~ Book Study

9:15am ~ Adult Sunday School w/
Tom Rios

9:15am ~ Sunday School

10:30am ~ Worship

Tuesday, May 5

9:30am ~ Bible Study w/ Rev. Bruce

3:30pm ~ Mission Comm. Meeting

6:30pm ~ Christian Ed. Meeting

Thursday, May 7

6:30pm ~ Choir Practice



Serve the Lord with Gladness

WORSHIP GUIDE

Bold text said in unison

* Please stand if you are able.

// GG - *Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal*

+ HFG – *Hymns for the Family of God*

**SF – *Sing the Faith*, small blue hymnal

- Audio enhancements, larger print Bibles and bulletins,
children's resources are available at the table in the sanctuary.

- CCLI church license 1555479, and One License A-73845

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Jones

Director of Music: Krista Jones

Piano/Organ Accompanist: Sylvia O'Connor

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Sandi Fogle

Office Assistant: Jessica Wellnitz

Nursery Coordinator: Angela Tyson

Nursery Assistant: Emily Kleinheinz

Audio/Video Technician: Matthew Blija

Church Caretaker: Michael Blija

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Bob & Julie Fulton

Ushers: Leon Beebe & Cindy Kuter

Liturgist: Krista Jones

Kids Kirk: Rick Janezic

****Please remember to wear your name tags****

If you do not have one, notify the office and we will
have one made for you.

2026 SESSION

Clerk of Session – Sharon Krohn -
rskrohn@litewire.net
(608) 290-3499

Building & Grounds Ministry –
Ed Hale - eddyphale@gmail.com;
(608) 774-8603

Christian Ed Ministry – Katie Blija –
kblija@yahoo.com; (608) 921-2551

Comm & Outreach Ministry –
Sandi Fogle – sandiuf@gmail.com;
(708) 921-4454

Fellowship Ministry – Lindi Paull –
bobandlindipaull@gmail.com;
(608) 607-1528

Finance Ministry – Tom Wolfe –
tomwolfe1207@sbcglobal.net;
(608) 921-3950

Missions Ministry – Cathy Wagner –
clw8090@gmail.com; (608) 228-6881

Personnel Ministry – Pam Hatfield –
hatfield.pamela@yahoo.com –
(608) 201-6675

Worship Ministry –
Pat Rozeboom –
pkrozeboom@gmail.com;
(608) 201-0959

Youth Ministry – VACANT

2026 DEACONS

Russ Antos, Theresa Huber,
Eileen Howarth, Martha Johnson,
Sandy Kohls, Jean Paszkiet,
Chris Stried & Kay Ward

2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Allison Fish, Rich Johnston,
Cindy Kuter, Tammy Porsche,
Jeri Torpy & Tom Wolfe

If you are visiting or seeking a church home, we invite you to explore all that happens in the life and ministry of this church. Speak to our pastor or someone next to you for more information.

Children are always welcome in worship.

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided in the nursery.

Connect with us!

(608) 752-1172

www.rockprairiechurch.org

office@rockprairiechurch.org

Facebook: Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church