



Volume 24 Issue 11

Rockfish Presbyterian Church
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Office Hours 9-1 Tuesday through Thursday
Worship Service on Sunday Mornings at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.;
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Spreading the Word

November 2023

Question to ponder- is this the end of time?

Every time a major world event happens we think it is the beginning of the birth pang of the end of the world. However, that has been true forever since mankind has been keeping history.

Now the folks who study these things and look for these things and hope for these things believe that the Palestinian and Israeli war is the precursor. They look to Ezekiel 38 and other apocalyptic texts to find evidence that God's word is coming true. Russia, Iran, Jordan, Egypt all have old names. I don't know what to think and everyone you read interprets it differently. Which tells me we are not to know.

Jesus says:

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains." (Matthew 24:7-8).

But what does Jesus also tell us- He tells us not to worry about this, and certainly not to think we know the hour. He tells us to be prepared.

"Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day on which your Lord will come. But understand this: If the homeowner had known in which watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into." (Matthew 24:41-43)

What does preparation mean? Are you right with the Lord? Probably not - which is why we cling to the person of Jesus Christ.

Have you spent time in prayer asking for forgiveness, asking for provision, telling God your worries? Have you made the move to reconcile with those you are in conflict with?

These are not things we should only be doing when we think the world is going to collapse- are they? This should be our way of living. So let us live as people who know HOPE. Who have TRUST. Who are READY.

Advent, which is coming soon, is a time of waiting. Let us wait together as a people who believe. Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Amen

~Pastor Inger

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sophia Ogilvie	04
Ila Porter	04
Stacy Rush	04
Marty Thomas	06
Cheryl Borgman	07
Leslie Buchanan	12
Dennis Day	12
Gail Hasson	12
Kate Humphrey	13
Dave Lawson	13
Patty Smith	13
Nancy Clark	14
Mike Fisher	14
John Porter	21
Ethan Ogilvie	22
Carter Asher	23
Edie Wombolt	29

Inger's Inklings

Happy Fall Y'all

The leaves are beautiful, Lee and I have had roaring fires in our fireplace, Ava has been baptized, my whole family was together to celebrate, Advent is coming, I got my fun socks for the sock exchange, the Waynesboro Fall Festival with awesome artists.... so many moments to be thankful for. In times like these when the news starts to really get to us, let us count our blessings.

I have had quite a few Advent stories coming in- yay! Please keep them coming. It is such a fun tradition for our church. As are the Care Bear sponsorships, the Hanging of the Greens, and all the wonderful Christmas music we will hear from our choir and Cynthia. Oooh, I am like Walmart putting out the decor too early. We can't forget about Thanksgiving. And of course today is Halloween! Enjoy each and every moment.

(Regarding the Israel trip next Dec- we have no idea what the landscape of the area will be next year. So we wait and pray. No need to fret. God will either lead us there or not)

Happy Halloween and Stay Spooky,

~Pastor Inger



STW NEWSLETTER : The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **November** newsletter is **Tuesday, November 21.**
JAMIE HEARD **Email:** rockfishpcus@gmail.com **Phone:** (434) 361-1221



Adult Sunday School - During November, the class will continue reading Margaret Feinberg's inspiring book "Fight Back with Joy: Celebrate More, Regret Less, Stare Down Your Greatest Fears." We all face challenges which can bring about anxiety, sadness or even depression, but Feinberg offers tools to help us find moments of joy to sustain us even in these difficult times. Join the class at 9am Sunday in the downstairs classroom.



Children's Sunday School - In addition to Sunday School lessons, one Sunday each month the children are continuing the RPC tradition of filling food bags for the Nelson County Pantry, and they are now increasing the number of bags from 90 to 100 each month. The children also learned that some of the children receiving the food bags do not have toothbrushes or toothpaste. The children are asking the congregation to donate a child's size toothbrush or tube of toothpaste. A donation box is located in the narthex. They will be collecting supplies until Nov. 12. Much thanks to Dana Ogilvie for her continuing involvement in the food pantry program, including purchasing groceries for the food bags, so that the children may participate in this important mission.



Inger's Wednesday Lectionary Study - Join us in the library each Wednesday from 11:30 to 12:30 for insights and discussion about the Scripture selection for the coming Sunday.

The Chosen - Season 3 will conclude on November 8th with a simple potluck supper Wednesdays at 5:30.

The **RPC Book Club** meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the home of a club member. If you are interested in joining, contact Leslie Buchanan.

Susan Luscomb, Chair
Christian Education Ministry Team

Wood Ministry - The Woodchuck Coterie gathered in force on September 27th to split and deliver two pickup truck loads of wood to a new client who was in dire need of wood to cook and heat his little house. Additionally, the weedy overgrowth of our woodpile was entirely cut back by many machine-wielding woodchucks so that we will be clear in early November to continue our mission of supplying hardwood splits to about a dozen clients who use it as the only source of heat during the winter months. If you would like to join our gregarious band of woodchucks, please email Ken at ken.engebretson@verizon.net so he can include you in weekly emails as the season begins or perhaps answer any questions you may have!



PIES PIES PIES

We (the Mission Committee) NEED YOU to contribute PIES for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets!!!

Apple or Pumpkin Pies wanted. We don't know how many we need YET but if you look on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, the number of sign up lines will show our need. Please sign a separate line for each pie you are contributing.

We need your pies delivered to the church kitchen covered in wrapping on Thursday, November 16, 2023. Frozen pies in boxes are welcome. Please don't buy extra large pies. THANK YOU!!!!!!



Care Bear Program 2023



Friends and members of Rockfish Presbyterian Church will again be able to give back to children in Nelson County to make their Christmas a bit brighter. We will be getting a total of 60 wish lists from the Nelson County Head Start Programs, Tye River Elementary School and Rockfish River Elementary School. Members of the congregation will have the opportunity to select Care Bear gift tags from the tree over three weeks, which will be set up in the Narthex beginning November 12th. Gift tags may be selected on the following three Sundays: November 12, November 19 and November 26. Please be sure to sign up for the Care Bear tag number you have chosen (located in the top right corner of the gift tag)!

You are asked to limit your total purchases to \$60. Please purchase a clothing item and an educational toy, book or game. Suggestions have been provided on the Care Bear tag, but not all suggestions need to be purchased. Please do not wrap the gifts and place them in a sturdy gift bag. No receipts are necessary; you may leave the price tag attached to a clothing item in case it needs to be exchanged. Please securely attach the Care Bear tag you had removed from the tree to the outside of the gift bag.

Please return your gifts in the gift bag by 11am on Sunday, December 10th. They will be distributed to the schools the following week. If you have any questions about the Care Bear program or would like to help with it, please contact Wendy Culberson at (703) 307-6382 or by email at wendy@ronculberson.com. If you wish to participate in the Care Bear program but are not able to do the shopping yourself, please let Wendy know that you would like to contribute \$60 to cover the cost of a Care Bear child. You may place your check in the offering plate and designate in the memo line "For Care Bear program."

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Care Bear program. You can be assured that your gifts will make the holidays much happier for these children and their families.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN



WHO IS INVITED: CHILDREN'S CHOIR, FAMILY, AND ALL CHURCH MEMBERS;
NELSON MACAA HEADSTART CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

WHERE: Rockfish Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

DATE: Sunday, December 3, 2023

TIME: 2:30 TO 6:00 o'clock pm

We shall have games, crafts, cookies, punch and SANTA! Please come!!!!

We (Mission Committee) will need cookies and volunteers to help with the games, activities and keeping the food coming. You will find signup sheets in the Narthex for cookies and "worker bees". If you are signing up for cookies, please sign on a separate line for EACH set of 2 dozen cookies you will contribute. Please bring the cookies to the church kitchen on December 1st or 2nd in a sealed container to discourage "Christmas Ants". Please mark cookies that contain nuts.





The second annual Care Fair will present over 30 exhibitors offering demonstration of products, written material and conversations for persons needing information or assistance as they age or care for a family member.

FEATURED SUPPORTS

- Blue Ridge Medical Center's Mobile Clinic offering free COVID-19 and Flu vaccines (bring your insurance card).
- 1:00 to 4:00 PM -
- JABA informing on nutrition, socialization, insurance counseling, and more.
- 1:00 to 4:00 PM -
- Elder Law Presentation by Doris Gelbman.
- 2:00 to 3:00 PM -
- Senior Health Care Presentation by Dr. Richard Lindsay.
- 3:00 to 4:00 PM -
- Virginia Veteran and Family Support Resources.
- 1:00 to 4:00 PM -
- Virginia Navigator Database information to find resources to fit your needs.
- 1:00 to 2:00 PM -



TIME & PLACE

Rockfish Valley Community Center
190 Rockfish School Lane
Afton, VA 22920
November 9, 2023 - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

SPONSORS



Seeking Technology/Communications Support

After years of dedicated support recording Worship Services on the camcorder, uploading them to YouTube, and keeping all RPC audio/visual needs and equipment in order, our current Technology/Communications Lead, Ron Culberson, would like to step back from his current role in late November - we extend a huge thanks to Ron for his support to this important need! We are therefore currently seeking someone who might be willing to step up to be the next 'technology/communications champion' and volunteers who might be willing to be on a small team to support running the camcorder for weekly Worship Services (perhaps on a one week per month basis). Ron is happy to provide training and background documentation to anyone who might be willing to step into his role. Please consider if you might be the right person to say 'here I am!' for this important service as technology/communications lead, or if you might feel called to help out on a periodic basis helping to record our Worship on the camcorder. If you are interested or able please contact Inger Manchester (rpcimanchester@gmail.com).

There Should Not be Any ... *By Dave Lawson*

There should not be any cold and hungry children in our community,

But there are cold and hungry children in our community.

What **should** we do about that?

What **can** we do about that?

What **will** we do about that?

There should not be any homeless people in our community,

But there are homeless people in our community.

What **should** we do about that?

What **can** we do about that?

What **will** we do about that?

There should not be any sad and lonely people in our community,

But there are sad and lonely people in our community.

What **should** we do about that?

What **can** we do about that?

What **will** we do about that?

There should not be any human trafficking in our community,

But there is human trafficking in our community.

What **should** we do about that?

What **can** we do about that?

What **will** we do about that?

There should not be any hatred, injustice or bigotry in our community,

But there is hatred, injustice and bigotry in our community

What **should** we do about that?

What **can** we do about that?

What **will** we do about that?

Probably nothing, unless we try; praying to God to help us.

Your old magazines and old Christmas cards can be magically transformed into interesting art by the Sunday school children. If you have magazines with especially colorful pictures, that would be great. Based on our book give away response, I would ask that each person who donates bring three or less. I can always ask for more. Thanks.

Submitted by **Bronwyn White**

Session Highlights 10/17/23

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with prayer. Elder Ken Engebretson presented devotions and prayer. Prayers were asked for Mike Chamber's sister and a friend, Judy, Christine Ottersberg, Al Gale, Kelley Alexander, Marilyn Pace, and Elizabeth Hopkins and family.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Inger Manchester reported that she is looking at a program entitled, Text 'Em All, that would send out emergency or time sensitive information to folks in the Congregation who opt in. The program cost would be ~\$40 a month. Discussion ensued.

CLERK'S REPORT:

(MOTION) approve minutes of Stated Meeting 9/19/23.

November/December Stated Session Meeting 11/28/23. Note: No Session Mtg. in December.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Mac Lumpkin presented a positive Stewardship Committee Report and presented the draft Stewardship letter to be sent to the Congregation in preparation for Commitment Sunday 11/12/23, which Session approved.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) brought a motion to approve the following single Service dates, which Session approved: 11/26/23 to decorate for advent; 12/31/23 as Inger is on vacation 12/27/23, 12/28/23, and 12/31/23 (there will be a supply pastor on 12/31/23); 1/28/24 for our RPC Annual Meeting; and 2/18/24 as Inger will be on vacation. She also brought a motion for a single 10:00 a.m. Service on 12/24/23 to focus on both being the 4th Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve and one 5:00 p.m. Service on that same date, which Session approved.
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported the Hope's Legacy Event on 10/7/23 raised \$2,200 for that organization.
- Elder Bill Iverson (Mission Ministry Team) reported 1) The RPC Missions Booklet that describes all our church's Missions activities has been completed and will be used in the Stewardship campaign. It will be uploaded to RPC's website for all to read, 2) The Head Start Christmas Party will be Sunday, 12/3/23, at 3:30PM and Bright Stars, Head Start, and the Community choir children will be invited. This will be led by Ann Mische, 3) Preparations are beginning and names are being collected for Thanksgiving food baskets, and 4) The Committee will be reviewing all local extramural spending to determine if we should be reducing the total number and increasing donations to those who we feel are accomplishing the most in helping others.
- Elder Kathy Kristiansen (Liaison Grounds Ministry Team) reported for Mike Smythers, Chair, that mowing continues and plantings around the office/playground will be scheduled for late fall. Mike Smythers will be stepping down from this Ministry Team and a new chair will soon emerge.
- Elder Susan Luscomb (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported that the Youth Ministry Team will be joined with CEMT and fall under one 'umbrella'. She with support of Dana Ogilvie brought the following motion: 1. The functions of the Youth Committee as created in 2023 be returned to the Christian Education Ministry Team, effective 1/1/2024; 2. That for purposes of the budget, the line items which appear under the Youth Committee be included among the line items of the Education Ministry; and 3. That the Youth Committee as a separate committee of Session be dissolved until such time as Session deems appropriate. Session approved this.

We give thanks for:

1. Inger's baptism of her granddaughter, Ava, on 10/22/23. (Inger)
2. All of the work of Session and the many hands that do God's work. (Inger)
3. Life itself and the enjoyment of it, plus the extraordinary things medical people can do for us. (Susan)
4. Elizabeth Hopkins' care and Caretaker Doris's network of the wonderful people involved. (Mary)
5. The beauty of fall and its many colors. (Kathy)
6. The beautiful PEACE we enjoy in this country, and how fortunate we really are given the recent events in the Middle East. (Mac)
7. Elona, a visiting pastor from Albania who Lee and Paula Corder work with; marveled at RPC asking questions regarding the temperature that would bring the early service inside; while in her church, she asks questions regarding if her parishioners have "had their bread today." (Inger)
8. Cathy LeGrow who has agreed to serve as RPC's next Clerk of Session beginning 1/1/2024. (Sue and all of Session)

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 8:02 PM.

Last Stated Session Meeting for 2023: Tuesday, 11/28/23 at 7:00 PM, in the Library. Rev. Inger Manchester will have Devotions and Opening Prayer. **NO SESSION MEETING IN DECEMBER.**

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Fulton, Clerk





November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Scripture Discussion	2 Noon—Men's Group Lunch 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir	3	4
5 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Five Cents a Meal Offering	6 4:00 p.m. Mission Team Meeting	7 9:30 a.m. Outreach Ministry Meeting	8 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Scripture Discussion 5:30 The Chosen	9 Noon—Men's Group Lunch 3:00 Worship Committee Mtg 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir	10	11
12 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Pack Pantry Bags for Kids 5:00 p.m. Pub Theology at Brewing Tree	13 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting	14	15 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Scripture Discussion 5:30 The Chosen	16 Noon—Men's Group Lunch 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir	17 Pantry Bag Packing	18 9:00 a.m. Distribution at Food Pantry
19 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	20	21 Spreading The Word Articles Due	22	23 	24	25
26 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Emergency Relief Offering	27	28 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	29	30		