



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.

Volume 25 Issue 3

Spreading the Word

March 2024



Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

Sunrise Service in the Pavilion at 6:45 a.m.

Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.



Is it just me or do you also feel like the seasons are not long enough? I have JUST settled into winter and now we have these 60 degree days. Beautiful, yes but I want starkness and I want snow. And then it is Spring all of a sudden. Which too is amazing in its own right. It seems just as I settle into it, it becomes summer etc. etc. Time seems to fly by.

Psalm 74:16-17 reads, "The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and the moon. It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter."

Imagine how creative God is! All of the little details. Each season carries so much beauty. The red cardinal against the bleak trees, the turkey vultures that love to sit in droves on that one tree on Stoney Creek West, the clear blue skies, the peeping flowers pushing up through the soil, the slow greening of the mountain. Let us all take some moments- each season -to just stop and appreciate God's handiwork.

If you have not discovered Mary Oliver yet, feast your senses.

~Pastor Inger

Wild Geese



You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting— over and over announcing your place in the family of things.

*from Dream Work by Mary Oliver,
published by Atlantic Monthly Press © Mary Oliver*

Join us for our Wednesday Lenten Services at 5:30 - Candle lit and quiet time with God. The service is around 30 minutes and we will delve together into a scripture that moves us towards a closer understanding of the God who loves us so much. A mid week reprieve from this busy world. Come and see.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Roger Fulton	01
Fran Davis	02
Sharon Gress	07
Dwight McCall	07
Charlotte Chapman	09
Matt Simpson	10
Phyllis Savides	12
Mary Dudley Eggleston	14
Charlie Newsome	14
Phil DeFusco	15
Betty Marker	15
John Grammer	23
Sue McGann	23
Tracy McGatha	23
Doug Wood	28
Cynthia Ramsey	30
Brent Kitching	31

Inger's Inklings

As many of you know I was watching one year old Ava for five days. When we were home alone it was so quiet so I put on KLove music and sang along. She scurried across the room, climbed into my lap and covered my mouth.

So.... But I say even when we have "not so good" voices we SHOULD sing to the Lord with abandon! And dance like King David did or create art. Write journals and poems or gardening or building things.

Art teachers will tell you the big difference with kids who create and those who do not is that someone "covered their mouth" and told them they weren't enough.

You are enough. Be loud, be joyous, CREATE! Let's make our world more colorful!



Blessings from the Creator, amen and amen.

~Inger

Easter Brunch! Following the 10 am church service Ginny Simpson will be organizing a delicious Easter brunch for us to enjoy together. Please look for some sign up sheets coming out soon for casseroles etc. And for the kids- there will be an Easter Egg Hunt organized by Outreach. Please bring in some filled eggs for us to hide!



March 10th

STW NEWSLETTER :

JAMIE HEARD

The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **April** newsletter is **Thursday, March 21.**

Email: rockfishpcus@gmail.com **Phone:** (434) 361-1221

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH



Adult Sunday School - Dave Lawson's six-week program on the 'Nouns and Verbs of Christianity' has generated considerable discussion each week, with the last two weeks now taking us into Lent. There is no book — this course was prepared by Dave especially for our class. Following Professor Dave, beginning on March 3rd at 9 a.m., will be the book 'Jesus Revealed' by Matt Rawle, a new author to our class. For those of you who are fans of the Gospel of John, you won't want to miss Rawle's study of Jesus through the imagery and mystery of the six 'I Am' statements as we approach Easter.

Inger's Bible Study - Join us in the library each Wednesday from 11:30 to 12:30 as we read '*Second Thoughts about the Second Coming.*' This fascinating 2023 book details the evolution of Christian thought about the meaning of a 'second coming' supplemented by Inger's research and insights. If you have either wondered what it could mean, have decided you know the meaning, or are certain there is no such thing, come join in the discussion.

Susan Luscomb, Chair
Christian Education Ministry Team

Mission Ministry

The Mission Ministry Committee met in February to prepare for our next food project – Easter baskets. This year we will provide the food in re-usable sturdy tote bags. Linda Smyser is leading the project, and we will provide food for 130 people one week before Easter.

Missions team members supported the PACEM Programs at Westminster and Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Churches with food gift cards and desserts, respectively. This program provides evening housing and a meal for homeless people during the winter months in local churches on a rotating basis.

We voted to partner with Here to Stay Wintergreen (HSW) to explore starting a Respite program for caregivers at RPC. This is still in the information gathering phase.

Our next meeting will be at 4 PM on Monday, March 4, 2024, and anyone interested in helping or learning more about our work is welcome to attend.

Youth News

The Nelson County High School production of *Mama Mia* will take place March 8 at 7:30, March 9 at 2 & 7:30 and March 10 at 2. Nathan Manthey, Anna Winter and Anna White will be performing. Come support the talented students at NCHS. Tickets can be purchased online at:

[Nelson County High School Drama](#)



For February the children filled 100 bags with healthy snacks and each bag included a heart with a Valentine wish. Thank you to everyone who wrote encouraging messages. We were also excited to have Charlie & Carol Kingsley's grandsons and Phyllis & John Savides' granddaughter help with the bag filling.



What About Nouns and Verbs?

By *Dave Lawson*

Nouns are the “whats” of living
 Some are clearly more vital than others
 Mostly because the best ones are gifts from God
 Grace and forgiveness are so much more than tolerance and clemency
 Love and hope far surpass friendship and desire
 Joy and peace transcend cheerfulness and comfort

If nouns are the “whats” of life; then verbs are the “hows”
 There are “do” verbs and “not do” verbs
 Two opposite pathways for action
 And we must choose which direction to take
 For God allows us that freedom of will
 Praying and listening go beyond simply asking and hearing
 Learning and teaching exceed mere browsing and chatting
 Caring and giving outdo ordinary liking and lending

So friends let us accept the good nouns and live the good verbs
 God has given us the important ones
 And the options to use them
 In the end He will judge how well we have done

Do You Love Me? - Feed My Sheep.



The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering of the Presbyterian Church USA began 75 years ago in response to an appeal on a Saturday evening national radio broadcast asking Americans to give generously to their churches the next morning. More than 75,000 churches responded. This ecumenical response to worldwide needs has continued since.

The PC(USA) offerings received through OGHS are roughly divided into three categories. Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) are the organization each receiving 32 percent of the offering. The remaining four percent goes to the PHP for its work on homelessness and affordable housing. Many stories on how this money is used can be viewed at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>.

This year the needs worldwide seem especially critical because of wars and displacements around the world. Christ said “Do you love Me? Feed My sheep.” These words were repeated three times. Such simple words. Such a wonderful opportunity to reach out and make a difference in peoples’ lives!

Rockfish Presbyterian Church will receive the OGHS offering on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Smoke Alarms at RPC It certainly was *alarming* to hear the sirens go off on Sunday, Feb 17, especially when the two primary contact people, were not present (Ken Engebretson & Nancy Johnson). Luckily, several folks jumped in and were able to silence the system and turn around the First Responders before they arrived. 27 smoke detectors are in place around the building, along with 9 water detectors at key locations. The base station is located on a wall shelf in the Narthex to the left of the front doors. It is a small white “cone” with a blue light emanating at its base. So what actions need to be taken if this happens again? Go to the base station location and follow the instructions on the sheet that is now next to it!

Ken Engebretson, Facilities Management

Session Highlights 2/21/24

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 6:15 pm with prayer. Prayers were asked for Betty Marker, Richard Bryant Family, Kelly, Aaron and Pat Dawson.

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Elder Mac Lumpkin.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Inger Manchester gave an update on the Respite program being considered. A committee is being formed to hopefully address any questions in advance and asked if any Elders would like to participate. Elder Bill Iverson volunteered to serve on the committee. The church will be sponsoring a 2-day Vacation Bible School this summer and is in the planning stage. Volunteers are needed.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Approved minutes of Stated Meeting 1/21/24 as amended.
- Approved minutes of Congregational Meeting 1/28/24.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Mac Lumpkin presented the Monthly Financial Reports, Income and Balance Sheet. Stewardship Committee did not meet in February.

NEW BUSINESS: Elders Bill Iverson and Mac Lumpkin gave a report to Session on the POJ meeting of February 17, 2004. The POJ will now require Boundary Training with compliance by June 1st, 2024.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) There is still a need for Technology Lead/Communications and small team for Service video/posting support.
- Hydrangea signup for Easter begins Feb. 25th, contributors can take home on Easter or following week.

Key Dates:

- Wednesday Lent Services - 5:30-6:00 pm
- March 24 - Palm Sunday - Chimes, Children's Choir and Trumpets are planned.
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday in Fellowship Hall – similar to last year, 6 pm
- March 29 - Good Friday Stripping of the Sanctuary - 6 pm
- March 31 - Easter Sunday - Sunrise in pavilion @ 6:45 am & 10 am in Sanctuary - full Chancel Choir is planned.
- April 7 - Single 10:00 am Service
- May 19 - Pentecost - Chimes are planned.
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported that the Talent Show will be held sometime later in the year. Formation of the new "Where We Are" Support Group is still a work in progress.
 - Rev. Inger Manchester will facilitate these meetings. There were 12 attendees at the initial meeting. A Mission Statement will be drafted and sent out for Outreach member's input. The group is meeting every two weeks. A plan is being discussed in conjunction with Here-To-Stay-Wintergreen of a respite care center for clients of caregivers. This would take place at RPC on a weekly basis for 4 hours at a time. Clients would be driven to the church and would then possibly attend a combination of social, physical and spiritual activities in order to allow caregivers some much needed free time.
- Elder Bill Iverson (Mission Ministry Team) reported the committee will contribute funds from Discretionary Funds to Here-to-Stay-Wintergreen to purchase Respite Program Training Modules. Viewing these will enable a more thorough understanding of how to run a program so a recommendation can be made to Session whether to pursue this initiative. It is not a commitment to establish a program. Linda Smyser will be leading the Easter food basket project this year. The Missions committee supported the PACEM programs at Westminster and Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Churches with food gift cards. This program also provides evening housing and a meal for homeless people during the winter months.
- Elder Susan Luscomb (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported the committee is thinking of adding more staff to cover the growth in children's' attendance and the varying age differences of those children. In three weeks the Sunday School class will start a new book called "Jesus Revealed", focusing on the six "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John. The book will be supplemented by a short video each week delving into the imagery and mystery of each of these statements.
- Elder Susan Luscomb (Liaison Congregational Life) highlighted the following functions which fall under this ministry besides the Fellowship Hour each Sunday following the 10:00am service. The Meal Ministry provides meals that Rev. Inger takes with her when she visits folks. This is much appreciated by those who receive the meals. The Card Ministry sends cards to those struggling with illness, death and caregiving responsibilities as well as happy milestones such as birthdays and anniversaries. The Memorial Reception Committee provides or helps in providing receptions following funerals at the church. Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated to help in these ministries. Contact Sue Fulton.
- Elder Kathy Kristiansen (Liaison Grounds Ministry) reported Creation Appreciation recently removed the leaves from our grounds, normally done by volunteers, and will attempt to grow an attractive grass lawn in our cemetery. We are in the process of acquiring a quote for tree work. To Do list includes pruning/thinning, cleaning up around grave sites, mulching and labeling historic plantings. Aaron Harris will be our grounds keeper/lawn service this year. Mitch Fitzgerald will plow snow as needed.

Session Highlights (Cont'd)

Celebration and Gratitude:

We give thanks for:

- All Session and their flexibility in changing the date of this month's meeting.
- Safe travel for loved ones.
- Thank God for new people and children attending.
- Daffodils and new spring growth.
- Sandy wants to thank all the people on the Outreach Committee.

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 7:15pm.

Next Stated Session Meeting Tuesday, 3/19/24 at 7:00 PM, in the Library. Elder Ken Engebretson will have Devotions and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy LeGrow, Clerk



Easter Hydrangea Plants for Easter Sunday are \$16 per plant. A sign up sheet (for a total of 20 plants) is in the narthex. Please include your dedication on the second page of the signup sheet. Be sure to pick up your plant after Easter Sunday.



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Five Cents a Meal Offering	4 2:30 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting 4:00 p.m. Mission Team Meeting	5 9:30 a.m. Outreach Ministry Meeting	6 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Book Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group 5:30 Lenten Service	7 3:15 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	8	9
10 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	11 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting	12	13 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Book Discussion 5:30 Lenten Service	14 3:00 Worship Committee 3:15 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	15	16
17 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	18	19 7:00 Session Meeting	20 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Scripture Discussion 5:30 Lenten Service	21 3:15 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir Spreading The Word Articles Due	22	23
24 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Emergency Relief Offering	25	26	27 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Scripture Discussion	28 3:15 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:00 Maundy Thursday in Fellowship Hall	29	30
31 6:45 a.m. Sunrise Easter Service 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Easter Service					6:00 p.m. Stripping of the Sanctuary	9:00 a.m. Distribution at Food Pantry