



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 5

Spreading the Word

May 2024

**PENTECOST SUNDAY AND A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT ELDERS IS
MAY 19**

THERE WILL BE A SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

The Session approved the following slate of Elders: Nancy Johnson, Harris Luscomb, and Jeri Engebretson. The congregation will vote to approve the Elders at this Congregational meeting.

Anti Semitism has been in the news a lot lately. Although it is my opinion that those words have been thrown around to get a reaction from us. Case in point- Is it anti Semitic to desire peace in Palestine? No. However I have no doubt that if I were a Jewish student at Columbia University I also would be keeping a nervous eye on things. Historically - and NOT SO LONG AGO- the world went literally crazy. Millions of people killed for being Jewish. Neighbors turned against neighbors. It is literally hard to imagine how that cruelty and hate went so unchecked. And sadly Christians fell under the evil trance and participated in it. Even the church.

Let us be real. Our Messiah, our Savior was and is Jewish. He taught the Hebrew scriptures. God, in scripture proclaimed the Israelites as His Beloved people.

“For you [Israel] are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession”. (Deuteronomy 7:6). “You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews”. John 4:22

Jesus was Jewish and through Him we have salvation.

The Jewish people are our brothers and sisters. Anti Semitism is pure evil. The genocide through indiscriminate bombing and intentional starvation of the people in Gaza, also our brothers and sisters, is also pure evil. Both of these statements are true and do not contradict one another. Let us not fall for the propaganda that threatens to dehumanize any group of God's beloved creation. And yet that happens again and again.

Let us check ourselves and each other in love. May we find the strength and courage through Christ to resist indoctrination and instead to love without boundaries as Christ does.

Lord, help us. Amen.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Inger's Inklings-

Mary Jo Russell 02
 Walt Nichols 04
 Bill Hysell 07
 Michelle Richardson 07
 Hilary Day 09
 Sam Eggleston 09
 Peggy Toms 09
 Michael Manthey 11
 Karen Asher 12
 Ken Engebretson 12
 Bill Hamre 13
 Carl Rush 13
 Matthew Gentry 14
 Quinn Averitt 15
 John Morgan 15
 William Newsome 17
 Bill Schivley 17
 Barbara Ward 17
 Jerry Wrenn 19
 Morgan Newsome 20
 Ute Kitching 22
 Will Cameron 25

Our church book club has been reading *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl. The book's impact on me has been to try and slow down and notice nature. To ask myself questions like- why do we like imported flowers like daffodils and tulips over the natural flowers of our area. Do I even know what the natural flowers names are as I traipse through the woods and notice the little purple ones that dot the landscape? Why do we want perfectly trimmed and green lawns at the expense of adding more chemicals into our world? I remember during COVID when the world was at a stop - few cars, no air travel, I actually saw a fox run across my NC very suburban lawn. A fox! I had lived there for over 24 years and never once seen a fox. (For you country folk- not a big deal I know)

My question is- was that fox always there and now had the courage to venture out into the quiet? What else might be finding its way in this world that I have missed? Here in Virginia, I marvel at the deer that wander in and out of my Faber backyard. I get positively giddy when I see antlers growing later in the season. Just this morning as I walked the dogs I saw two perfectly still deer watching me- so cleverly camouflaged into the woods, their brown eyes following my every move. If I had not been looking I would have missed them completely.

We live amongst so much beauty. So much evidence of our God who pays such attention to detail. The little flowers, the budding trees, the young gangly deer, the pecking woodpeckers and busy bluebirds. So much treasure waiting to be noticed. To make one smile and to send up a prayer of gratitude. Thank you Lord for your Creation. What will we discover today?

~Pastor Inger



RPC Bluebird nest

Creating Art

Calling all artists and budding artists—Starting Wednesday, May 8, from 3-5 we will be gathering every two weeks in an open studio format in the library. Bring your own supplies and we will enjoy time together. All levels welcome. Questions- ask Inger or Susan Luscomb As the Richard Rohr devotion said this week "Engaging art offers respite, contemplation, even as it shares powerful, inspiring, or difficult stories." Let's Create!



STW NEWSLETTER : The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **June/July** newsletter is **Thursday, May 23.**
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Christian Education Ministry Committee



On April 21st, Adult Sunday School began the study of a fascinating book - “The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief.” Author Francis Collins was raised in the Shenandoah Valley, and part of his parents’ legacy is the Oak Grove Theater in Staunton. He shares his faith journey from farm to the Head of the Human Genome Project and covers diverse topics ranging from the Origins of the Universe to BioLogos: Science and Faith in Harmony.

On April 28th, Bronwyn White, our Children’s Program Director, hosted a meeting for all those interested in the future of the Children’s Program, including the Sunday School curriculum for the fall semester, plans for Vacation Bible School in July, and thoughts about potential programs for the parents. Bronwyn and her team’s wonderful ideas, and the input from attendees, will be reviewed at the May Education Committee meeting and the resulting plans for the fall will be shared in the June Spreading the Word.

Inger’s Wednesday Class has begun a study based on the book ‘Christian History Made Easy.’ The entertaining and informative video each week is chock-full of wonderful background few of us know, and though a companion book is available, reading is not required. The class is already learning how knowing the history of the Church can inform our understanding and appreciation of our faith journey today.

Leslie’s Book Group continues to meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Luscomb, Chair

Free Concert

On Friday, May 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, Danielle Talamantes, Soprano, and Kerry Wilkerson, Bass Baritone and piano will perform an operatic concert: "Songs of Faith, Hope, and Love". This duo has performed all over the world and during their visit to Nellysford they will be hosted by Ann Mische. Come and hear their music!! A “love offering” will be collected.

Mission Ministry

The Mission Committee will have new leadership in July as Dana Ogilvie and Ann Mische will be co-chairs. Bill will continue with the Committee through the end of 2024 to ensure a smooth transition.

The next Missions project will be backpacks with basic school supplies for children and will take place in July.

The next Committee meeting will be 6 May at 4 PM in the church library and anyone interested may attend.

Bill Iverson

Youth News

Dana works so hard every month buying food, bringing it back and unloading it all, organizing it to be ready for the children, and then on the second Sunday of every month, she gathers the students, greets them, offers a prayer, and then reads a short story. She then explains what is in each food station, how many of each item goes into each bag. She wraps up each full bag and places it in a large box until that box is full. Box after box is filled that way, and every participant is fully aware of their importance.



For the month of April the children worked together to fill 100 food bags and added Earth Day stickers to each bag.



Easter Sunday at RPC



Session Highlights (04/16/2024)

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 pm with prayer. Elder Sandy Gallagher opened with devotions and prayer. Prayers were asked for Ron Culberson and Wendy, Mallory, Joe, Barb Fenton.

Mimi Toro and Bill Hysell, Steve Winston, Phil and Kathie DeFusco, Ross and Julie Ruffing and children Josie, Lily and Emily shared their faith journeys. All were welcomed into Active Membership and the right hand of fellowship was offered to all. Josie, Lily and Emily were welcomed into Baptized Membership. All will be presented to the Congregation at a date yet to be determined.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Inger Manchester reported a huge interest in a Women's Retreat this fall. A planning committee has been formed. A director for the Respite program has been hired, Kate Zuckerman, and the program continues to move forward. Bronwyn White continues her plans for enriching and expanding the children's curriculum and has donated a Smart Board to the program.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Approved minutes of Stated Meeting 3/19/24.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Mac Lumpkin presented the Monthly Financial Reports, Income and Expense Sheet, Balance Sheet. The church is in fine financial standing.

NEW BUSINESS: Elder Ken Engebretson (Nominating Committee) presented 3 Motions for approval: **1) Motion to approve elimination of Trustee Positions (Book of Order). Approved. 2) Motion to approve resignation of Susan Luscomb as current Ruling Elder effective in June. Approved. 3) Motion to approve the 2027 slate of nominees – Nancy Johnson, Jeri Engebretson, Harris Luscomb. Approved.** There will be a Congregational Meeting May 19th following the 10:00am Service for the Congregation to vote to approve the 2027 slate.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) presented a Motion to approve one service on May 19th at 10:00am on Pentecost Sunday. **Approved.** Congregational meeting to follow. There is discussion of holding 3 services on Easter 2025.
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported there will be a spring recital "Songs of Faith, Hope and Love" held May 17th at 7 pm featuring Danielle Talamantes and Kerry Wilkerson. Church members will be able to distribute We Care bags containing non-perishable items to people along the roadsides. The "TJ and Sandy" talk has been rescheduled to June 2 following the Church service.
- Elder Susan Luscomb (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported the Adult Sunday school class will begin a new study "The Language of God" April 28th. Inger's Wednesday class is studying "Christian History Made Easy."
- Elder Ken Engebretson (Facilities Management Team) reported the KnoxBox has been installed. SimpliSafe cameras have been ordered. Options are being discussed on how to remedy the occasional low quality audio portion of the Sunday Service on YouTube videos.
- Elder Kathy Kristiansen (Liaison Grounds Committee) reported groundwork is progressing as scheduled.
- Elder Joe Steele (Cemetery Ministry Team) reported on plot purchases, interest in plot purchases, cemetery cleanup and updating of maps with recent changes. The RPC Funeral Checklist was updated presenting the RPC Cemetery Contract Rules and determining military veteran's status.

We give thanks for:

Session's patience, our new members, Susan Luscomb for her service on Session, Ken's daughter and family's potential move to Charlottesville, the DeFuscos for their service and sharing their musical talents, and Sue Fulton for reviving the Fellowship gathering after the 10:00am Service.

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 8:35p.m.

Next Stated Session Meeting Tuesday, 5/21/24 at 7:00 PM, in the Library. Elder Bill Iverson will have Devotions and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy LeGrow, Clerk





Splish, splash, Brown Thrasher taken' a bath

May 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Christian History Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group	2 3:15 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Children's Community Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	3	4
5 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service Five Cents a Meal Offering	6 2:30 Personnel Committee Meeting 4:00 Mission Team Mtg	7 7:00 Christian Ed Meeting	8 10:00 Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Christian History Discussion 3-5 Creating Art	9 3:15 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Children's Community Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	10	11
12 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 10:30 Pack Pantry Bags for Kids 5:00 Pub Theology at Brewing Tree	13 5:00 Stewardship Meeting	14	15 10:00 Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Christian History Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group	16 3:00 Worship Committee 3:15 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Children's Community Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	17 7:00 p.m. Operatic Concert	18
19 Pentecost Sunday 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service Congregational Meeting	20	21 7:00 Session Meeting	22 10:00 Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Christian History Discussion 3-5 Creating Art	23 3:15 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Children's Community Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir Spreading The Word Articles Due	24	25 9:00 Distribution at Food Pantry
26 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service Emergency Relief Offering	27	28	29 10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture 11:30 Christian History Discussion	30 3:15 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Children's Community Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	31	