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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 26 Issue 2

## Spreading the Word

February 2025

### Words of Hope.

That is what we all seem to need right now. I am not sure if it is the winter blahs or the news... but I need to hear words of hope right now. And then I remember I am the pastor and am supposed to be giving them. And so I look to our blessed community. It is brimming with hope. The woodchucks are busy splitting and delivering wood to those in need, the education classes are so full of all of us wanting to hear God's Word that we had to add more chairs, the children and parents gather each Thursday with now two wonderful leaders, Cynthia and Reagan, for children's choir and moms are literally texting me to see when they can make dinner for everyone, the halls of the church are filled with laughing children who WANT to come to church, the Goodness Growers are planning the garden for this years scrumptiousness, the choir, the chimers, the instruments (I always say the wrong names) that fill our services with incredible music, the guitar circle, the knitters, the planning for socials and for coffees and for, and for, and for... more and more opportunities to share time together, the Mission committee working hard to share the bounty of Rockfish with others, the people who work to pack and distribute children's weekend meals, the respite program, the joy, joy, joy that comes from gathering all together. And so many ideas are glimmering in our future... so very exciting to participate in what God is doing.

And then there is the community- In January a call went out to help with the community breakfast at RVCC- in response they had more volunteers than they needed. We were tripping over one another. I know many in the congregation work with immigrants, with food kitchens, with animals in need, with tutoring.

Where, we ask, is the Hope?

And our Lord says... "Open your eyes. I am all around you"

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there..."

Amen, Lord Jesus, Amen.

Let us give thanks,

*~Pastor Inger*



The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, **Feb 2** following the single service at 10. The purpose is to vote on the pastor's Terms of Call, to present the 2025 budget already approved by Session and to hear attendance and membership information for 2024.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥		♥♥
♥ Daniel Eggleston	02	♥
♥ Diana Rockwell	06	♥
♥ David Hopkins	07	♥
♥ Gretchen Rush	07	♥
♥ Anne Gentry	08	♥
♥ Cathy LeGrow	08	♥
♥ David LeGrow	13	♥
♥ Debbie White	13	♥
♥ Bonnie Saunders	14	♥
♥ Rick Winter	15	♥
♥ Sally Wright	16	♥
♥ Kathy Kristiansen	18	♥
♥ Don Lemons	22	♥
♥ Rush Newsome	22	♥
♥ Mike Smythers	25	♥
♥ Sabina Gentry	27	♥
♥ Carol Kingsley	28	♥
♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥		♥♥

## Inger's Inklings on Lent

It always amazes me how quickly Lent comes upon us after Christmas. The Christmas tree was still in the fellowship hall and I am asking folks to sign up for a Lent devotion!

I hope you ARE signing up to write a Lenten devotion based on your favorite Christian music or hymn. We need 40! I have included an instruction sheet to help- just look in the narthex on the table. I promise it will not be hard and I imagine God will use this time of writing for good in your life. The Holy Spirit loves an invitation to be with you!

Wednesday services will begin with Ash Wed on March 5 and then followed by weekly Wednesday services. I plan to continue highlighting various Christian minds for the sermons (like we did during Advent). There is so much to hear and learn from those voices. Peggy Gupp, who is Jewish and a friend of our church, has offered to lead an authentic Passover Seder on April 9. A full dinner will be served. This will be a sign up event and we need your volunteer participation to make it succeed. It will allow us to better understand what Jesus was celebrating on the Last Supper. We will again celebrate Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then of course Easter Sunday together. Those services will be listed soon for your planning. It is hard to imagine Spring coming with the snow on the ground and the cold temperatures but it will be here soon! Rebirth, greenery and hope.

"Lent comes providentially to awaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." *Pope Francis*

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

~Pastor Inger



STW NEWSLETTER :

JAMIE HEARD

The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **March** newsletter is **Tuesday, February 20.**

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

## ***Tuesday's Together***

Tuesday evening programs and potlucks will be resuming soon with:



“A NEW TAKE ON OLD TESTAMENT STORIES” **STOP!** Before you move on, thinking you’ve already read them scores of times and know the Creation story, Adam and Eve, Noah and the rest like the back of your hand, think again. This is a totally different (and entertaining) way of understanding them. We’ll be watching a video on both Feb 4th and 11th, as an introduction, laying the foundation for our study, and sharing potluck dinners, from 5-6:30pm (earlier until sunset is later).

Season 5 of ‘**The Chosen**’ will arrive in theaters beginning March 27 with the last episodes premiering on April 10, just prior to Palm Sunday. Streaming dates have not yet been announced, but we will keep you posted and adjust our Tuesday evenings scheduled accordingly.

In the meantime, join us on Tuesday evenings beginning Feb. 4th for fun and interesting discussions and you’ll be surprised at what you may learn!

If you have any questions, reach out to Susan Luscomb - [sluscomb5@gmail.com](mailto:sluscomb5@gmail.com) - or at 757-254-4667.

## **Passover Seder Coming April 9- the Wed before Holy Week**

The Last Supper (we celebrate Maundy Thursday) was a Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. At the last supper Jesus took the two elements bread and wine and connected them to His blood and His body. This is how we celebrate communion.

Exodus 12:14 “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. 15 For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do. 17 “Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.

The Seder meal is a ritual that was developed by the rabbis after the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. Our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate this meal each year. Peggy Gupp, a friend of our congregation who is Jewish, would like to share the Seder traditions with us and help us to make the stories of Exodus come alive. There will be limited seating so please sign up when you see the sheet come out. Children are encouraged as it is a fun family feast. I am so excited about this opportunity for understanding and sharing in God’s Providence!



## Mission News

The next Missions Committee meeting will be Monday, February 3rd at 4 pm in the church library. We will be discussing our budget for this year. We will also have guest speakers from La Inciativa and JABA to share with the committee about their work in Nelson County. New members are always welcome!! Contact Dana Ogilvie or Ann Mische if you have any questions.



On Sunday, February 16 Mary Jane Winter (former interim pastor at RPC) will be at Rockfish Presbyterian to share with the congregation about her work with CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America). CEDEPCA is a global partner of the Presbyterian Church. This organization works to educate, empower and create lasting change in the lives of the people of Guatemala. Mary Jane will be talking with the adult Sunday School at 9 am (everyone is welcome), she will be at the 10 o'clock service and she will be sharing with the congregation during the fellowship time after the service about her work and mission trips in Guatemala. This will be a wonderful way to learn

more about this important work and the possibilities of future mission trips. In the past (pre COVID), RPC sent many mission groups to Guatemala with CEDEPCA.

The Presbytery of the James currently has the [following mission trip planned with CEDEPCA](#):

July 14-21 and will focus on Earth Care and the Environment. This trip will feature an opportunity to plant trees with our Guatemalan friends in a reforestation effort, distribute water filters where there is no clean water in homes and learn about important connections to the Earth from indigenous women and men. [The cost of the trip is \\$1,120 plus international airfare.](#) Contact Mary Jane Winter at [mjwinter@comcast.net](mailto:mjwinter@comcast.net)



Mary Jane is also looking at planning for 2026. Anyone from RPC is welcome to join in these mission trips and we could also explore having a trip from RPC if there is interest.

Submitted by:

*Dana Ogilvie, Mission Co-Chair*

RPC Yard/Bake Sale - Saturday, May 17, 2025  
Start saving your stuff to sell at your own table.



## Session Highlights 1/21/2025

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 pm with prayer. Elder Jeri Engebretson opened with devotion and prayer. Prayers were asked for Sally, Abby Carr and Mark, Sue Fulton, Megan's family, a nurse working at the free clinic, who abruptly passed away.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Rev. Inger Manchester suggested holding a Session retreat for Session members to present/discuss each ministry's goals and/or concerns for 2025. She will send out email to determine interest. Kerry Foster, Interim General Presbyter, has been invited to RPC to meet with Session for a Called Meeting Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>.

### CLERK'S REPORT:

**Session Approved the minutes from the following meetings: Stated 11-19-24, Called 12-8-24. Approved Clerk's Statistical Report for General Assembly. Approved election of Elders Roger Fulton & Sue Nichols as Co-Treasurers for 2025. Approved Cathy LeGrow as Clerk for 2025. Approved Elder Sandy Gallagher as Co-Chair of the 2025 Nominating Committee. Approved Elder Jeri Engebretson to serve as Commissioner for POJ Stated Meeting 2-15-25. Approved ratified email vote approving Inclement Weather Policy and Approved ratified email vote approving the Baptism of Mike Thibault.**

**STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE:** Elder Dave Lawson presented the Monthly Financial Reports, I&E Statement and Balance Sheet. Session **APPROVED 2025 Budget as presented.** Increases in the budget were well explained and justified. Pledges for 2025 show a 22% increase.

### MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) **MOTION allowing Pastor Inger to take a vacation day on April 27<sup>th</sup> and holding a single service on that day. APPROVED.** Upcoming key dates: Feb. 2 – Congregational Mtg. Lenten Services – March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9. Maundy Thursday – April 17, Good Friday – April 18, Easter - April 20.
- Elder Nancy Johnson (Facilities Management Team) reported discussion on updating Facility Use form for outside organizations using RPC.
- Elder Jeri Engebretson (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported all Sunday School classes are well attended and Adult classes have received names – “Food for Thought”, held in the education room and “Practicing the Way”, held in the library. The second Sunday of the month is designated for Mission Work by our Youth Missions. The younger children will pack food bags for the Nelson Food Pantry and the middle schoolers will work on disaster relief kits. Change in evening meeting days – **Wednesday evening groups will now meet on Tuesday evenings. Lent/Advent Services will still be held on Wednesdays.**
- Elder Sally Bryant (Missions Ministry Team Liaison) Elder Ann Mische presented the following **MOTIONS: 1 – To approve from unallocated unrestricted funds payments to assist the victims of the California fires and Hurricane Helene: 2 – To approve combining the Helping Hands funds and Emergency funds as one line item. Both MOTIONS APPROVED.** The team is working on setting up a Survey Monkey to assess our congregation's skills & interests to serve our local community. On Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, Mary Jane Winter will share information at the 10am service regarding upcoming trips to Guatemala through CEDEPCA & POJ.
- Elder Sally Bryant (Personnel) **MOTION to grant Pastor Inger an additional paid Sunday off. APPROVED.**
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported planning continues for the RPC Spring/Yard Sale scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and planning continues for the Fall Festival (Hope's Legacy) which is scheduled for Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- Elder Kathy Kristensen (Liaison Grounds) reported the team is working on updating the contract to increase snow removal service so snow removal does not fall to the congregants.

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 8:30 pm.

Next Stated Session Meeting Tuesday, 2/18 at 7:00 PM, in the Library. Elder Harris Luscomb will have the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy LeGrow, Clerk

Membership = Active members – 181  
Affiliate members - 14





# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:00 Food for Thought 9:15 Practicing the Way <b>10:00 Single Service</b> Annual Congregational Meeting Five Cents a Meal Offering	<b>3</b> 10-2 Respite Care 2:30 Personnel Committee Meeting 3:30 Guitar Circle 4:00 Mission Team Meeting	<b>4</b> 10:00 Christian Education Mtg 10:00 Yard/Bake Sale Planning Mtg	<b>5</b> 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Book of James Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group	<b>6</b> 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>8:00 Worship Service</b> 9:00 Food for Thought 9:15 Practicing the Way <b>10:00 Worship Service</b> 10:30 Pack Pantry Bags for Kids 5:00 Pub Theology at Brewing Tree	<b>10</b> 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle 5:00 Stewardship Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:30 Outreach Ministry Meeting	<b>12</b> 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Book of James Discussion 3-5 Creating Art	<b>13</b> 3:00 Worship Committee Meeting 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>8:00 Worship Service</b> 9:00 Food for Thought 9:15 Practicing the Way <b>10:00 Worship Service</b>	<b>17</b> 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle	<b>18</b> 7:00 Session Meeting	<b>19</b> 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Book of Luke Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group	<b>20</b> <b>Spreading The Word Articles Due</b> 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> Pantry Bag Packing	<b>22</b> 9:00 Distribution at Food Pantry
<b>23</b> <b>8:00 Worship Service</b> 9:00 Food for Thought 9:15 Practicing the Way <b>10:00 Worship Service</b> Emergency Relief Offering	<b>24</b> 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Book of Luke Discussion 3-5 Creating Art	<b>27</b> 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>28</b>	