



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 26 Issue 3

Spreading the Word

March 2025

Who here is ready for Spring? I am raising my hand with you. I am also looking forward to when we can begin having the 8 am church service outside again. The plan for our first outdoor service is for a 6:45 am Sunrise service on Easter morning. So spectacular to know that it is Easter, the Sun is rising and the Son has Risen! We give thanks for such a beautiful setting in which we worship the Living God.

I have been reading through the Bible and am now in Exodus and the building of the Tabernacle. God really pays attention to the details. It got me thinking about where we feel God is best worshiped. Is it on the move as was the case for the Israelites? God leading them with a cloud and fire? Is it in a beautiful Temple as was built by Solomon- not because God wanted it but because we the people felt we needed to build it to proclaim God's importance and glory? Is it in a gorgeous cathedral such as we find in major cities like St. Patrick's in NYC or the Cologne Cathedral in Cologne Germany or St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican? Places where humans feel quite insignificant and remember our place in the scheme of things? Is it in a simple church such as Rockfish where history abounds or a storefront startup that serves the Living Word? Where do you feel God's Presence the most?

Our Living God does not need a perfect gathering place, only willing hearts to hear the Good News. May we never forget that Our God lives amongst those in the places of power and in places ourselves may fear to trod. With the wealthy, with the poor, with the documented, with the undocumented, with those in health and those who are sick. God hears the cries of those in prisons, in hospitals, in hospice, in war torn countries and in orphanages.

May we never close our eyes to God's presence amongst and around us. May we also have a heart to hear God's call to us no matter where we find ourselves. May we look upon each other with loving hearts that recognize this Holy connection through the Spirit that has no bounds.

Amen, ~*Pastor Inger*

Praying
Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot,
or a few small stones;
just pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate,
this isn't a contest but the doorway
into thanks,
and a silence in which another voice may speak.



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 the spiritual leaders who have gone before us. 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
Rita Scott	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

Inger's Inklings

I love our community, Not just Rockfish Pres (which I love too) but the greater community. God does not stop at our church door. I drove up to the Wintergreen Nature Foundation and picked up a book written and illustrated by local artist and outdoorswoman Carolyn Velletri (Leave No Stone Unturned). It is so beautiful and filled with her art and her husband's photography. You may know her- she often teaches watercolor classes at the Foundation and her husband Rich often leads hikes. Both of them have made a point of investing in our community. What a gift.

Soon the tickets will go on sale for the Wintergreen Music Festival which is beyond special. All of these musicians come here together to share their talents on top of the mountain -jazz, symphony, country... so many opportunities to hear and be part of something that is indescribable joy.

I also must mention that our Rockfish Valley Community Center is what I call "The hub" of Nelson County; local coffee, a fabulous thrift store, and the Rockfish Gallery that showcases so much local arts talent, and the fun monthly breakfast run by community volunteers. When I visit I know I will run into at least three folks I know. I LOVE that!

I name just a few of the things I am so grateful for here in Nelson County. Time to shake off the Winter Doldrums and look for the signs of Spring! Just like WE are the Church, WE are the community. What gifts do you have to share? What gifts can you enjoy? Let us invest in where God has planted us. Buy the art, get those music tickets, order the farm food, take those hikes, play that tennis or pickleball, join a club, get the local eggs, support one another. God is Good!

~Inger



Please note all of these Lenten and Easter dates in your calendars!

Ash Wednesday- March 5 5:30; Lenten Services- Wednesday 5:30, March 12, 19, 26, April 2; Passover Seder April 9 - 5:30 sign up required hosted by Peggy Watts Gup and friends in the Fellowship Hall; Holy Week- Maundy Thursday - bring own wine glass and a bottle of red wine (if you would like to contribute) grape juice also available, 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall; Good Friday 5:30 pm, please enter and leave in silence; Easter Sunday- 6:45- Sunrise in the Pavilion - dress for it! 9 am - Easter Service, 10-1045, Coffee and Treats, 11 am - Easter Service with focus on children, Easter Egg Hunt to Follow.

STW NEWSLETTER :	The deadline for submitting articles electronically for the April newsletter is Thursday, March 20.
JAMIE HEARD	Email: rockfishpcus@gmail.com Phone: (434) 361-1221

Opportunities for Growth In Christian Education



“Food For Thought” Adult Sunday School Class -

The lessons on “The Lord’s Prayer” by Adam Hamilton continue through March 2nd. Beginning March 9th, we will begin a 6 week Lenten study by Susan Robb titled “Seven Words” Listening to Christ from the Cross.

***A new TV has been purchased for room #5 to be used for Christian Education for Sunday School classes, Wednesday morning studies, etc. The TV that was in room #5 is now mounted in the library along with a new DVR.**

Beginning March 5th - Ash Wednesday - Lenten services will begin and continue every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. throughout Lent. There will be no “Tuesdays Together” at this time.

Wednesday 11:30 study -

The study from the book of Luke continues. All our invited to join this study of the Scriptures in the Adult Classroom #5, across from the office.

Jeri Engbretson, Chair, Christian Education Ministry Team

Passover Seder

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.

Our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate the Passover Seder each year. Peggy Watts Gup, 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. This will be on April 9 @ 5:30 pm. 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.



The Ghosts of Christmas (2024) Are Past! All RPC Members who have placed Christmas Holiday Decorations in the two cemeteries, please pick them up and take them to Recycle. The high winds may make it difficult to find yours, so please pick up any that you find. Non-holiday real and plastic flowers and religious symbols are still welcome as long as they are neatly placed, refreshed regularly, and generally cared for.

Thank You, The Cemetery Ministry Team.

Mission News

The next Missions Committee meeting will take place on Monday, March 3 at 4 pm in the church library. Anyone is welcome to attend. We will be continuing to allocate funds for the upcoming year and looking at new organizations to support.

Mary Jane Winter's visit to discuss her work in Guatemala with CEDEPCA is being rescheduled but no date as been finalized. Stay tuned for more information. The Presbytery of the James still has a trip planned to Guatemala for July 14-21 to focus on Earth Care and the Environment. The trip will feature an opportunity to plant trees, distribute water filters and learn about connections to the Earth from indigenous women and men. If you want more information contact Dana Ogilvie.

The Charlottesville Area Presbyterian Mission Group is planning 2 mission recovery trips to Western North Carolina for May of 2025. Both trips will focus on rebuilding a house for the Edwards family in Old Fort, NC. Trip 1 is May 17-24 and Trip 2 is May 24-31. This groups would be made up of people from Presbyterian churches in the Charlottesville area. Meals and lodging for the trip will be at nearby Camp Grier. They are looking for eager men and women of any skill level to help create a new home for this family. The group is also looking for a person with significant construction experience to be the Construction Manager for Trip 2. Let Dana Ogilvie or Inger know if you are interested in more information about this opportunity. The application portal to participate will open on or around March 1.

The Missions Committee is working to coordinate Easter food baskets for our local community. The baskets will be distributed on Saturday, April 12. Sign up sheets to help purchase food for the baskets will be available later in March.



Submitted by
Dana Ogilvie, Mission Team Co-Chair

From your Outreach Ministry

Please put 2 dates in your calendars:

SPRING YARD/BAKE SALE—Saturday, May 17, 10 to 2 pm. Start saving your old stuff to sell at your own table !!!

FALL FUNDRAISER - HOPE's LEGACY- Saturday, September 27, 2025

More information will be coming on both these events; stay tuned !!!



March 9th

Belief

By Dave Lawson

Some say they only “believe” in what they can see or touch
The physical world
For only this seems real to them
(Oh, but they do believe in the existence of subatomic particles)
Others say they also “believe” in what they feel or experience
Even things not of the physical world
For them everything is real

Belief is an unusual function of the brain
It is in some ways related to thinking and understanding
Yet not
Sometimes we believe in things that we do not understand
That we cannot see, touch or even experience fully
Therefore, belief must also be a function of our souls

But some do not think we have a soul
Claiming it is a made-up thing
Something that theologians have contrived
So that we will accept what they say or write
Others, like me, believe that we indeed have a soul, an inner spirit
Which is the part of us that makes life meaningful

Session Highlights 2-18-25

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 pm with prayer. Elder Harris Luscomb opened with devotion and prayer. Prayers were asked for Sally's daughter's father-in-law who passed away, the Clemenson's with Bob in hospice care, Morgan Newsome's friend and the victims of the Crozet shooting.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Inger Manchester received a request from a local piano teacher to use the church's sanctuary for her students' piano recital. There was discussion regarding the current policy defining outside use of the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The **MOTION was DENIED**. The issue will be revisited and if necessary an email vote will be taken. A request from NEC was presented. They wished to meet on Wednesday, 2-19-25. There is the threat of snow and Session discussed snow removal. **MOTION to allow NEC to use the church on 2-19-25 was DENIED due to expected inclement weather**. An informal Session Retreat will be held on March 8th for the Ministry Teams to present their upcoming plans and future goals for their teams.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- **Approved the minutes of the Stated Meeting of 1-21-15.**
- **Approved the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of 2-2-25.**

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Dave Lawson presented the Monthly Financial Reports, I&E Statement and Balance Sheet. The church is in good financial condition. Stewardship did not meet.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) Due to the headcount from 2024, a **MOTION was presented to hold three services on Easter – Sunrise (6:45), 9:00am and 11:00am (more child oriented). APPROVED**. Upcoming key dates: Ash Wednesday – March 5. Lenten Services – March 12, 19, 26, April 2. April 9th – Seder Service instead of Lenten service. Maundy Thursday – April 17, Good Friday – April 18, Easter - April 20. Twenty new hymnals have arrived in memory of Charlie Kingsley.
- Elder Nancy Johnson (Facilities Management Team) reported pews have been cleaned and arrangements have been made to clean pew cushions. A contract has been signed for new carpeting.
- Elder Jeri Engebretson (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported a new TV was purchased and installed in Room #5 to be used for Christian Education. The TV that was in Room #5 is now mounted in the Library along with a new DVD. The Tuesday evening study "A New Take on Old Testament Stories" continues to meet but will take a break for Lent. Beginning March 5th – Ash Wednesday – Lenten services will begin and meet every Wednesday at 5:30pm throughout Lent. There will be no Tuesdays Together at this time.
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported planning, under the leadership of Mary Hopkins, continues for the Spring Yard/Bake Sale to be held May 17th (rain date May 24th). Tables will be set up in front and back of the church. The event is donation based. Further details will be forthcoming. Hope's Legacy Fund Raiser will be Sept. 27th. A food truck has been hired. Details regarding donations from local artists and businesses will be discussed at the next meeting. The Easter Egg hunt will be held after the 11:00 service on Easter. RPC members will be reminded to bring plastic candy-filled eggs.
- Elder Sandy Gallagher reported members of the Nominating Committee for 2025 have been selected and a **MOTION was made to elect the slate. APPROVED**.

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

Next Stated Session Meeting Tuesday, 3/18 at 7:00 PM, in the Library. Elder Sandy Gallagher will have the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy LeGrow, Clerk

Membership = Active members – 181
Affiliate members - 14





March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Food for Thought 10:00 Worship Service Five Cents a Meal Offering	3 10-2 Respite Care 2:30 Personnel Committee Meeting 3:00 Guitar Circle 4:00 Mission Team Meeting	4 9:30 Outreach Ministry Meeting 10:00 Christian Ed.	5 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Book Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group 5:30 Ash Wednesday Service	6 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	7	8
9 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Food for Thought 10:00 Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Pack Pantry Bags for Kids 5:00 p.m. Pub Theology at Brewing Tree	10 10-2 Respite Care 3:00 Guitar Circle 5:00 Stewardship Meeting	11	12 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Book Discussion 3-5 Creating Art 5:30 Lenten Service	13 3:00 Worship Committee 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	14	15
16 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Food for Thought 10:00 Worship Service	17 10-2 Respite Care 3:00 Guitar Circle	18 7:00 Session Meeting	19 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Scripture Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group 5:30 Lenten Service	20 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir Spreading The Word Articles Due	21	22
23 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Food for Thought 10:00 Worship Service Emergency Relief Offering	24 10-2 Respite Care 3:00 Guitar Circle	25	26 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Scripture Discussion 3-5 Creating Art 5:30 Lenten Service	27 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	28 Food Pantry Packing	29 9:00 a.m. Distribution at Food Pantry
30 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Food for Thought 10:00 Worship Service	31 10-2 Respite Care 3:00 Guitar Circle					