



Volume 26 Issue 4

Rockfish Presbyterian Church  
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www.rockfishpresbyterian.org  
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

April 2025

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### FROM INGER TO CHEW ON - HAPPY SPRINGTIME! LOVE THIS AND HAD TO SHARE!

This is a rough edited excerpt from the BEMA podcast E 22 Under the Chuppah-  
<https://www.bemadiscipleship.com/22>

Matthew 9:15- And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

From BEMA- “The ancient Eastern patriarchal culture was a lot different (from today). Arranged marriages were about the entire family group, the entire *beit av* or *the entire mishpucha* as we’ve talked about before. Nevertheless, they would make this pick for you. . . .Once that was decided there’d be what would be called the *betrothal*. The son, the groom would take off with his father to the girl. When they arrive at the village, the dad would take a cup out of his pack and he would fill it with wine and he would hand it to the son. The son would take this cup of wine and he would hand it to the potential bride. He would say, “This is the cup of a new covenant that I make with you today. I will not drink of this cup again until I drink it with you in my father’s house.” Then, he hands her the cup. If she takes the cup and drinks from it, it’s her way of covenantally saying, “Yes, I accept your proposal.” If she pushes a cup away it’s her opportunity to say no.

The groom now leaves to go prepare the house. He goes back to his father’s town. They didn’t live all independently out on their own. The idea was not to grow up and move out of the house. The idea was to grow up and stay in the house and help your father pursue his vocation, help your father pursue his legacy, and do all that kind of stuff. He now goes back to his father’s house and builds an extra room. He would go prepare this room and he doesn’t know how long this process is going to take. Only the father knows. This is the dad’s last opportunity to teach his son a lesson. He might be really generous and help him even build the extension and help him the whole time. He might make him do all the work on his own.

All the bride knows and all they know is that this groom showed up, he proposed to this girl and then he left. They all know that he’s going to prepare the house. One day, the father of the groom is going to walk in and he’s going to say, “You know what, I think it’s pretty much done. I think we’re almost ready. I think it’s time.”

They’re going to take off, the whole family is going to leave to go to the village of the bride. They could show up — depends on how far they have to travel — they could show up literally in the middle of the night. You might even think of the story that Jesus told about the ten bridesmaids and their lamps. Five of them had oil in their lamps and five didn’t, and you think, “that’s a really weird story.”

In the context of ancient Eastern weddings, it’s not a weird story at all because once he shows up, the party is going to get started. The ceremony is going to happen and it doesn’t matter if you’re ready or not. If you’re not ready, you’re going to be left locked out of the banquet.

Eventually, the bridegroom arrives and I’m sure there would be a shout and the lookout would tell everybody as they see the family coming in the distance. The bride is going to be whisked away to be consecrated.

She’ll take a big ritual bath and not just practically to be ready for the ceremony, but spiritually. This is a ritual cleansing. The word consecrate means to “set apart”.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

<b>Susan Brown</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Jamie Heard</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Lee Manchester</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Deb Andrews</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Stu Armstrong</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Valerie Goodrich</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Phillip Newsome</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Bill Howard</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>Marilyn Pace</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Richard Averitt</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Anna Winter</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Lynne Hess</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Jon Rathke</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Dottie Winter</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Mike Smyser</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Marcia Winfield</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Bill Kampmeier</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Jewell-Ann Parton</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Jeri Engebretson</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Joan Bonheyo</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Sandi Averitt</b>	<b>29</b>



## Cont'd from Page 1

She is setting herself apart for this relationship. She's setting herself apart for this special holy sacred moment. She has consecrated herself and she's prepared. At that point, the shofar is sounded and that's when the ceremony gets started. The bride sometimes will even make an entrance. She comes in being carried on a chair but she'll make the entrance as the shofar is being sounded.

At that point, the couple is going to gather under what's called the *chuppah*. *While they stand under the chuppah, there's going to be the presentation of what's called the ketubah. The ketubah is a covenant and it's been prepared by the groom. It's usually 7, 10, 12 items that the groom is basically saying, "This is the foundation of a relationship. These are the main tenants that I want to build our marriage on." In the ancient world, the bride wasn't a part of making the ketubah, but she did get to accept or reject it. It was another one of those places where she could reject it.*

After the ceremony is done, there is the consummation of the wedding and then the party continues (There is so much "wedding talk" in the Bible- both the OT And the NT)

For example- God to Moses to tell the Israelites at Mt Sinai Exodus 19:5-6. *Now, if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations, you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be, for me, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*

Now, that phrase in the Hebrew, "my treasured possession," is wedding talk almost exclusively. That's what a groom calls his bride on their wedding day.

Now also consider Jesus' words in John 14. "My father's house has many rooms, if it were not so I would not have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you. If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." That's straight-up wedding talk right there. How about this one from Mark 13, "But about that day or hour, no one knows. Not even the angels in heaven, nor the sun, only the father." Talking about His return. He says, "I don't know the hour of my return, only the father knows."

Isn't that soooo neat!! As Easter fast approaches, consider if Jesus is our bridegroom what does that mean about our relationship with God and with Him? Where else do you see marriage talk in the Bible? You are Chosen and Loved.

Happy Easter! (Check out those BEMA podcasts!)  
~**Pastor Inger**

STW NEWSLETTER :

JAMIE HEARD

The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **May** newsletter is **Wednesday, April 23**. Anyone can submit a RPC related article.  
**Email:** rockfishpcus@gmail.com **Phone:** (434) 361-1221



While we continue our worship service schedule at 9:00 p.m. and 11 a.m., the younger children's Sunday School classes will meet during the 11:00 hour.

The Middle School Sunday School class will meet at 10:00 a.m.

The Adult Sunday School class also meets at 10:00 a.m.

Childcare is available for those who would like to attend the 10:00 Adult Sunday School class.

**We are looking for volunteers to help with childcare while parents have the opportunity to attend Adult Sunday School. Please call Jeri Engebretson at 757-561-3003 if you are interested. We hope to find enough volunteers so a volunteer would commit to one Sunday per month. Thanks so much for considering this!**

The Adult Sunday School class is doing a 6-week Lenten study that began on March 9th. It is entitled, "Seven Words: Listening To Christ From The Cross" by Susan Robb. Please come join us for this interesting discussion class.

Wednesday Bible study continues to meet at 11:30 a.m. This current study, led by Inger, is currently studying the book of Luke. All are welcomed to attend. The class meets in Room #5, across from the church office.

### Mission News

The next Missions Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 7th at 4:00 pm in the church library. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

For Easter, the Missions Committee is coordinating Easter food baskets for our community. Over 40 families in Nelson County will be receiving the ingredients for an Easter dinner from our church. The food baskets include ham, vegetables, fruit, jello, cornbread and dessert. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this project, It takes a village!!



The youth Sunday School class with the guidance of Stan Scott put together 70 hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Each kit contained a small towel, soap, toothpaste, nail clippers, wash cloth and band aids. The Missions Committee was able to help fund this project for the youth.

### Opportunities to Volunteer in our community:

Volunteers are needed at the Nelson County Heritage Center Food Pantry. The center is located on RT 29 past Lovingston at 1653 Thomas Nelson Hwy. Originally an African American school, it became a community center, 501c, in 2004. It has undergone extensive renovation and houses an auditorium, a gymnasium, a full kitchen, classrooms, and multi-purpose rooms.

The second Tuesday of each month is food pickup day and the packing and sorting of the groceries. Strong men are needed! The third Thursday of each month is delivery day from 9:00 - 11:00 am. when volunteers load carts and place the groceries in client's cars.



Coming soon - the 2025 Rockfish Presbyterian Church Pictorial Directory! Our church continues to grow, and it is time to update our directory to include new members and friends. We also would appreciate all individuals in the current directory to have new pictures taken, so that our final product is as up to date as possible.



Sign-up sheets are available in the Church Directory Sign-Up white notebook on the table in the Narthex. Choose a time to have your picture taken in the Fellowship Hall immediately after each service on one of the following dates: April 6th, April 13th, April 27th, or May 4th. Contact information sheets can be completed when you have your picture taken.

Points of contact for this update and any questions are Lynne Hess, 540-292-2307 or Rita Scott, 757-621-6092.

### Balcony Renovation Project

Did you ever have an idle thought while sitting in church, especially if sitting beneath the balcony, of how structurally sound that overhead structure might be? Well, our simple project of replacing carpet revealed an amazing historic structure, but one in need of a little support.

The balcony of our wonderful old church, built in 1854, was the place where slaves sat during the worship service. With their own stairway leading directly up the steps from that left hand door, I can envision the house slaves worshipping their Lord from their own space, separated, but in all ways equal in Gods eye.

When the old carpet was removed, we found what was, in all likelihood, the original floor planks, hammered into the ancient floor joists with square headed nails. The joists are large and wide and solid, but were spaced about 22 inches apart which led to a fair amount of movement in the floor when we walked across. Realizing that this was the time to make sure that the balcony stays put for another 200 years, the decision was made to hire a structural engineer and contractor who would add to the floor joists, firmly tie the front of the overhang to the front of the church, assure that the railing would remain solid by reinforcing with manufactured beams, and replace the subfloor with thick plywood. We were incredibly fortunate to find the team to do this work so quickly, who would respect the historic structure that we have inherited. (thank you Holy Spirit)

Now, with only a three week closure, we have a solid, non creaking, newly carpeted balcony ready to meet the demands of our ever growing little church.

Your Facilities Team



The Grounds Team will be meeting on Friday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the church library. All are invited to attend.

Easter hydrangea plant order forms with instructions are in the basket in the Narthex.  
 The price is \$20. Twenty plants are available for sale.



### Session Highlights 3-18-2025

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 pm with prayer. Elder Sandy Gallagher opened with devotion and prayer. Prayers were asked for Edie Wombolt for upcoming surgery, Allison Bell for upcoming surgery and TJ, Sandy's friend, who is not doing well on dialysis while waiting for a donor.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Inger Manchester reported the following: Jamie Heard suggested an update to the RPC history book from 1999 to present. If there are writers in the congregation who might be interested in this project, contact Jamie. Jamie Heard, Lynne Hess and Rita Scott are working on updating the church directory. Sign-up sheets will soon be available. Due to the increase of membership and parking issues, a change in service times, after Easter, was discussed. Information and method of polling of the congregation will be forthcoming.

#### CLERK'S REPORT:

- **Approved the minutes of the Stated Meeting of 2-18-25.**
- **Approved the minutes of the Called Session Meeting 3-8-25 with the following Amendment: Approval of up to \$300.00 weekly for musicians as Dr. Cynthia Ramsey, Director of Music, arranges including a fee for herself.**
- **Approved minutes of the Called Session Meeting 3-9-25.**
- **Approved ratification of email vote to approve use of the Sanctuary for an April concert for local piano teacher's students.**

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Dave Lawson presented the Monthly Financial Reports, I&E Statement and Balance Sheet. The church is in good financial condition. Dave gave a brief presentation on how unanticipated expenses and income will be handled and explained that in case of Session approved spending beyond the current budget year budget, this will be reflected in the appropriate committee/area money was spent, footnoting the reason for approval over current year budget.

#### MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) reported the team is working on worship times, music. Twenty new hymnals have arrived in memory of Charles Kingsley. Lenten Services continue on March 26<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30. On April 9<sup>th</sup> Peggy Watts Gupp will host a traditional Seder from the Jewish point of view. Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, and Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. One service on April 27<sup>th</sup> – Inger on vacation.
- Elder Nancy Johnson (Facilities Management Team) reported NEC has requested a third day, Fridays, to offer their clients beginning late spring, early summer. **MOTION to approve NEC's request to use RPC for a third day on Fridays. APPROVED.** Cushions have been cleaned, carpet installed, balcony should be available very soon if not already in use.
- Elder Jeri Engebretson (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported Middle age SS will meet at 10am and younger children's SS will meet at 11am. Volunteers are needed to help with childcare at 10:00am. This is for children whose parents are attending Adult Sunday School. Wednesday Bible Study meets at 11:30am. Current study is on the Book of Luke.
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported the Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Shipman, met with group and explained the purpose of the sanctuary and its care of animals. It is hoped RPC can become involved in different areas of services they provide. They need volunteers. Spring Yard/Bake sale, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Hope's Legacy Fund raiser September 27<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be needed to hide Easter eggs during the second Easter Service.
- Elder Kathy Kristiansen (Liaison Grounds Committee) reported a priority will be establishing a barrier for parking along the lane going north to Goodness Grows Garden and the Wood Ministry. Considering types of swings for older youth. Swings will be across the bridge and establish an upper playground. General grounds maintenance continues.

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 8:20 pm.

Next Stated Session Meeting April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Elder Nancy Johnson will have the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy LeGrow, Clerk

Membership = Active members – 190  
Affiliate members - 14





# April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 10:00 Christian Ed.	<b>2</b> 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Book Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group 5:30 Lenten Service	<b>3</b> 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 4:00 Grounds Team Meeting	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Five Cents a Meal Offering	<b>7</b> 10-2 Respite Care 2:30 Personnel Committee Meeting 3:00 Guitar Circle 4:00 Mission Team Meeting 6:00 Session Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:30 Outreach Ministry	<b>9</b> 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Book Discussion 3-5 Creating Art 5:30 Seder Service	<b>10</b> 3:00 Worship Committee 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Pack Pantry Bags for Kids 5:00 p.m. Pub Theology at Brewing Tree	<b>14</b> 10-2 Respite Care 3:00 Guitar Circle	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Scripture Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group	<b>17</b> 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir 5:30 Maundy Thursday	<b>18</b> 5:30 Good Friday Service	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 6:45 Easter Sunrise Service 9:00 Easter Worship Service 10:00 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Easter Worship Service	<b>21</b> 10-2 Respite Care 3:00 Guitar Circle	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Scripture Discussion 3-5 Creating Art <b>Spreading The Word Articles Due</b>	<b>24</b> 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Rockfish Community Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> Food Pantry Packing	<b>26</b> 9:00 a.m. Distribution at Food Pantry
<b>27</b> *10:00 Adult Sunday School *11:00 Single Worship Service Emergency Relief Offering *Times subject to change	<b>28</b> 10-2 Respite Care 3:00 Guitar Circle	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10-2 Respite Care 10:00 Wool and Grace 11:30 Scripture Discussion			