



Volume 26 Issue 5

## Spreading the Word

May 2025

Rockfish Presbyterian Church  
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Worship Service on Sunday Mornings at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.;

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

I've been thinking a lot about callings lately. God is active in each of our lives and asking us to do different things all for God's purpose. Sometimes the callings are comfortable and many times the calling is not. I am not convinced that God is very concerned with our comfort. In fact, maybe it is on our edges that we do our best work for the Lord.

The thing is when we are comfortable we tend to think we are the ones in control. I have been rereading the Old Testament and right now I am in 1 Samuel. Saul has been chosen as king and so far Saul has been trying to follow God (it is early on and God has been leading Israel into victory in battle so win win) But then Samuel the prophet is late showing up to guide Saul before a battle. So Saul takes things into his own hands and provides a burnt offering to the Lord. Seems good intentioned, right? Well - **13:13** And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. **14** But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him *to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.*"

My first reaction is, wow, harsh! But then I realized that it's not about what Saul wants or what I want - it is about the plans that the Lord has. And those plans are beyond our understanding. When we second guess or worse, move forward on our own without God, then we actually bring God's plan backwards.

So to bring this into today's world, we do know some things about how God desires God's plan to move forward. It is not through a warhorse but through a Lamb. It is not through the Empire but the Heavenly Kingdom. It is not through coercion but rather planting seeds. Our job is not to fix the world. Our job is to discern what the Spirit is placing in front of us to deal with. Love your neighbor. Love your enemy. Sacrifice yourself and your own will and pride so that you can serve the One who has the greater plan in mind. In the study we just finished "Luke In the Land" the author Kristi McLeland quoted a pastor she had heard once say "We gather to scatter to wash the feet of our cities".

Let us at Rockfish scatter!

God is good!

**~Pastor Inger**



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Ross Ruffing	02
Mary Jo Russell	02
Bill Hysell	07
Tucker Kirk	07
Michelle Richardson	07
Sam Eggleston	09
Peggy Toms	09
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
Jerry Wrenn	19
Morgan Newsome	20
Ute Kitching	22
Will Cameron	25
Cyndi McCabe	29



## Inger's Inklings

Oooh Summer is coming soon! Do you have a list of things you want to get done? I am feeling that I need to make a list! The summer flies away so quickly. On list- do some plein air painting, Put together a time at a retreat center in Crozet. Play some pickle ball, actually say on a Sunday to the congregation "meet me at the winery this afternoon", have church kids over for a fun afternoon at my house, go to the beach... and then check off my list. What's on your list? Let's not let summer escape us!

As we go go go- also let us take some time to revel in all the gifts we are being given. Find time each day for sabbath with God, listening and being in a state of gratefulness. There is so much to be grateful for! Stop, look, reflect, thank.

I am also looking forward to restarting the outdoor services- 8:30 am now! (You know you ARE awake at that time so check it out)

And then, of course, 10:30 inside. And the church garden will soon start producing! Fresh tomatoes... ahhh... nothing like them!

Truly so much to look forward to and to be thankful for! Be intentional. Time is fleeting. As we proclaim on Easter Morning- He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

~*Pastor Inger*

The Children's Community Choir will be taking a break for the summer. The last gathering for the school year will be May 8th at Buddy Martin's home. Parents are asked to bring a covered dish and drinks.



## STW NEWSLETTER :

JAMIE HEARD

The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **June/July** newsletter is **Thursday, May 23**.

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

**Children's Education -**

From now on, there will not be an early check-in in the Nursery, Pre-K - 2nd grade classroom. All children will come to their classes after the Children's Moment. Parents will be asked to pick their children up from Sunday School immediately after church.

There will be Adult Sunday School during the summer. The children will have childcare after the Children's Moment, doing crafts, etc. There will be no formal Sunday School. The Middle School class will not meet during the summer months.

**Youth Missions -**

Erin Harrison and Stan Scott have worked with the middle school class to prepare disaster packages for the Presbytery. Stan will deliver them to the storage point. Prior to the delivery, they will be blessed in a church service.

**"Food For Thought" Adult Sunday School Class -**

Beginning April 27th - July, this class will study "The Gospel of the 40 Days: From the Resurrection to Ascension" by Gordon Kenworthy Reed. All are welcome to join us in classroom #5, across from the office.

**Children's Food Pantry -**

The elementary children will continue packing snack packages for the Nelson County Food Bank during the summer. This will be on the second Sunday of the month.

**Tuesday Evening study -**

There will be no more Tuesdays Together until the fall when we continue with the Chosen series.

**Wednesday study -** Inger is planning another 6-week study at 11:30 before summer.

Submitted by

**Jeri Engebretson,**

Christian Ed Chairperson

**Mission News**

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Easter food bags. RPC was able to distribute the ingredients for a wonderful Easter dinner to 49 families in Nelson County who were in need. Thank you everyone who shopped, organized, filled the bags, hauled hams all over the church or prayed for this project. Every person who received a food bag appreciated food.

The next Missions Committee meeting will be on Monday, May 5th at 4 pm in the church library. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be discussing the Head Start backpacks project, Prison Ministry and Mission Fair among other items.





## Easter Sunday at RPC

Our church family is such a blessing and our coffee hour on Easter Sunday was evidence of the kindness, generosity and joyfulness we share. There are so many people who contributed foods! It was wonderful to see the variety and creativity of our congregation!

Special thanks are in order for our time together. Tim and Lynne Hess were instrumental in preparing for the coffee hour, helping facilitate the replenishing of food and drinks and then taking leftovers to the firehouse. Special thanks also go to Jamie and Bill Heard, Kathy Watkins-Richardson, Charlotte Chapman and Barb Fenton for their organizational insight and beautiful flower arrangements. Additional thanks to Sue Fulton, our ever-present thoughtful organizer! And thanks to Amelia and Kyle McCulley, Carol Lemons, Stan Scott and Jennifer Tucker who were masterful in clean-up and returning our space into its multipurpose usefulness. I am humbled by the support and commitment of each and every one of you.



In gratitude to you all,

***~Ginny and Al Simpson***

## Easter 2025

What a wonderful celebration we had! He is Risen! Thank you to Bill Hamre for showing up for 6:45 and sharing your talents with us. Forty-five people celebrated. Then at both 9 and 11 the choir was incredible! A big thank you to Cynthia for corralling all the talent and to the choir for spending the whole morning with us. I was told our attendance from all three services broke our attendance records. God is good!

And how absolutely wonderful were the children?! They told the story with joy and enthusiasm all thanks to the hard work of Kathie DeFusco. And the set? Connie Underwood, of course! To be followed by the fun Easter Egg hunt- thanks to all the contributors we had eggs all over the place. So much fun!



Finally a big thank you to Ginny Simpson and her crew for the wonderful Easter brunch between services. As always the congregation showed up with all the deliciousness and everything looked so beautiful.

We are so blessed. Happy Eastertide!



## Session Highlights 4-7-2025

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 6:00pm with prayer. Elder Nancy Johnson opened with devotion and prayer. Prayers were asked for continued healing for Mike Chambers and a swift recovery from knee surgery.

### CLERK'S REPORT:

- **Approved the minutes of the Stated Meeting of 3-18-25.**
- **MOTION, first and seconded, to hold a Congregational Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am service to approve the Class of 2028. APPROVED.**

### NEW BUSINESS:

Session Members discussed the change in service times to accommodate growing church attendance.

- **MOTION: First and Seconded, to hold two church services – First Service at 8:30am, Second Service at 10:30am. The 8:30am (First service) will be held outside weather permitting. Change in service times will begin May 4<sup>th</sup>. Adult and Middle School Sunday School times will be at 9:30am. Children's Sunday School will be held at 10:30am. APPROVED.** Poll results will be available to church members.
- **MOTION from Personnel: Compensate the Music Director with a stipend per Sunday worked, when the early (First Service) is held inside. APPROVED.**

### MINISTRY TEAM REPORT:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) reported need of Ushers for both services. She will reach out to new members of the congregation. Handouts will be available outlining the Yard/Bake Sale information and guidelines for participation.
- Elder Mary Hopkins (Congregational Life Liaison) presented the following **MOTION: There will be a Fellowship Hour following the 10:30am service but not following the 8:30am service during the summer months. APPROVED.**

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 7:00pm.

Next Stated Session Meeting Tuesday, 5-20-25 at 7:00 PM, in the Library. Elder Joe Steele will have the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Cathy LeGrow, Clerk*

Membership = Active members – 190  
Affiliate members - 14





## May 2025

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