

— August 2025 —

Spreading the Word

Welcome as you are, where you are.

Volume 26, Issue 8



**INSIDE,
WE ALSO
TALK
ABOUT:**

Missions

Education

Session
Highlights



Rockfish Presbyterian Church

The Tale of Two Kingdoms

by Pastor Inger

You all know how much I am enthralled with studying the Bible along with the BEMA podcast. Many of you are listening now. I continue to recommend it. Here is the website- <https://www.bemadiscipleship.com/> or you can download it as a podcast.

I want to share what I found really helpful—thinking about Empire vs Shalom.

BEMA E 72 Session 2 Transcript

This is how God sets the stage with these key components in teaching us how to see the world through his eyes and then he starts the narrative. We call the narrative of the tale of two kingdoms, Empire versus Shalom.

Continued...

Two Kingdoms, continued...

Brent: Empire is the idea that I am the most important. I need what I need and I'll push down whoever is around me to get it, to make sure my desires are satisfied, and it doesn't matter what that means for anyone else. Whereas Shalom is a posture of self-sacrifice. I'll give up whatever I have to make sure those around me have what they need.

Marty: That's the thing that puts the world back together, so to speak. That's going to be what God's story is all about from Exodus to the book of Revelation. We're going to find it doesn't really change. It's just always this battle, this tension between the way the worldview, the paradigm of Empire and the worldview and paradigm of Shalom and

*...this is a choice we
continue to make over
and over again.*

that starts in the book of Exodus where God rescues a partner, he's looking for a partner, and this partner is under the boot of Empire and so he rescues them from Egypt and the story of the plagues he takes into Mount Sinai and there's a huge wedding.

End transcript

Ok, of course there is more to this discussion. Listen to BEMA! However, I think this is really helpful because this is a choice we continue to make over and over again. Will we choose Empire; fear, inward looking, me first?

Or will we choose the path that God has recommended from the OT through to the NT and until today. The path of Shalom; generosity, neighbor first, peace, forgiveness. There really is nothing new under the sun, is there? The choice is ours everyday. Which will lead to the world we want to live in? I think the answer is clear.

Shalom, Inger

*Thank
you*

We give thanks to God for Jamie Heard's faithful service to Rockfish Presbyterian Church for 17 years as the Church Admin. She effortlessly managed many aspects of RPC life, from the bulletins and newsletters to assisting the pastor and members with information and support. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Jamie!



Over the past 17 years, Jamie folded approximately 114,055 bulletins!
"No more paper cuts. Yay!"

Mission Notes

Lynne Carson, a long time member of RPC and the Mission Committee recently had lunch with Bill Iverson In Chicago. While in this congregation Lynne led Mission for a number of years, sang in the choir, and spent a great deal of time as a local hands-on activist driving people to doctor appointments and grocery stores.

Despite her relocation in 2023 with her husband Chuck to be near her daughter in Chicago, she is still active in Nelson County, writing grant applications for Unity in Community. Inger announced at church last Sunday that her husband has gone into Hospice. Mission would like to encourage the congregation to reach out to Lynne. Lynne's contact info is: 540-256-7823, braemhor@gmail.com, 2960 North Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 3701, Chicago, IL 60657

Pastor Leon, with Haiti Outreach Ministries, will come to RPC the second weekend in September to speak about the program and the school it supports in Haiti. Look for more information in August.

The first weekend in November, Mission will host a Mission Fair featuring the agencies and programs this church supports. Look for more information in August.

Thank you to everyone who bought a **Christmas in July raffle** ticket for the beautiful nativity scenes that were donated by Olivia and Steve Ellis. The money will be used for Mission programs.

The next Mission Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 4 at 4:00pm in the church library. Everyone is welcome.

Backpack Blessing

A total of 64 backpacks will be delivered to the elementary schools in Nelson County the first week in August. Of these, 17 will go the Rockfish River Elementary School Head Start program, Tye River Elementary School will receive 17 for their Head Start program, 20 will go to the VPI program, and 10 will go to the ECSC preschool children.

Members of the Blue Ridge Respite Enrichment Program (formerly NEC) helped to pack the backpacks.



Youth Missions

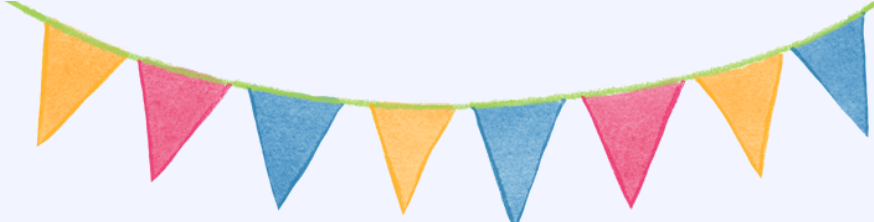
Kids for Kids

The children's LEMONADE STAND raised enough money to **purchase 4 goats for the Kid for Kid program**, which gives goats to children in Haiti to raise for their families. The children were amazed they were able to purchase 4 goats!!!



Jennell Charles who works with **La Gonave Haiti Partners** came and spoke to the children about life in Haiti and the program that matches children with a goat. Thank you to everyone who supported the children in this mission project.





Education News

“Food For Thought” Adult Sunday School Class —

Beginning the first week in August, the adult Sunday School class will begin the study *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton. An email has been sent out to parents of children to invite them to participate in this class. If we have at least three families interested, childcare will be provided for the children including a simple breakfast. All are welcome to attend this class. It will enrich your spiritual development and friendships.

Pastor Leon, from Haiti —

On Sunday, September 14th, Pastor Leon will speak to our Sunday School class.

Children’s Food Pantry —

The children will continue to pack bags for the food closet. They will be thinking about something extra to put in the bags. The congregation will be asked to donate items for this cause.

Tuesdays Together Evening Study —

August 19th will be the kickoff of resuming our Tuesdays Together. We will begin with a potluck dinner and begin watching the next season of *The Chosen*. We will meet from 5:30-7:30.

Land of Israel, Wednesdays at 11:30 —

Inger will continue the study *That the World May Know* by Ray Vander Laan. This Wednesday study will continue throughout the fall.



Volunteers

In the next couple of weeks volunteers will be contacted to assist our paid teachers to help with children’s Sunday School. Linda Williams and Stan Scott will continue to work with Erin with the middle school class (grades 5-8).

We are seeking more volunteers to help with the children’s Sunday School. If you are interested, there are forms on the narthex table to fill out to be vetted. Please turn in forms to Trae in the office and she will take care of the vetting process.



Session Highlights

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 pm with prayer. Elder Kathy Kristiansen opened with devotion and prayer. Prayers were asked for Phil DeFusco for the passing of his brother and for his brother's family, prayers of healing for Nancy Johnson, Joanne Muse, Nan Varnadoe after their recent surgeries, Bob Rolston for his battle with two forms of cancer and the recent flood victims and their families.

PASTOR'S REPORT: There was discussion regarding the need of a new computer for the Office Administrator and the need for advanced computer capabilities churchwide. Session agreed that Elders Kevin Tucker and Amelia McCulley will research the church's needs and the IT technology needed to upgrade churchwide. They will discuss their findings with Ken Engebretson and coordinate the purchase of a new computer with the review of the church's overall IT needs. The need for a new swing set was discussed. Session members requested further information regarding the cost of a professional grade set and the pieces of equipment it would include. A **MOTION** was made to accept the Anti-racism policy from the Book of Order for Rockfish Presbyterian Church. **MOTION APPROVED** with punctuation revisions.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- **Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of 6-17-25.**
- **Approved the minutes of the RPC, Inc. Annual Meeting of 6-17-25.**
- **Approved the minutes of the Called Session Meeting of 7-13-25.**
- **Approved email ratification approving Wendy Culberson as Dispersing Treasurer of Kid Care/RPC amending Motion passed June 17, 2025.**

Continued...



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH? Meet Inger in the library after church on the first Sunday of the month. Interested in becoming a member? Let Inger know. Session meets the second Sunday of every month to receive new members.

Nuggets, water balloons and popsicles were a summertime hit!



Session Highlights continued

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Stewardship Committee did not meet in July. Elder Harris Luscomb reported the church remains in good financial condition.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) There will be a Blessing of Animals on August 10th **at the 8:30 am Service only**. Church members may bring their pets to the outdoor service for blessings.
- Elder Kathy Kristiansen (Liaison Grounds Committee) Drainage has been repaired and the tree screen has been replaced.
- Elder Jeri Engebretsen (Christian Education Ministry Team) Report. The children continue with their lemonade stand through July to support the “Kid for a Kid” program. On September 14th, Pastor Leon from Haiti, will speak to the Adult Sunday School Class. August 19th will be the kickoff of resuming Tuesdays Together. We will begin with a potluck supper and begin watching Season 4 of The Chosen. We will meet from 5:30 – 7:30pm. The study “That the World May Know” by Ray VanderLeen will continue on Wednesday mornings throughout the fall.

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 7:45 pm.

Next Stated Session Meeting August 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Elder Dave Lawson will have the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy LeGrow, Clerk

Membership — Active Members – 193, Affiliate Members – 14

August Birthdays

Mary Hopkins	03
Al Gale	04
Glenda MacNeil	04
Ella Nicks	05
Josie Ruffing	07
Sandy Gallagher	08
Mimi Toro	09
Mary Gurr	12
Ann Iverson	14
Nan Varnadoe	14
Harris Luscomb	16
John Pace	18
Ed Misker	21
Aurelia Thibault	23
Kathy Watkins	23
Rob Ogilvie	24
Ross Simmons	24
Gayle Ernst	26
Jeanne Lawson	26
Carolyn Frahm	27
Marit Toombs	27
Morgan Toombs	27
Nancy Small	28
Martha Misker	30
Matt Thomas	30



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Office Hours
Tue & Thur 9-1, Wed 9-12, 1-2

Pastor Inger O. Manchester
704-252-0924
rpcimanchester@gmail.com

Join us for worship

Sundays 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School & Middle
School 9:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School during
10:30 Service

Worship services are recorded
and available via [YouTube](#).



August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:30am - Worship 10:30am - Worship	28 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle	29	30 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace	31	1	2
3 5 Cents a Meal offering 8:30am - Worship 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Fellowship Hour	4 10am - Respite Care 2:30pm - Personnel Meeting 3pm - Guitar Circle 4pm - Mission Meeting	5 10am - Education Meeting	6 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel	7	8	9
10 8:30am - Animal Blessing 8:30am - Worship 10am - Food Pantry pack 10:30am - Worship	11 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle 5pm - Stewardship Meeting	12 9:30am - Outreach Meeting	13 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel	14 3pm - Worship Meeting	15	16
17 Children's Choir begins Children's Sunday School 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - School 10:30am - Worship	18 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle	19 5:30pm - Tues Together 7pm - Session	20 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel	21	22	23
24 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - School 10:30am - Worship	25 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle	26 5:30pm - Tues Together	27 Inger Vacation STW Newsletter articles due 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel	28	29	30 9am - Food Pantry
31 Inger Vacation Emergency Relief offering 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - School 10:30am - Worship	1 Labor Day 10am - Respite Care 2:30pm - Personnel Meeting 3pm - Guitar Circle 4pm - Mission Meeting	2 10am - Education Meeting 5:30pm - Tues Together	3 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel	4	5	6

Inger's Inklings

by Pastor Inger



I am not ready for Fall, are you? Although my heart did skip a beat when I saw the pumpkin spice coffee in the coffee aisle. I just wonder why we rush everything! We need to be better at living in the moment and enjoying whatever is happening now. How often do we wait, look forward to, worry about, plan for things and lose all the time which we could be actively enjoying.

God knows us so well- Jesus told us, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34

I have a friend who was told that they only have 5-6 weeks left on earth, and they have discontinued all treatment. This is a person I knew 30 years ago when our kids were small and played together in Marshfield, Mass. Now, each day he posts something positive. He prefaces with, "I am still here. Today I enjoyed a strawberry shortcake made by Ellen," and a picture of the cake. The next day he posted a chocolate ganache cake with homemade vanilla ice cream made by another friend. Etc, etc. It has been every day, a new dessert made by another friend. And I am thinking- wow!

Look at this joy that Tony is having in the simple things of homemade desserts and friendships and family. He may only have a few more weeks to live, but he is living full of appreciation and focus on the good, or as the young woman Brooke Elby wrote, "living in dog years." Making the time count.

What lesson might we draw from this? How can we appreciate each and every day as a gift? Fill it with the stuff of life? Faith, love, deliciousness, friendship, forgiveness, focusing on spreading joy, reveling in this beautiful place we call our home.

**Therefore do not worry
about tomorrow, for
tomorrow will worry
about itself.**

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

All praises to God for all of the little gifts all around us. May we have eyes and a heart to see them!

Amen,
Pastor Inger