

— November 2025 —

Spreading the Word

Welcome as you are, where you are.

Volume 26, Issue 11



*Pastor Leon from Haiti joined us for
World Communion Sunday*

INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

CARE BEAR PROGRAM

MISSIONS

FACILITIES

EDUCATION

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



**Rockfish Presbyterian
Church**

How to Practice Christian Discernment in the Age of Algorithms

by Pastor Inger

As I was driving back and forth to see grandchildren Ava and Daniel in Charlotte, I had 8 hours in the car. So I listened to podcasts and discovered another one that I have enjoyed. It's called the *Church Politics* podcast. Who would guess I would like that? In any case, the podcast strives to look at happenings through a biblical and faithful view.

The hosts, Justin Gibony and Chris Butler begin by saying, "This is the *Church Politics* podcast, where you can get political commentary from a biblical worldview. We're not trying to be conservative or progressive; we're trying to be Christian in the public square."

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-church-politics-podcast/>

The particular episode that I heard was "How to Practice Christian Discernment in the Age of Algorithms" from Oct 7. Here are some highlights I feel are worth

Continued...

Algorithms, continued...

considering: The hosts discussed how we process information.

“But one thing I have found is that there doesn't seem to be any real rigorous process for sifting through the information we use as we step into these major controversies. Right? The only filter I really see is people considering whether or not the details as presented go along with their narrative.

“So, does this fit my narrative or not? And I'll base my opinion on that. We're not sitting down for the most part and scrutinizing the information and digging deeper and questioning our sources.

“But I think as Christians, that's something we need to do. I see a lot of folks going from 0 to 60 on these major issues based on half information and based on the word or a viral clip from some tribal voice or some otherwise biased voice that should not be trusted. And that's extremely problematic and unfaithful coming from Christians, especially those who know they are influencing others.”

The host then goes on to quote Dr. O. Alan Noble (Associate Professor of English at Oklahoma Baptist University), author of the article **“What Does a Post-Literate Culture Look Like?”** Noble starts with some research.

What Does a Post-Literate Culture Look Like?

I guess we'll find out

O. ALAN NOBLE
OCT 03, 2025

88 6 30

Share



He explains how researchers from University College in London and the University of Florida examined national data and found that the share of people who reported reading for pleasure on a given day fell to 16 percent in 2023 from a peak of 28 percent in 2004—a drop of about 40 percent.

Based on those numbers, Noble asks us this question. What kind of future are we walking into where citizens and believers no longer read regularly? What effect will this have on our communities and on our ways of life?

He goes on to explain that in our democracy, we are inundated with contrary claims about issues that matter. Our task is to sift through those claims and come to the truth as best we can and then vote and otherwise advocate for justice and truth and goodness. This is only going to get harder.

continued...

Algorithms, continued...

Noble says it's a tragedy that in the midst of this epistemological crisis – a crisis where there is no agreed upon reality – where no one seems to be able to agree on what happened and when, let alone if what happened was moral, we now have the rise of the most powerful tool of deception humans have ever created – artificial intelligence.

Noble says, and this is important, “the need for slow, careful, contemplative, prudent judgments will only increase, but the ecology of a post-literate culture will push us away from these things and toward emotive, intuitive, passionate mob responses.”

Inger speaking – Good stuff, right? Wow! I feel this is such a real problem. Our attention spans are shrinking. We are easily led into only taking in information that already agrees with our opinions.

Algorithms push information at us. AI is a whole other issue; what is real? What to do as a Christ follower? (Silent scream into the universe.) Here are some ideas:

First, recognize that you may not know the whole story and be willing to do some research. Remember the Pharisees who thought they understood everything?

Second, consider yourself and how you are reacting. That is what you can control. Are the fruits of the Spirit present?

Third, and most importantly, pray. God really does have this. Nothing can separate you or your neighbor from God's love. God has already won the battle and has a plan for your participation in the Kingdom plans.

Breathe. Smile. Listen. Pray. Read. Participate. Look for the Joy. You have one life to live. Live it with abundance and grace!

Amen,
Pastor Inger

Some Advice from an Old Man



Be physically strong so you can live longer
Be mentally strong so you can think clearly and reason well
Be morally strong so you can be wise and act with justice
Be spiritually strong so you can always be close to God

Be kind so you will live a peaceful life
Be generous so you will live a bountiful life
Be joyful so you will find joy everywhere
Be loving so your life will be filled with love

Be not harsh or rude so you will be close to family and friends
Be not angry or cruel so you will live without enemies
Be not selfish or self-indulgent so you will see the needs of others
Be not willful or arrogant so you will walk humbly with your God

– Dave Lawson



Care Bear Program 2025



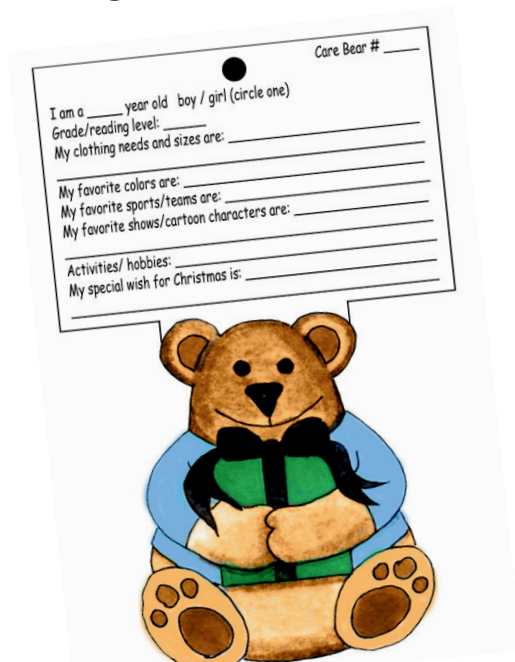
*Help give Nelson County children
a brighter Christmas.*

Our church will be receiving a total of 70 wish lists from the Nelson County Head Start Programs, Tye River Elementary School and Rockfish River Elementary School.

You can select Care Bear gift tags for three weeks from the tree, which will be set up in the narthex beginning November 23.

Gift tags may be selected on the following three Sundays: **November 23, November 30 and December 7.** Please be sure to sign up for the Care Bear tag number you have chosen (located on the top right corner of the gift tag)!

You are asked to limit your total purchases to \$75.00, and to purchase a clothing item and an educational toy, book or game.



Suggestions have been provided on the Care Bear tag, but not all suggestions need to be purchased.

Please do not wrap the gifts, and place them in a sturdy gift bag. No receipts are necessary; you may leave the price tag attached to a clothing item in case it needs to be exchanged. Please securely attach the Care Bear tag you had removed from the tree to the outside of the gift bag.

Return your gifts in the gift bag by 11 AM on Sunday, December 14. They will be distributed to the schools the following week.

If you wish to participate in the Care Bear program but are not able to do the shopping yourself, please let Wendy know that you would like to contribute \$75 to cover the cost of a Care Bear child. You may place your check in the offering plate, and designate in the memo line "For Care Bear program."

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Care Bear program. You can be assured that your gifts will make the holidays much happier for these children and their families.

If you have any questions about the Care Bear program or would like to assist, contact Wendy Culberson 703-307-6382 wendy@ronculberson.com.

Mission Notes

Join us for the **Mission Fair on Sunday, Nov. 2**, in the social hall after both services to learn about the good work we support in our community. Tables and representatives from more than 27 organizations will be here to talk about the nature of their organizations and their impact in Nelson County and the surrounding area.

The next **Missions Committee meeting** is **Monday, Nov. 3 at 4 PM** in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be planning for the Thanksgiving food bag distribution and looking at plans for next year. Please join us!

Thank you to everyone who helped pack candy bags for Camp LIGHT in Waynesboro. We enjoyed seeing their facilities and learning more about their camp.

Dana Ogilvie, Co-chair
Mission team



Youth Missions

The children's Sunday School class is requesting that the **congregation help them collect full size bottles of shampoo or body wash** to put in food bags for December. Each month the children fill 100 food bags with snacks for distribution to children at the Nelson County Food Pantry. There is a collection box in the narthex. Thank you!

Looking for a place to volunteer?



The Nelson County Food Pantry at 9890 Thomas Nelson Hwy in Lovingson (next to St. Mary's Catholic Church) is always looking for extra help. They are a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization. They provide food to about 800 Nelson County residents each month. On average 100 volunteers help each month, and they are always looking for more. Help fill food boxes the morning before distribution or on distribution day. Linda Williams and Leslie Buchanan have volunteered for years and can answer questions. Learn more at <https://nelsoncountypantry.org/>

Facilities Updates

Not too much happening around RPC... which I think is great news! However, there have been some projects going on and some upcoming.

Ken Engebretson and Jim Wright completed the **repair of the outer right Sanctuary door** this past month. I don't know if Jim is a certified Master Carpenter, but his craftsmanship is just beautiful. So glad to have him and Ken on board for these projects. Both sides had shown evidence of rot from rain runoff and just age.

Cheryl Borgmann and her Grounds team had the **Dogwoods in front of the doors trimmed back** to reduce rain drip on the entrance and hopefully that will help going forward. We still have a little cleanup work to do out there, which we will complete this month.



The parking light timer for the back has been replaced ... Just in time, pretty dark out now and will be even darker next week!. Thanks to Bruce Ward Electric.

With some routine maintenance and painting this summer, we noticed that **the RPC sign out front** has met its end of service. We have gotten several bids for replacement, just awaiting approval of session... (We are over budget, that balcony busted it!). Should see a new sign soon just like what we have at present. (Session approved new sign.)

Nancy M Johnson
Facilities Chair

Everyone enjoyed a gorgeous fall evening at Kathryn and Mike's for the October church social...





Education News

If you have not done so, a quick **reminder to all volunteers** to resubmit forms for being cleared to work with our children. This needs to be done every three years. Those who need an update have been notified.

On September 28th, Inger began the BEMA class with young adults.

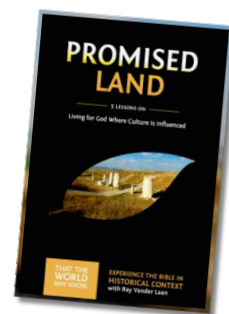
The group meets at her house on Sunday afternoons. Childcare is provided in her yard. The next meeting is Nov. 30.

RPC hopes to establish a **Youth Group** by 2027.

“Tuesdays Together” has completed the season of *The Chosen*. The group will meet again in the spring when the next season is available.

“Food For Thought” Adult Sunday School Class is continuing the book *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton through February 8. The class has begun looking at follow-on books to study. The class welcomed Pastor Leon to lead on Oct. 5. The middle school class joined for his presentation.

Inger is continuing to offer the series ***That The World May Know*** on Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30. This is a film series by Ray Vander Laan followed by discussion.



Jeri Engebretson
Christian Education Chair



Advent Begins on Nov. 30!

It's hard to believe that Advent begins on November 30! **After the 10:30 church service on November 23, we again will have the “Hanging of the Greens.”** We invite everyone to the library after the service to participate in decorating the sanctuary for the Advent season. Directions will be on each item so you will know exactly what to do. When we all help out, this process only takes a very short time! Thanks in advance for your help!



Session Highlights

10-21-25

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:30 PM with prayer. Elder Amelia McCulley opened with devotion and prayer. Prayers were asked for Valerie Goodrich with the removal of her breathing tube and also for Lee. For the new AL-ANON program at the church.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Inger gave an update on the AL-ANON program at the church. Three people have been attending.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- **Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of 8-19-25.**
- **Approved motion to combine November & December Session meetings to meet on November 18.**
- **Approved Elders Jeri Engebretson and Kevin Tucker to serve as Commissioners for the POJ Called meeting on Nov. 13.**

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Dave Lawson reported the church remains in good financial condition. Giving is continuing to exceed expenditures.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) **MOTION: To grant Pastor Inger a planned last vacation day off either Nov. 16 or Nov. 23 dependent on her confirmation of the correct date regarding a supply pastor. APPROVED.** **MOTION: To keep Christmas Eve Services the same as last year, first service at 4:00 PM (including children focus) and second service at 6:00 PM. APPROVED.** Decorating the church for Advent on November 23 after the second service. The Outdoor 8:30 AM service will move indoors on November 2. Committee still seeking new members.
- Elder Nancy Johnson (Facilities Management) – **MOTION: To approve purchase of the MS 365 Personal Software for the church office. APPROVED. MOTION: To approve replacement of the Rockfish Presbyterian Church sign exceeding the Facilities 2025 budget for the purchase. APPROVED.**
- Elder Jeri Engebretson (Christian Education Ministry Team) – BEMA class with young adults next meets Nov. 30 at Pastor Inger's house. "Hanging of the Greens" will take place after the 10:30 service on November 23.
- Elder Jeri Engebretson (Liaison Outreach Ministry) – Reported \$5,000 raised for Hope's Legacy. Next year's date has already been set for Sept. 26, 2026. Twenty care bags were given and well-received by IV Infusion patients at Martha Jefferson Hospital. Twenty care bags will again be given in the spring to patients at MJH and UVA.

Continued...

Session Highlights continued

- Elder Phil DeFusco (Liaison Missions Ministry Team) – Missions has scheduled a Missions Fair for Nov. 2 from 9:30 AM until noon in the Fellowship Hall. Twenty-seven local organizations will be attending the Missions Fair, which will give the congregation the opportunity to learn more about these organizations and how they are impacting our local community. The Committee is working with the Wood Ministry, Nelson Co. Schools, JABA and Unity in Community in gathering names of local families in need of Thanksgiving food bags which will be distributed Nov. 22. The Care Bear program is coming up in late November/early December.

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 8:10 PM.

Next Stated Session Meeting November 18 at 7:00 PM in the Library.
Elder Jeri Engebretson will have the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy LeGrow, Clerk

Membership:
Active Members – 193
Affiliate Members – 14



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.

November Birthdays

SOPHIE OGILVIE 04

STACY RUSH 04

DONNA KIRK 05

LESLIE BUCHANAN 12

GAIL HASSON 12

KATHRYN HUMPHREY-
CHAMBERS 13

DAVE LAWSON, 13

NANCY CLARK 14

MIKE FISHER 14

EVANGELINE SIEBERT 19

CARTER ASHER 23

MALLORY HELLER 23

VIRGINIA HOLMES 25

KELLAN SIEBERT 27

EDIE WOMBOLT 29

LIAM YEATMAN 30



The respite group's Team Superheros at the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Charlottesville

Rockfish Presbyterian Church
Mail: P.O. Box 278
Visit: 5016 Rockfish Valley Hwy
Nellysford, VA 22958

434-361-1221
rockfishpcus@gmail.com
www.rockfishpresbyterian.org

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 AM

Adult Sunday School & Middle
School 9:30 AM

Children's Sunday School during
10:30 AM Service

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

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Prayer Out Emergency Relief offering 9:30am - Adult & Middle Sunday School 10:30am - Children's Sunday School 10:30am - Worship	27 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle	28	29 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel discussion	30 1pm - Al-Anon @ Classroom #5 3:30pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir 5:30pm - Chancel Choir	31 Halloween 10am - Respite Care	1
2 Daylight Saving Time ends Mission Fair 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult & Middle Sunday School 10:30am - Children's Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 3pm - Trick-or-Treat Party @ 473	3 10am - Respite Care 2:30pm - Personnel Meeting 3pm - Guitar Circle 4pm - Mission Meeting	4 Election Day 10am - Education Meeting 6pm - Beekeepers Meeting	5 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel discussion	6 1pm - Al-Anon @ Classroom #5 3:30pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir 5:30pm - Chancel Choir	7 10am - Respite Care	8
9 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult & Middle Sunday School 10am - Food Pantry pack 10:30am - Children's Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Ornament making 5pm - Pub Theology at Brewing Tree	10 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle 5pm - Stewardship Meeting	11 Veterans Day 9:30am - Outreach Meeting 12:30pm - Master Gardeners	12 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel discussion	13 1pm - Al-Anon @ Classroom #5 3pm - Worship Meeting 3:30pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir 5:30pm - Chancel Choir	14 10am - Respite Care	15
16 WINTER OUT 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult & Middle Sunday School 10:30am - Children's Sunday School 10:30am - Worship	17 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle	18 7pm - Session	19 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel discussion	20 1pm - Al-Anon @ Classroom #5 3:30pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir 5:30pm - Chancel Choir	21 10am - Respite Care	22
23 Hanging of the Greens 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult & Middle Sunday School 10:30am - Children's Sunday School 10:30am - Worship	24 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle	25	26 STW Newsletter articles due 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel discussion	27 Thanksgiving Day 1pm - Al-Anon @ Classroom #5 3:30pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir 5:30pm - Chancel Choir	28 Black Friday 10am - Respite Care	29 9am - Food Pantry distribution
30 Advent Begins 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult & Middle Sunday School 10:30am - Children's Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 3pm - BEMA discussion group	1 10am - Respite Care 2:30pm - Personnel Meeting 3pm - Guitar Circle 4pm - Mission Meeting	2 10am - Education Meeting	3 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel discussion 5:30pm - Advent Service	4 1pm - Al-Anon @ Classroom #5 3:30pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir 5:30pm - Chancel Choir	5 10am - Respite Care	6

Inger's Inklings

by Pastor Inger



Mark your calendars for the season of Advent

As we move forward into the **Advent season** and have a few new folks, I thought I would give a synopsis of the season at Advent 2025—mark your calendars!

Beginning Nov 2, the 8:30 service will move inside for the winter.

Cynthia will lead the music for the service and it will mirror the 10:30 service with hymns, minus the choir and children's time. Communion will be held monthly. Various musicians will cover the anthem. Come and give it a try!

Nov 2 Mission Fair—come see all the organizations that our church supports. Also **Trick or Treat Trail** at the Manchester's home, 3-4 PM (473 Lakeland Lane, Faber) A fun Sunday!

Nov 9 Ornament making fun!

Following 10:30 AM service. Bring a glue gun (if you have one) and join us—we have a tradition to give out handmade ornaments on Christmas Eve.

Nov 23 Hanging of the Greens—all invited to help decorate the sanctuary after the 10:30 service.

Nov 30 ADVENT BEGINS! Advent Devotions are being sent out. You don't even have to write this year! Make the devotion part of your day, it will remind you why we celebrate.

Midweek Wednesday services Dec 3, Dec 10 and Dec 17 at 5:30 PM – quiet, candlelit. Refocus

Dec 7 Fun Sock Exchange Party!

After 10:30 service—bring wrapped socks labeled “male,” “female,” or “either” for lots of laughter and joy! Leave with some fun socks.

Dec 14 Wintergreen Wonderland Concert held at our church. Get your tickets for a musical treat!

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services

- 4:00 PM Service with Children's nativity
 - 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
- Both include Silent Night with candles*

Jan 4 Epiphany Celebrated! The coming of the Magi and Star words are given out for the New Year 2026!

Whew! God is good!
Much happiness,
Pastor Inger