



February 2026

Spreading the Word

Welcome as you are, where you are.

Volume 27, Issue 2

Lent & Easter Services

Feb 18, 5:30 PM

Ash Wednesday

Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 5:30 PM

Wednesdays of Lent

Mar 25, 5:30 PM

Passover Seder

with Peggy Watts Gup

Mar 29, 8:30 and 10:30 AM

Palm Sunday

Apr 2, 5:30 PM

Maundy Thursday

Apr 3, 5:30 PM

Good Friday

Apr 5

6:30 AM sunrise outdoor

9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Easter Sunday

NOTE time changes for Easter services from our regular Sunday Worship Service schedule.



Rockfish Presbyterian Church

Where is God When God's people cry out?

by Pastor Inger

That has always been the question. It still is. Where was God when the Israelites for years were treated harshly as slaves in Egypt? There was a plan unfolding. Where was God when Job continued to suffer, "I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer; I stand up, but you just look at me." (Job 30:20) There was a plan unfolding. Where was God when David cried to God in distress as Saul hunted him? There was a plan unfolding. Where was God when the people took Jesus and beat Him, hung Him on a cross? There was and still is a plan unfolding.

Biblically we KNOW that God hears the cries of the oppressed, of those in pain, of those being martyred. Even when we might feel we are crying into the void, God

Continued...

The Community Childrens's Choir shared their talents at Summit Square Retirement Community in Waynesboro. Lots of smiles!



Where is God, continued...

hears. Cry to God. There IS a plan unfolding. Let us be a part of the voice that turns to God in our afflictions rather than to hate or violence. Speak up for injustice but do so calmly knowing we speak for truth and peace, for justice and mercy. Do not allow our hearts to harden, but instead to remain soft enough to allow the Spirit to guide us. The Holy Spirit IS here with us. Quiet yourself to hear the still voice.

Turn to scripture when you need courage and strength to face this loud, loud world. The Psalms are always a good place to start.

Psalm 10:12-18

Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless. Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, "He won't call me to account"? But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. Break the arm of the wicked man; call the evildoer to account for his wickedness that would not otherwise be found out. The Lord is King forever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. You, Lord, hear the

Turn to scripture when you need courage and strength to face this loud, loud world.

desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.

Psalm 12:1-8

Help, Lord, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race. Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts. May the Lord silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue— those who say, "By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us—who is Lord over us? Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise," says the Lord. "I will protect them from those who malign them." And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times. You, Lord, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked, who freely strut about when what is vile is honored by the human race.

Continued...

2026 Lenten Devotional Discipleship in a Divided Age:

A Lenten Journey through Matthew's Gospel

LIVING FAITHFULLY

AMID DIVISION AND UNCERTAINTY

[Click here](#) to download.



Where is God, continued...

Psalm 18:1-6

I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies. The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.

Acts 9:14-18

'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? ... 'Who are You, Lord?' I asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'But get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen from Me and what I will show you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may

receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in Me.'

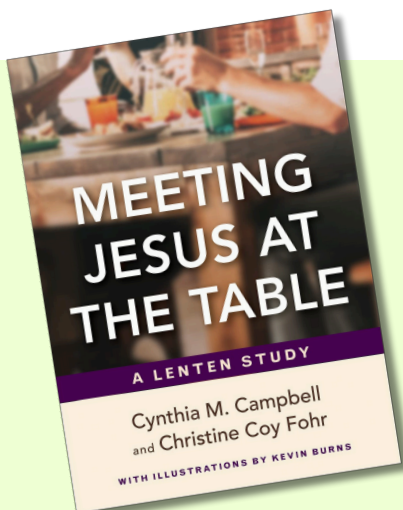
Revelation 6:9-11

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

There is a Plan. We, God's people, are part of that plan. Trust in God. Cry to God. Listen to God. Only to God. "For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7).

Amen.

Pastor Inger



The Food for Thought adult Sunday School class will begin an **eight-week Lenten study** called "Meeting Jesus at the Table" February 8 through March 29.

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

All are welcome to attend 9:30 Sunday mornings in classroom #5 across from the office.

-Jeri Engebretson, Education Chair

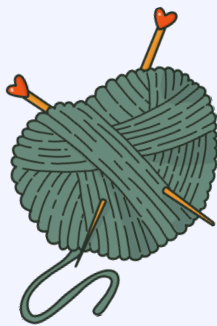
Mission Notes

The amazing Wool & Grace knitting group at RPC has been very busy.

In the month of January, they donated 25 hand-knitted dolls and blankets to the American Legion and Blue Ridge Respite. These groups create care bags for the Nelson County sheriff's office to hand out to **children in traumatic situations** in our local community.

The group also has donated 20 hand-knitted throws to Blue Ridge Respite to use in **Cancer Care bags** for cancer patients in Charlottesville.

W&G also donated hand-knitted caps to Central Virginia Farm Workers Initiative in Massies Mills. The knitters are currently working on **knitting 30 more warm hats for 30 new migrant workers** that will arrive in Nelson County in February to begin work at Saunders Brothers.



If you are interested in learning more about Wool & Grace, contact Nancy Clark, or join them on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the church library.

Dana Ogilvie
Mission co-chair



Care for Migrant Workers

Central Virginia Farm Workers Initiative is an organization that provides migrant farmworkers with health and educational resources that empower them to improve their quality of life. The farm workers in Central Virginia are mostly men (aged 18-70) from Mexico that come to work on local farms. They leave their families behind and come to Virginia on a temporary visa. They have an H2A visa that allows farms to legally employ temporary agricultural laborers, without granting a pathway to citizenship. State of Virginia farmers sponsor over 6,000 H2A visa workers each year. The workers help supply the food we eat and the beverages we drink.

Link to PBS documentary *Life in the Heartland* featuring Central Virginia Farm Workers Initiative
<https://www.pbs.org/video/migrant-workers-oc0dwp/>



Session Highlights



1-20-25: Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the RPC Session Meeting to order at 4:00 PM with prayer. Elder Phil DeFusco opened with devotion and prayer. Prayers were asked for: Barb Fenton's sister's family on the unexpected death of Barb's brother-in-law Dave, and for Mike Smythers (a former RPC member) who has been hospitalized.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Discussion on use of church by a local instructor, once a week, time to be determined, as an outreach mission of the church, sponsored by Jill Averitt, an RPC member.
MOTION: to approve use of RPC for yoga classes. APPROVED
- Request for Continuing Education Class by Pastor. **MOTION: to approve Continuing Education Course request for Pastor Inger. APPROVED**
- Two individuals: Tom Leslie and Rose Csorba to meet with Called Session Meeting 1.25.26 to be approved as new members.
- Discussion on potential church cancellation 1/25/26, due to inclement weather. Policy approved in January 2025 states that Worship or Grounds Chair along with Pastor will determine services consolidation or total cancellation.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- **Session approved minutes from the following meetings: Stated Session Meeting 11.18.25, Called Congregational Meeting 12.21.25, RPC's 2025 Annual Statistical Report for General Assembly, Session approved: Elders Roger Fulton and Vicki Davis as co-treasurers and Sue Nichols as assistant treasurer for 2026, Elder Sandy Gallagher to chair the 2026 Elder Nominating Committee, and Carolyn Frahm as co-chair, and approved elders Nancy Johnson and Kathy Kristiansen to attend the POJ Stated Meeting 2.21.25 virtually.**

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Dave Lawson presented **MOTION to approve a balanced budget for 2026 of \$419,567. APPROVED.**

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) reported team will meet four times a year: January, April, October, November. Sub-committee updates/proposals done through email in between meetings.

Continued...

If you are interested in becoming a member of our church

we would love to speak with you! Here are the dates when the Session will receive new members in 2026 following the 10:30 service.

Please let Inger know if you are interested, rpcimanchester@gmail.com.

Apr. 12, 2026 • Aug. 9, 2026 • Nov. 8, 2026



[Click here](#) to view
a live version of
the current
RPC Calendar.

Newsletter Articles Due

for the March issue:

Feb. 25

Max word count for
submissions is
400 words.

Session Highlights continued...

- Elder Nancy Johnson (Facilities Management) reported motion detector lights installed at all RPC entrances, roof/shingles inspected and reported to be sound with no evidence of leaks, sanctuary foundation evaluated for decay/deterioration in December with none evident, brick repointing will be done Spring 2026, Sanctuary Audio System install began 1.20.26 and vinyl floors on ground floor stripped/refinished 1.19.26.
MOTION: to pass Facilities User Agreement as written. TABLED, awaiting additional information.
- Elder Phil DeFusco (Liaison Missions Ministry Team) reported Blue Ridge Respite Program going well with another location opening in southern Nelson County this month. Supplies are needed. Mission trip with CEDEPCA planned for July 2026. Care Bears program very successful in 2025 and committee looking at ways to include more children in 2026. Camp Hanover (local church camp) had a budget reduction from \$102,000 to \$35,000, and committee looking at ways to support camp.

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 5:00 PM.

Next Stated Session Meeting **Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 4:00 PM** in the Library. Elder Dave Lawson will have the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Scott, Clerk

Membership – Active Members – 191 Affiliate Members – 14

Concert at RPC Pianist and Singer Arvid Pettersen's International Tour

Musician friends of RPC members Paula and Lee Corder
will perform at Rockfish Presbyterian on
Sunday, February 8, at 3 PM.
A love offering will be accepted.



ARVID PETTERSEN IS COMING TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Norwegian pianist and singer Arvid Pettersen has released 14 albums, written 200 songs, and performed 4,000 church concerts and musical engagements in 20 countries. Arvid has reached hundreds of thousands across the world — from nursing homes, youth camps, prisons, and soup kitchens to concert halls, megachurches, and parliamentary buildings. Arvid's music is marked by hope and faith, and the intimate, acoustic atmosphere often moves listeners to tears of joy.

On his U.S. tour in February 2026, Arvid will be joined by his wife, Ragnhild Miriam, and his daughter, Josefine. Both are known for their distinctive vocal styles and have long careers as performing artists. Together, the three create a unique sound with harmonies delivered with world-class precision.



Piano Concert

“Hence Laughter in Music”

Saturday, March 7

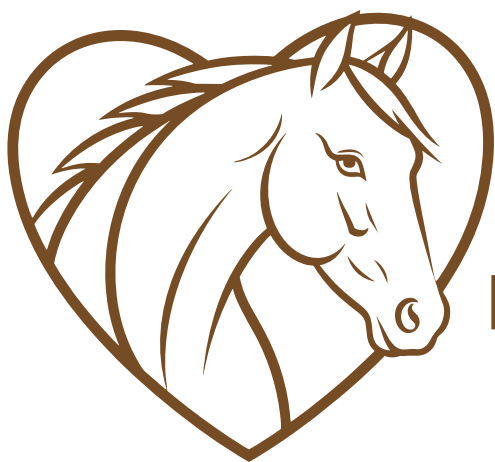
A free piano duet concert with Connie Muscenti and Lili Gill, Saturday, March 7 at 3 PM at Rockfish Valley Presbyterian Church. Join Connie and Lili for a fun concert of their favorite short pieces for 4-hand piano duo featuring an eclectic mix of pieces by Fauré, Glière, Ravel, Bizet and a few original compositions. You may hear some laughter as well! All ages are welcome. The concert is about 1 hour and 15 minutes and the reception follows about 45 minutes.



Connie Muscenti, a former music educator, is now practicing as a therapeutic musician at the UVA Medical Center in Charlottesville.

You might also see her with her partner at Irish jam sessions and community dances.

Lili Gill is a piano teacher in Nellysford. She enjoys composing and collaborating with other musicians. She is also a lymphedema therapist in Charlottesville.



Hope's Legacy Hearts for Horses March 14, 2026

Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue will host Hearts for Horses, an exciting benefit evening at Castle Hill Cidery to launch their capital campaign to build a new, multi-functional Educational Center. Enjoy a lively and meaningful evening featuring: delicious food, live music, silent auction, and great company—all in support of an incredible cause! Tickets are limited, so save the date and purchase your tickets soon at [this link](#).

February Birthdays

DIANA ROCKWELL 02/06

DAVID HOPKINS 02/07

GRETCHEN RUSH 02/07

CATHY LEGROW 02/08

ADRIEN ROBERTS 02/10

KENDRA SIEBERT 02/11

DAVE LEGROW 02/13

BONNIE SAUNDERS 02/14

RICK WINTER 02/15

SALLY WRIGHT 02/16

KATHY KRISTIANSEN 02/18

RICHARD FOUST 02/20

DON LEMONS 02/22

RUSH NEWSOME 02/22

GATLIN TULLY 02/22

DAVE MCCABE 02/23

CANDY DOWELL 02/24

CAROL KINGSLEY 02/28



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., Wed., Thu. 9 AM — 1 PM

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

Join us for worship

Sundays 8:30 and 10:30 AM

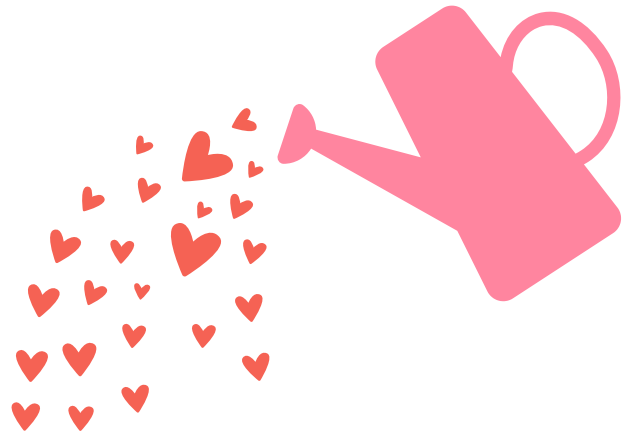
Adult Sunday School & Middle
School 9:30 AM

Children's Sunday School during
10:30 Service

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

Inger's Inklings

by Pastor Inger



I am writing this on the Sunday morning of Snowmageddon. It is peaceful as the snow continues to fall, a fire is crackling and we still have electricity. I am pondering the quiet and what to do today; to write, to paint, to puzzle, to read. Ahhhh.

I can do two days of this at most and then I will go stir crazy. **We need connection.**

I was so excited when Sandy Gallagher, who leads Outreach, called me this past week to say that we had 11 folks at **Circle of Friends**, our new program for single folks. How wonderful! The idea for this program came from a member who called us and said I think this would be a good idea. Yes! It is! The Spirit is at work!

When I was a candidate for ministry they asked me, "What do you think the biggest problem is for our world?" Loaded question, right? But my answer came easily—we are too socially disconnected. We are lonely. And this answer was given 20 years ago, even before the "smart" phone overtook us.

So here at Rockfish, we are making a concerted effort to connect. Our church socials, supporting Blue Ridge Respite, the Wood Ministry, Helping Hands, the coffee hours, guitar circle, soon the yoga program, Sunday school classes for all ages, knitting, choir, handbells, children's choir... man, I know I am forgetting something. Note what all these programs have in common? **We are brought TOGETHER. PHYSICALLY TOGETHER.**

The fruit of this was so apparent at Christy Ruta's memorial service. I tear up every time I think of how the majority of the church showed up, even if some did not know her well. Why? Because **we are a FAMILY**. We may have different politics, or different gifts, or different upbringings or different interests... and yet **we are one in the Spirit**. And, wow, the Spirit was blowing across us on that Saturday morning.

I hope we can all realize what an incredible gift it is to be part of this congregation of people whom God has assembled for God's purpose in this time. May we continue to listen.

All thanks be to God! AMEN!
Pastor Inger