On an April Saturday I took myself to the Nature Foundation for a watercolor class.

The best gift was when the instructor asked - how often do you create art? Making the point that practice is the most important thing. We have to make time for what we love. The world is not going to stop and direct us. In fact the list of housework, yard work- mulch (yuck), laundry, check lists, taxes, dishes, cooking etc, etc, will threaten to overtake your whole life. Not to mention the television set, social media and mindlessly scrolling. I think you get my point.

She pointed out that we can all make art with a small a. Some people are the gifted ones; artists with a big A. They are the professionals who paint and sell, who write and publish, who bake and take orders.

All of us can and should make time to make art with a small a. Where has God gifted you so that when you do such a thing time stands still? DO THAT.

Garden, Bake, Cook, Hike, Ride your bike, Fish, Paint, Read, Write, Music, Knitting, Wood Working…. All that other “stuff” will always be there.

Scripture is full of reminders to slow down and look around. God wants us to enjoy the life that is so fleeting and to teach others to enjoy it too.

Look to the Wisdom Literature-Ecclesiastes 9-
7 Go ahead - eat your food and be happy; drink your wine and be cheerful. It's all right with God.
8 Always look happy and cheerful.
9 Enjoy life with the one you love, as long as you live the useless life that God has given you in this world. Enjoy every useless day of it, because that is all you will get for all your trouble.
10 Work hard at whatever you do, because there will be no action, no thought, no knowledge, no wisdom in the world of the dead - and that is where you are going.
11 I realized another thing, that in this world fast runners do not always win the races, and the brave do not always win the battles. The wise do not always earn a living, intelligent people do not always get rich, and capable people do not always rise to high positions. Bad luck happens to everyone.
12 You never know when your time is coming. Like birds suddenly caught in a trap, like fish caught in a net, we are trapped at some evil moment when we least expect it.

So let us give thanks to God by living our lives as joyfully as God made us to do. Sharing the gifts that have been bestowed upon us by our Maker. Make “art”- take time to live into being useless. Discover how happy that can make you and then share that Holy joy with others. All thanks be to God!

~Pastor Inger
Inger’s Inklings

Spring is sprung! He is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Many thanks to all who made the Lent Season and Holy Week so special. It is so important to take time and focus on all that Jesus has done for us. I am so glad so many of you were able to attend the services. Easter Sunday was joyous! Around 200 people at our 10 a.m. service and 30 cold souls at our 6:45 sunrise. The lunch was amazing- many thanks to all who contributed and worked to make it so lovely. Truly awesome. Special thanks to Ginny and Al, Barb, Carol, Lynne and Tim, Bill and Jamie! The kids also LOVED the egg hunt- and were so excited at the number of eggs! They were squealing with joy. Thank you for your generosity.

Our Thursday night children’s program will go through May and then take a break for the summer. Buddy Martin has invited the children to come and celebrate at his magnificent home and playground as our last “hurrah” before summer. Cynthia and I are also looking at offering a two day VBS- plans in the making.

As for all of us adults- we continue to follow the Spirit who never tires. Look forward to sharing more plans for you for the summer as we make them. In the meanwhile- Order your t-shirts and share the Good News of Rockfish! It is a special place-All thanks to God!

~Pastor Inger

The Fellowship Hall Easter decorating crew

STW NEWSLETTER : The deadline for submitting articles electronically for the June/July newsletter is Tuesday, May 23.
JAMIE HEARD Email: rockfishpcus@gmail.com Phone: (434) 361-1221
Opportunities for Growth

Adult Sunday School - On May 7th, a new ‘limited series’ will begin to explore ‘What Can We Learn from Near-Death Experiences?’ Whether you are familiar with this phenomenon, know nothing at all, believe they are ‘real’ or are an outright skeptic, you are welcome to participate. Many have found this intriguing topic to have impacted their faith, and perhaps it may impact yours as well. This series will be facilitated by Susan Luscomb, who has previously been involved in research, writing and speaking on this subject. Join us at 9 on Sunday mornings in the Adult classroom downstairs.

Marilyn Pace continues to do a wonderful job leading our Children’s Sunday School. But she needs your help! If you have previously been approved as a volunteer assistant working with children and can contribute just a portion of the Sunday service to help, please contact either Marilyn or Inger, or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Inger’s Wednesday Lectionary Study continues each week from 11:30 to 12:30. Between Inger’s terrific notes and questions, and the spirited discussion among attendees, this has consistently been a fascinating and in-depth opportunity to study the Scriptural basis of Inger’s upcoming sermon each week. Join us in the library each Wednesday.

The inaugural meeting of the new RPC Book Club will take place on April 30th to determine the types of books folks are interested in reading and decide meeting time and place. Look for more information in weekly emails and announcements Sunday during services.

Keep watch as well for an announcement about resuming The Chosen series, coming to a Fellowship Hall near you soon!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Luscomb, Chair
Christian Education Ministry Team

Mission Ministry

Your Mission team purchased food (complete meals) for Easter and packed it for delivery by local organizations and RPC members on April 1. We provided food for 43 families and a total of 125 people.

Our next project will be backpacks for Headstart Pre-school children project and will begin in July. We will need congregational support and participation for this project.

Our next meeting will be at 4 p.m. on Monday, May 1, and anyone interested in helping or learning more about our work is welcome to attend.

Bill Iverson, Chair
Mission Ministry Team

Roger and I very much appreciate the support from Rockfish members. I am happy to report that Roger is having a pain-free recovery.

Jane Elliott
Easter Sunday at RPC
Youth News

The children continue to fill the Children's Food Pantry bags and have perfected assembly line work to fill 75 bags each month. Thank you to Linda Williams for sharing first-hand experience of handing out the bags with the children. The children were also excited to meet Olivia Ellis who is responsible for starting the food bag program.

The food bags for May will be filled on May 14.

Thank you to Sophia Ogilvie for helping the Easter Bunny hide the eggs on Easter. She was kept quite busy with all the donations!!

NELSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION PLANT SALE, is Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rockfish Valley Community Center.

Please come, see, and buy our lovely annuals and perennials before Mother's Day!! Proceeds from the plant sale supports many projects in Nelson County.

2023 Pictorial Church Directory

The Congregational Life Committee will be assisting in the creation of a new 2023 pictorial directory. All members and friends of RPC interested in being in the directory need to fill out an information form that can be found in the narthex. Thank you to those who have already done so. We will start taking pictures after church on Sundays in May. We would like to get a new photo of each person. It is too hard to recognize folks using the old ones. Lynne Hess is looking for a person to help her take pictures, particularly someone who is knowledgeable about editing photos on an I-Phone. Call her at 540-292-2307 or Email lynne@hess.net if you can help out. Thank you.

If you are interested in purchasing a RPC t-shirt, click on the following link: https://commonwealth-promotional-9c2d82fe-dc44-426a-8508-2f82d70ec2a3.printavo.com/merch/presbyterianmerch The deadline date for orders is May 13.
Session Highlights 4/18/23

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with prayer. Elder Sally Bryant had devotions and prayer. Prayers were asked for Charlie and Carol Kingsley, John Stuart, Cynthia Ramsey, Mike Smythers’ 90 year old Aunt Helen.


CLERK’S REPORT:
- Approved minutes of Stated Meeting 3/21/23
- Approved minutes of Called Meeting 4/16/23
- Ratified email vote 4/4/23 electing Sue Fulton Commissioner to Called POJ Meeting 4/20/23
- Ratified email vote 4/4/23 approving membership transfer of Liz and Rich Leukroth to St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, Waynesboro

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Mac Lumpkin presented a positive Stewardship Committee Report.

NEW BUSINESS:
- Elder Mac Lumpkin (Nominating Committee) brought the slate for 2026 Ruling Elders (Mary Hopkins, Kathy Kristiansen, Dave Lawson) and 2026 Trustee (Harris Luscomb) which Session approved.
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported that “Here to Stay in Wintergreen,” an organization dedicated to enabling residents as they age to continue to live safely and independently in their own homes with meaningful connections to the community, wishes to partner with RPC in an effort to begin expansion of their mission to include all of Nelson County. Sandy will serve as the coordinator between the two. Activities include driving folks to appointments, technical assistance in homes, running errands, picking up groceries, helping to prepare meals, visiting, home help, and more. Watch for more information from Sandy.
- Elder Ken Engebretson met with Buddy Martin recently and toured his home. Buddy is the oldest continuous member of RPC, served as a mail carrier for 30+ years running a 52-mile route, and is the third generation to occupy Chapel Hollow Lane where he built his own home. Buddy has crafted ten 12-foot poplar benches he wishes to donate to RPC for our Pavilion. He will cut each in half resulting in 20 6-foot benches. Rev. Manchester is hoping all of us can enjoy a pot luck supper on his property when he’s healthy. She mentioned that the Children’s Community Choir will have its grand finale there soon. THANK YOU, Buddy!

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:
- Elder Kate Humphrey Chambers, Liaison (Worship Ministry Team; Mary Hopkins, Chair) brought a motion to move the 8 AM service outdoors beginning 6/4/23. Session approved this.
- Susan Luscomb (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported that new and returning programs are coming soon. Stay tuned.
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported that RPC tentatively will have a Spring Hobby/Talent Show under the Pavilion on June 17, details to follow.
- Elder Sally Bryant (Personnel Ministry Team Liaison) reported that RPC is actively seeking a paid childcare director to help Marilyn Pace with the children on Sunday mornings. This has proven to be difficult. Personnel sent a motion with Sally to amend our Protection Policy to allow Youth under age 18 to serve as teachers’ aides. Session voted this down, because our Protection Policy (mandated by the Presbytery) requires two adults to be with the children on Sundays at all times. Also, because these Youth are under age 18, there are no criminal records available. We certainly can hire Youth under age 18 to serve but only WITH two adults.
Session Highlights 4/18/23 (Cont’d)

- Elder Bill Iverson (Mission Ministry Team) reported that 43 Easter baskets to feed 125 people were packed this year. These gifts were delivered by people from community organizations (JABA and MACAA Headstart) as well as volunteers from the Mission Committee and the Wood Ministry.
- Elder Sophie Ogilvie (Youth Ministry Team) reported the Youth Committee continues to fill the Children’s Food Pantry bags with the children. The Youth hid the Easter eggs for the Children’s Easter Egg Hunt. They also filled first aid kits with the congregation and those kits have been delivered to refugees that are a part of the International Neighbors.

We give thanks for:
- the many hands that cleaned up the front of the church. (Mike Smythers)
- the ‘Saintly Plumber’ who was hired to replace the leaking hydrant under the Pavilion and fixed it in five minutes with a little WD-40 and a screwdriver, who then refused to accept payment because, “It’s for the church!” Last month Session approved ~$500 for the job. (Mike Smythers)
- EASTER and all its glory. The services, the music, the choirs, the ringers, the children, the released Alleluias, the hydrangeas, the banners, the egg hunt, the brunch, the joy, and on and on! WOW! He is risen. He is risen indeed! (all)
- The many hands who brought food, helped to set up, serve, and clean up the Easter Brunch which fed 110 folks. (Lynne Hess)
- the Wood Ministry who delivered 44 loads of wood this year to area folks. (all)
- Jamie Heard and Lynne Hess working on a new directory, hoping to complete it in July. (all)

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 7:57 PM.

Next Stated Session Meeting: Tuesday, 5/16/23 at 7:00 PM, in the Library. Elder Joe Steele will have Devotions and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Fulton, Clerk

Save the Date in June

The Annual Congregational Picnic will be on
June 25 following the combined 10 a.m. Worship Service
May 2023

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