



The Pulse December 2018



of Rocky River Presbyterian

Saturday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Artist Concert Series presents... Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus



What a privilege to hear some of the finest high school voices from across northeast Ohio! Come to a free concert by the Cleveland Orchestra's famed Youth Chorus on Sat., Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. The concert will be under their newly-appointed director Daniel Singer.

Advent worship series

"Silent Night" turns... 200 years old?!

That's right—we can't imagine Christmas without "Silent Night," but that's the way it was until the year 1818, when the carol was composed on Christmas Eve.

Sermons throughout Advent will focus on lessons for our lives today from this beloved 200-year-old Christmas carol.

—Worship Committee

Holiday Service Schedule

Dec. 2nd 1st Sunday in Advent—*Communion*

Dec. 9th 2nd Sunday in Advent

Dec. 16th 3rd Sunday in Advent

Dec. 23rd 4th Sunday in Advent

Dec. 24th **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

5:00* ~ 7:00 ~ 10:00 p.m.

*—includes a come-as-you-are Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 30th "Family Room" Worship at 10:30 a.m.

- *Worship seated at tables in Fellowship Hall*
- *Breakfast served starting at 10 a.m.*
- *Like being in your own family room or den!*
- *An original Christmas story in place of a sermon, again this year offered by Jim Pierce*

Jan. 6th **Epiphany—"The Day of the Wise Men"—**
Communion [After worship, help "de-deck" the halls!]

Financial outlook for 2019: waiting to hear from you

Update on "Take Care"

our stewardship campaign for 2019

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. -1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Thank you, members who have responded to our stewardship campaign for next year! Here's a snapshot of where we stand through Nov. 29:

- 117 pledges received so far (it was 128 at this time last year);
- Over 220 packets were distributed;
- Pledges for 2019 so far total \$303,680 (at this point last year we had received pledges totaling \$329,778);
- To put this response in some perspective, our target for offerings through pledges this year is \$343,000.

For the Session to know what to expect for next year's church budget **we still need to hear from about 100 individuals or households**. So dig out that pledge packet from the stack of newspapers and magazines and mail and shopping lists. Need another pledge card? Just call Crystal in the church office or print one from the church website www.riverpres.org.

—John Eyre, Chair,
Stewardship Committee

Our charity bazaar "closes" Sun., Dec. 9

Final chances to patronize RRPC's 10th annual "Alternative Christmas" Charity Bazaar

Dozens of adults and children "shopped" in Fellowship Hall at our 10th Annual "Alternative Christmas" Charity Bazaar on Nov. 18. If you missed that occasion—or if you just remembered a few more people on your Christmas list—all is not lost. You can still "shop" the "ACCB" after worship on Sun., Dec. 2 or 9, or during regular weekday business hours.

But on Sun., Dec. 9, the doors to this year's event will close. :)

—Mission Committee

1 of 3 nationwide offerings each year

Give "Christmas Joy" Sun., Dec. 16

The Presbyterian Church (USA) collects just a few denomination-wide offerings each year. On Dec. 16 your special gift to the "Christmas Joy" Offering benefits two groups:

- retired ministers and their families
- students at PC(USA) racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Use the special envelope in your offering packet or the Christmas Joy envelopes available at church.

—Mission Committee

From Your Pastor

Does “sabbath” have a place in our lives today?

“Advent Sabbath” ...

“Sabbath Weekend” ...

“Sabbatical”

What, exactly, do those terms mean?
And what’s the difference?

After all, “sabbath” is not a term that pops up in our daily conversations. (Really, when was the last time you used the word?) If the word sounds familiar, it’s probably because of something you learned as a child in Sunday school. One of the Ten Commandments, well, *commands* us to “Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy” (Exodus 20:8 CEB).

The root of the Hebrew word means “to cease, to end, to rest.” “Sabbath,” then, is when observant Jews set aside their ordinary daily tasks on the seventh day of the week in order to be mindful of God’s active presence in their lives. Christians adopted the meaning and practice of this Hebrew word, shifting its observance to Sundays. But nowadays it sounds quaint to hear that Christians used to refer to Sundays as “the Sabbath day.”

What does it mean, to “remember the Sabbath” as the commandment commands? One writer proposes that “remember” means “to fill your mind again and again” with an awareness of God’s gift of rest. The great Creation Story in Genesis describes God fashioning all of existence in six “days.” God then took the seventh “day” to rest and to be mindful of what God had done. Can’t we see that God set that cycle of work and rest as a model for us?

Consider the importance of work/rest cycles:

- 1) Land that is continually worked and not given rest (laid fallow) or replenished stops being fertile.
- 2) Your heart is ineffective at circulating your blood because the muscle takes a rest between each contraction.
- 3) Music without spaces of rests and silence would become only noise.
- 4) If you exercised but never rested, you would grow weaker and weaker, because it is actually during the rest times that your body re-builds itself to more and more strength and vitality.

- 5) If you maintained your usual schedule and level of activity every day and didn’t refresh your spirit regularly on the Sabbath, you would become a slave to productivity rather than receive the gifts of *rest* and *appreciation* and *joy*. [adapted from Learning Success at http://www.learningsuccess.com/the_importance_of_power_rest_cycles_and_keeping_the_sabbath_day_holy.html]

Sabbath is a gift. It’s intended to be a blessing in our lives. Embracing the gift of sabbath rest should not put more demands on us. As Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made to serve us; we weren’t made to serve the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27).

For many years our Session has tried to set an example by declaring an “**Advent Sabbath.**” Our Advent Sabbath is a simple attempt to tell all of you active, committed, busy church folks to *slow down* so you can realize what God is doing in our world. During our Advent Sabbath we encourage church groups to refrain from their customary schedule of meetings in order to make space in our holiday-preparation-obsessed lives for some “down time” for rest and reflection.

But our Advent Sabbath is not a rigid and intractable decree. We encourage groups to have their social gatherings during December; we appreciate that our choir members give us the gift of rehearsal time in order to enrich our Advent and Christmas Eve worship services; we realize that there will be occasions when a little “church business” must be transacted by some board or committee. But the concept remains helpful. An “Advent Sabbath” reminds us to take time to recognize how our world is blessed because of God’s indescribable gift of Incarnation (literally, “taking on flesh”) by coming among us in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

Another form of the word you occasionally hear is that I’m on a “**Sabbath Weekend.**” After I had served here for 5 years the Human Resources Committee decided to grant me a “weekend off” every Fall, Winter, and Spring, in addition to my usual allotment of vacation days. They recognized that while the average church member can go away for a weekend, that isn’t so easy for a pastor. So I really appreciate the privilege of those fall or winter or spring “Sabbath Weekends” as a much-appreciated break from the endless demands of writing and hospital calls and preaching and meetings.

Finally, a few months ago you heard that the church is granting me a “**Sabbatical**” next summer. It’s customary in the world of

academia for professors to be granted a break from their teaching duties every 7 years in order to rest and do research in their field. It’s becoming more and more common for churches with long-term pastorates to grant the minister a Sabbatical in order to be relieved of the pressures of being “on call” 24/7/365, to “recharge their batteries,” to explore some new location or topic or activity, and to be able to get away from the non-stop “production” of services and programs and classes... and newsletter articles.

As I reported a few months ago, my “summer quarter Sabbatical” will be enriched because I was awarded a competitive grant for clergy sabbaticals by the Lilly Endowment. You’ll hear more about how this Sabbatical will benefit you and me in the months ahead.

But for now, as the pressures of Christmas expectations mount all around you, imagine how you will benefit if you resolve to incorporate some measure of Sabbath into your routine. True, if you grant yourself the gift of Sunday mornings at peace in our church, there very well might be some task that has to be left undone for awhile.

But it will still be there after you’ve rested... and remembered... and acknowledged God’s unmatched goodness and unceasing care for you. This gift awaits you if only you will grant yourself the very same gift of Sabbath that God modeled on that first “seventh day.” When you embrace the possibility of Sabbath in your life, the prophet Isaiah’s vision could be your experience:

- ¹³ If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
- ¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the Lord...
—Isaiah 58:13-14 (NRSV)

Let’s enjoy the Sabbath together this Sunday.





December Birthdays

December 1	Barbara Prudhoe
December 2	Mike Matile
December 3	Jim Bennett
December 4	Karen Allport
December 6	Greg Ahren
December 7	Scott Krizman
December 8	Carol Bennett
December 9	Vic Erml
	Sue Chaney
	Ian McGorray
	Christian Kirchner
December 10	Jeanne Frier
	Dennis Gresh
December 12	Gary Eisner
December 13	Clay Hoon
December 15	Paul Busby
	Sara Gresh
	Seth Purohit
December 17	Emily St. Pierre
December 18	Christine Wilson
December 19	Holly Pattison
December 22	Heather Daina
	Kathryn Urban
December 23	Bridget Hustek
	Cecelia Roche
December 24	Kendall King
	Natalie Cashmere
December 25	Joey Furry
December 26	Hannah Jennings
December 27	Brian Beer
December 29	Will St. Pierre
December 30	Wally Pattison
	Zachariah Carmack
December 31	John Magnus
	Halle McGorray

Deck the Halls!

Please join us on the morning of Sat., Dec. 1st between 9:00—10:30 a.m. to “deck the halls”... and sanctuary and offices of our church. You can join us for donuts and we will “Deck the Halls”. Please share a few minutes on Saturday to help make your church ready for the Christmas holiday.

Help “Positive Education Program” for troubled children and youth

“PEP” Christmas Wish List

a project of our Presbyterian Women’s “Semi-Circle” group

Look for the bin outside the Sanctuary!

Toy items- ages 6-10 girls or boys (Legos, Matchbox cars, craft kits)

Ages 1-5 – pull toys, puzzles, stuffed animals

Kids PJs-size 5-14 boys or girls

**Art supplies and Craft kits
Adult coloring books and colored pencils**

Boys underwear – Boxers size 5-18

White T-shirts – sm., med., Lrg., X-Lrg., XXL

Girls underwear – size 4-14



****If your birthday is missing from our birthday list, please contact Office Administrator Crystal Duffield at: [in-fo@riverpres.org](mailto:info@riverpres.org) or (440) 333-4888.**



Toiletries

Deodorant (men’s/ women’s)
Toothpaste, toothbrushes
Shampoo
Bar Soap

Gift Cards:

Target
Marc’s
Walmart
Marshalls
Any Food Store

Sweatshirts and Hoodies – all sizes

Ear buds and cases for phones, tablets, etc.

Basket balls, foot balls, pumps

Nail kits and polish

Play dough and Kits

Fidget Spinners

Wrapping paper, tape, bows



Our children's Christmas program moves to 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve

It has been a longstanding tradition at RRPC to have our children present their interpretation of the Christmas story during a Sunday morning during Advent. This year, we have decided to **try something new**, in an effort to be inclusive of all ages and those who have family and friends visiting from out of town.



At this year's 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve service we will present an intergenerational and interactive program. There is no "rehearsal" for this program—just come to worship at 5:00 and help us tell the story! This is a family-friendly service and all ages are welcome. The children and youth choirs will also be sharing their musical gifts with us. If you have any questions, see Lisa Watts, Hilary Watts, or any member of the Christian Education committee.

The Return of the Mitten Tree



Our combined fellowship groups will once again put up their popular mitten tree for Advent. We will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for folks of all ages. We are thrilled to accept new store-bought or hand-made items.

This year, we will be donating our items to Ohio Guidestone.

The tree will go up on December 2 and will stay up through December 24. Thanks so much for your continued support of this mission project!

Registration now open for 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Coming next July 16-20, 2019 PYT will be a gathering for high school age youth that occurs every three years and is held on the campus of Purdue University. "Triennium" is five days of conversation, recreation, worship and fun with thousands of other youth from around the country. It truly is a life-changing experience and is open to all youth who have completed 9th-12 grades. Cost for the event is \$555, but our youth groups will be hosting several fund-raisers to help defray that cost. For more information, see Lisa Watts or contact our presbytery registrar, Bette Case at bbtcase@aol.com or 440-390-2502.

Want more information? Check out the PYT website at www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org and be sure to "like" the Facebook page, "PresWesRes Presbyterian Youth Triennium Delegation."

RRP Preschool news

Preferred registration now open for 2019-2020 school year

Beginning November 1st, Rocky River Presbyterian Preschool priority registration opened for all members of the church along with any returning families. Any child, ages 2½ through Kindergarten, may be enrolled in one of the half-day programs at RRP Preschool.



You can get FREE MONEY for RRPC!

If you ever shop on Amazon, you can generate free money for our church to underwrite our preschool! If you already have an Amazon.com account, you can click on the link below and it will direct you to our site for "Rocky River Presbyterian Church." Each time you shop on Amazon, 0.5% will be donated to our church! Doesn't cost you a thing... and it's **free money** for our church's preschool program!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-0895882>

After you have registered your Amazon account, all you have to do is sign into **smile.amazon.com** and your donation will be automatic with every purchase.

Thank you for your support of RRP Preschool!

—Ellen Schickel & Lindsey Glavin, Co-Chairs

Offer a helping hand at Coffee Hour

The Deacons' Coffee Hour Committee is currently seeking volunteers to help out the 3rd Sunday of the month. We are also in need of substitutes who would be able to fill in occasionally. Contact Deb Furry debfurry@northernitle.com or 440-336-5114 for further information and/or questions.





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Semi-Circle

Semi-Circle will meet on **Monday, December 17th at 12:00 p.m.** in the West Room. If you have questions you may contact Carolyn Watilo 440-799-4779 or Nancy McGillicuddy 440-724-1738. Newcomers are always welcome!

Priscilla Circle

Priscilla Circle will meet on **Sunday, December 16th** at noon for a **Christmas Brunch** at the home of member Ellen Schickel. All are welcome! If you have any questions you may contact Gretchen Koch or Sara Gresh.

Expressions of Faith

Our group will meet **Tuesday, December 11th** only for the month of December, at 9:30 a.m. in Room D-3,4. We welcome anyone who knits or just enjoys a cup of coffee with friends. For more information contact Mary Murphy (440-785-8614).

Koinonia

Koinonia Prayer and Study Group meets on **Wednesday mornings 10:00 a.m. to noon. We will not meet on December 26th.** We spend the first hour in study and the second hour in prayer (all kept in confidence).

Each week we will be listening to, then discussing, the sermons of The Rev. Skye Jethani, who was the Chaplain-of-the-Week at Chautauqua when Jo Naretto was there this summer. It will be an interesting series. Please feel free to join us.

Women of Grace

Please watch your Sunday bulletins for information on the Women of Grace December Christmas gathering, you can contact Lisa Watts.

Pick one program, or all of them!

Usher at an Artist Concert Series program this year



Now that you've seen the spectacular series that ACS has in store for the 2018-2019 season, plan now to volunteer as an usher at one of this season's programs. You don't need a "red coat" like at Playhouse Square! All you need to do is arrive 30 minutes beforehand. Your duties include welcoming guests, handing them programs, directing them to restrooms or drinking fountains, and passing an offering plate at intermission.

To volunteer, contact ACS Artistic Director, Nancy McGillicuddy at ncmack@hotmail.com, or the Church Office.

Charitable contributions at year-end?

The church office will be open on Monday, Dec. 31 from 8:00 a.m. -12 noon if you wish to drop off an offering or special gift and receive credit for a 2018 contribution. Contributions received after that will be fully credited to 2019.

—Financial Secretary Dave Wolfe





LIBRARY LINGO

DECEMBER 2018

Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS:

Christmas books/ New books



NEW ITEMS FOR TEENS:

Fiction:

The Slave Raffle

FIC PER

This novel would be enjoyed, as well, by **ADULTS**- I know I thoroughly enjoyed it! (Mary Schulz). See Jo Naretto for more information- she is personally acquainted with the author!

When the author discovered that African Americans were once raffled off as lottery prizes, she researched a time when many white colonials demanded freedom from the tyranny of an English king, yet were untroubled by enslaving others. This is about the struggle between a privileged teenager and the slave girl she owns.

NEW ITEMS FOR ADULTS:

Fiction:

A Man Called Ove

FIC BAC

Ove is a curmudgeon with strict routines and a short fuse. His world is shaken with the appearance of new neighbors, who arrive by accidentally flattening Ove's mailbox with their truck. This is a funny exploration of the unreliability of first impressions and a reminder that life is sweeter when shared with other people.

Nonfiction:

The Nine Rooms of Happiness: Loving Yourself, Finding Your Purpose, and Getting Over Life's Little Imperfections

The authors pinpoint common self-destructive patterns of behavior and offer key processes to help you live a happier, more joy-filled life, in every room of your emotional house. 158.1 DAN

All I Need Is Jesus and a Good Pair of Jeans: The Tired Supergirl's Search for Grace 248.8 AUG

You know the pressure- to have a perfect Christian life and the perfect family. To be the perfect friend. To look perfect in those jeans. To be a supergirl. With God's help, we can win against the subtle voices of pride, worry, jealousy, busyness, loneliness, and every other nemesis we encounter.

Fire In the Soul: A New Psychology of Spiritual Optimism 248.8 BOR

The author believes that the wounds we suffer and heal from can be gateways to a transformation of the spirit, one that not only nourishes our souls, but blesses us with the potential to help our world.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption 353.4 STE

The author was a young attorney when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor and the wrongly condemned. One of his cases was that of a young man sentenced to die for a notorious murder he didn't commit. The case drew the author into a tangle of conspiracy and political machination.

The Gospel According to the Simpsons: The Spiritual Life of the World's Most Animated Family 791.45 PIN

The author discusses whether the TV show, once cited as evidence of the decline of civility and morality, is subversive or supportive of faith. The answer may surprise you.

Biography:

Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography (The Faith of the 20th Century's Most Influential Woman) B ROO

Roosevelt played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement and had a part in the creation of the United Nations. The author explains how her biblically based faith and morality were the bedrock for her convictions and actions.

HAPPY READING AND VIEWING!!

(All descriptions have been taken from book jacket, title page verso, or review article)

Healthy Happenings

... Notes from the Parish Nurse

Dear Friends and Family,

Stay safe this winter by learning more about frostbite and hypothermia, including who is most at risk, signs and symptoms, and what to do if someone develops frostbite or hypothermia. Let's start with frostbite, which is a serious condition that's caused by exposure to extremely cold temperatures. Frostbite is a bodily injury caused by freezing that results in loss of feeling and color in affected areas. It most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes. Frostbite can permanently damage the body, and severe cases can lead to amputation. You may have a greater risk of developing frostbite if you have poor blood circulation or are not properly dressed for extremely cold temperatures.

Recognizing Frostbite: At the first signs of redness or pain in any skin area, get out of the cold or protect any exposed skin as frostbite may be beginning. Any of the following signs may indicate frostbite: a white or grayish-yellow skin area; skin that feels unusually firm, waxy or numb. A victim is often unaware of frostbite until someone else points it out because the frozen tissues are numb. If you detect symptoms of frostbite, seek medical care.

If immediate medical care is not available, proceed as follows:

- ⇒ Get into a warm room as soon as possible.
- ⇒ Do not walk on frostbitten feet or toes as this increases the damage.
- ⇒ Immerse the affected area in warm not hot water.
- ⇒ Warm the affected area using body heat. For example, the heat under your arm can be used to warm frostbitten fingers.
- ⇒ Don't use a heating pad, heat lamp, or the heat of a stove, fireplace, or radiator for warming as the affected areas are numb and can be easily burned.
- ⇒ Do not rub the frostbitten area as this can cause more damage.

Hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature, is a dangerous condition that can occur when a person is exposed to extremely cold temperatures. Hypothermia is caused by prolonged exposures to very cold temperatures. When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it's produced. Lengthy exposures will eventually use up your body's stored energy, which leads to lower body temperature. Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This makes hypothermia especially dangerous, because a person may not know that it's happening and won't be able to do anything about it. While hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water. Victims of hypothermia are often: older adults with inadequate food, clothing, or heating; babies sleeping in cold bedrooms; people who remain outdoors for long periods such as the homeless, hikers, hunters and people who work outside; people who drink alcohol or use illicit drugs.

Recognizing Hypothermia: The warning signs for adults include shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech drowsiness. The warning signs for infants include bright red, cold skin and a low energy level. If you notice any of these signs, take the person's temperature and if it is below 95° F, the situation is an emergency. Don't Wait—Take Immediate Action!

If medical care is not available, begin warming the person, as follows:

- ⇒ Get the victim into a warm room or shelter.
- ⇒ If the victim has on any wet clothing, remove it.
- ⇒ Warm the center of the body first using an electric blanket, if available. You can also use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets.
- ⇒ Warm beverages can help increase body temperature, but do not give alcoholic beverages. Do not try to give beverages to an unconscious person.
- ⇒ After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrapped in a warm blanket, including the head and neck.
- ⇒ Get medical attention as soon as possible.

Be prepared and take preventive action to keep you and your family safe in extreme cold-weather conditions. By preparing your home and car in advance for winter emergencies, and by observing safety precautions during times of extremely cold weather, you can reduce the risk of weather-related health problems.

Catherine A. Patton RN, BSN

440-333-4888 ext:105

Parishnurse@riverpres.org



RRPC Member Spotlight

Each month our church randomly puts the spotlight on four members whose birthdays occur during that month. You can see two of them at a time in the box-frames on church lobby wall, and all four here in the Pulse. Please make a point of greeting these people and wishing them a happy birthday!



GREG AHREN 1. Profession

Retired in March and adjusting. Prior to that, I had a wonderful 43 year career at USG investing, marketing and leading my team in specialty and custom ceiling designs that have been installed all over the world.

2. Hobbies / Interests

Music continues to inspire me. I love my involvement in the RRPC choir, as well as playing guitar, writing, arranging and recording in my home studio. Since retirement, I also took up piano lessons!

3. Favorite trip you've taken, or where you'd like to go

Went to Rio de Janeiro on business working with the US Olympic Committee. Unique experience on many fronts, and fond memories.

4. Why do you worship here at RRPC?

The people and pastor of RRPC "spoke to me" 24 years ago when searching for a new church. RRPC allows me to explore and build upon my faith in a learned, comfortable and friendly environment.



KAREN ALLPORT 1. Profession

I am a marketing and communications strategist and practitioner with over 35 years of working for a number of companies and non-profit organizations. Since founding my consulting practice in 2015, I have been helping organizations of all sizes build their brands and communicate their value to their most important audiences.



2. Hobbies / Interests

My primary interest is my family, and although we live in different parts of the country, we email and text several times a day. I am also very interested in health and fitness. I speed walk and practice yoga to stay fit and balanced.

3. Favorite trip you've taken, or where you'd like to go

For the last 18 years, our family (daughters, sons-in-laws and now granddaughters) spend a week on the beach in NC. This very special time together is filled with laughter, love and relaxation. It is my most favorite week of the year!

4. Why do you worship here at RRPC?

I began attending Sunday services at RRPC shortly before my husband Bill and I were married over 23 years ago. From the start, Rev. Jon and the congregation made me feel so welcomed and at home. I always leave inspired after Sunday service!



Christmas Gifts to Your Church: Flowers... In His Name... Endowment

At Christmas time, we like to make a special gift in honor or memory of loved ones. Rocky River Presbyterian Church (RRPC) offers three ways to remember someone special. We print these remembrances in the Christmas Sunday bulletin.

The RRPC Deacons' sanctuary decorating group purchases adequate plants for a tasteful display. Following the last Christmas Eve service we encourage donors to pick out a plant (there will be plants of varying sizes and styles) suitable for giving to someone who is sick, shut-in or needing a lift in spirit! (Added bonus: *Flower Fund* money remaining, after buying Christmas flowers, is used for sanctuary flowers on Sundays without flower donations!)

The deadline for Christmas contributions is Dec. 12, 2018.

- 1) *Holiday Flower Fund* - Contributions to the *Holiday Flower Fund* provide plants for our sanctuary (suggested minimum donation \$10 for a plant).
- 2) *In His Name (IHN) Fund* - This is a discretionary fund used by the pastor to address appeals for emergency assistance, special mission support and other unmet needs within or outside of our congregation. Donations to the *IHN Fund* may be in any amount.
- 3) *RRPC General Endowment Fund* - This fund is an *abiding endowment* which is never decreased. All contributions add to the fund and generate increased interest income for the church. Donations to the *RRPC General Endowment Fund* may be in any amount.

Holiday Flower Fund, In His Name and RRPC General Endowment Funds

(Contributors to the RRPC *Holiday Flower Fund* may select a plant after the last Christmas Eve service.)

Name _____ Phone _____

Include payment with form. Designate: *Holiday Flower, In His Name or RRPC General Endowment Fund* in your check's memo area.

Fund	\$ Amount	Exact wording for bulletin (In honor/memory/celebration of...etc)
<i>Flower Fund</i>		
<i>In His Name</i>		
<i>RRPC General Endowment</i>		



Attention Greeters (those who have as well as those who have thought about it): December is a special month in the life of any church. We'll have lots of visitors, both local and from out-of-town. It is more important than ever that they, and our members as well, are greeted with a friendly smile and a warm handshake as they enter to worship our Lord. Please consider signing up to perform the important job of greeting this month. We need greeters not only for every Sunday but for the three Christmas Eve services as well. Either sign up on the Greeters list on the bulletin board outside the Parlor or you can call me at 440-356-0231. Please help by providing that welcome to worship, especially in this special season. Thank you!

Church Directory Updates

Each January we update the member listings (names, addresses, phones and emails) and then print new pages that will be available at the annual meeting in late-January (or from the office if you can't attend the meeting). With that in mind, if any of your information has changed (or that of a family member), please get that update info to Crystal in the church office before year's end. Simply call her at 440-333-4888, or email her the info at info@riverpres.org.

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 First Sunday of Advent Communion / Food Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship / KISS / Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.	3 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	4 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen	5 10:00 a.m. Korionia Prayer & Study Group 11:30 a.m. Staff Christmas Luncheon & Mtg. 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. River Men's AA Mtg.	6 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Bible Study & Breakfast	7 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Startuck's)	8 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes 9:00 a.m. Deck the Halls 1:00 p.m. COYC set-up 4:00 p.m. COYC rehearsal 7:30 p.m. ACS: Presents Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus in Concert
9 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship / KISS / Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.	10 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	11 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen	12 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. River Men's AA Mtg.	13 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Bible Study & Breakfast	14 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Startuck's)	15 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
16 Third Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship / KISS / Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 12:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle Brunch 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.	17 12:00 p.m. PW Semi-Circle Mtg. & Lunch 5:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. & Christmas Dinner	18 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen	19 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. River Men's AA Mtg.	20	21 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Startuck's)	22 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship / KISS / Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.	24 Christmas Eve  5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day Church office closed 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen 	26 7:30 p.m. River Men's AA Mtg.	27	28 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Startuck's)	29 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
30 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship / KISS / Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.	31 New Year's Eve 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 					

“The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of
Rocky River Presbyterian Church
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Please refer to the website calendar for any updates which may post after the published Pulse date. Thank you.