

The Pulse

January
2019



of Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Sun., Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m.

Worship the King, as the Wise Men did

This year the Christian holy day of Epiphany happens to fall on a Sunday (January 6th). Tradition marks this date to commemorate the visit to the Holy Family by the Magi, the Wise Men from distant lands. Because they were not Jewish their acknowledgement of Jesus as King signaled that God's incarnational love—divine love in human form—was offered not only to those with Jewish heritage but to all of the world's people.

—Worship Committee

Sun., Jan. 6, 11:35 a.m.

Many hands welcomed to help “De-deck the Halls”

Our observance of Epiphany concludes our celebration of the Advent/Christmas season... and thus, our church's holiday decorations need to go away for another year.

Because “many hands make light work,” we hope you'll stay after worship for 10, 20, or 30 minutes to help take down the wreaths and other decorations throughout the church and transport them to Fellowship Hall. There they will be placed in the storage loft until next December.

—Board of Deacons

Session January meeting date changed

To accommodate the pastor's travel schedule, the Session has changed its January meeting date. The new date and time will be Sunday, January 13 at 11:45 a.m.

—elder Dan McKenzie, Clerk of Session

Did you know: our church's “birthday” is January 8. We were founded on January 8, 1956, which means that 2019 will be our church's 64th year of ministry and mission!

Sun., Jan. 27, 11:35 a.m.

63rd Annual Meeting scheduled

In keeping with the by-laws of the congregation, the Session has called for the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation to be held on the fourth Sunday of January—January 27—following morning worship. The meeting will take place in Fellowship Hall. Our Board of Deacons will arrange for a light luncheon to be available prior to the meeting.

The purposes of the meeting include:

- the election of officers for Rocky River Presbyterian Church—a non-profit corporation in the State of Ohio;
- the reception and review of reports of the activities of the church's organizations and staff;
- the approval of the pastor's compensation for the coming year.

All communicant members of the congregation are eligible to speak and vote at the Annual Meeting.

—Elder Dan McKenzie, Clerk of Session

FRIDAY, Feb. 1, 2019 7:30 p.m.

Artist Concert Series welcomes BlueWater Chamber Orchestra

Founded in 2010, BlueWater Chamber Orchestra is a refreshingly unique professional ensemble of local, world-class musicians dedicated to sharing great music with new audiences in metropolitan Cleveland. Critics have acknowledged BlueWater as “essential contributors to Cleveland's classical music scene” and acclaim “the brilliance and professionalism that has become a trademark of BlueWater performances.”

The concert is free and open to all ages. An offering will be received to support the Series.

—Nancy McGillicuddy, ACS Artistic Director

Thursdays Jan 3 & 10 6:30 p.m.

Someone is waiting for you to invite them to join RRPC

YOU have power: power to encourage a recent worship visitor to consider joining you as a member of RRPC. So speak up—urge them to attend the pair of Seekers' Classes that our pastor will offer on Thursdays, January 3 and 10 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Remember when someone encouraged you to join? Why not pass that gift along!

—elder Jim Pierce, Chair,
Evangelism & Membership

From Your Pastor

The Annual Meeting: one event, many functions

The prospect of attending a “meeting” can be exciting. As a college student I was appointed as a “student representative” to The College of Wooster’s Alumni Board. Representatives of the college’s graduates of the previous 5-50 years would meet twice-yearly to support and advance the College’s mission. They thought it would be helpful to have a few current students in their midst.

It was an honor to be asked, and I found it interesting to see how “real people” (not college students) went about their business. Those were the first “meetings” I remember attending. Of course, they were not my last.

In America today, meetings tend not to be held in high regard. That disdain comes from too many people having to participate in too many meetings—especially meetings that proved to be unproductive.

That’s key: gatherings which consume people’s precious time ought to accomplish something that’s valuable to the participants or the organizations they represent. I agree with others who assert that if there’s no useful purpose for a scheduled meeting, then that meeting should not take place.

There is a useful purpose for the upcoming 63rd Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Rocky River Presbyterian Church. Actually, there are many useful purposes, and one or more of those purposes should appeal to just about everyone who cares about RRPC.

Foremost, the “Annual Meeting” is a requirement of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s constitution under which we exist. At the meeting we review our congregation’s witness to the community

and world of God’s love in Jesus Christ. In other words, how are we doing in serving the world in Jesus’ name? We engage in that evaluation by receiving reports from the church’s various groups and staff.

One particular item of business that’s required at an Annual Meeting is for the congregation to review the compensation it grants to its pastor. Another particular function is for the “Corporation” of our church to hold its annual meeting as required by Ohio law for the election of our “corporate officers.” We’re able to accomplish both purposes at the same meeting.

In my experience the tradition of an Annual Meeting is more than receiving reports and voting on officers and approving the minister’s salary. I’ve thought of some other ways our Annual Meeting serves our life as a congregation:

It’s a “family reunion”

God has fashioned us as “sisters” and “brothers” of one another through Jesus Christ: “For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister....” (Mt. 12:50) At the Annual Meeting our “family” is brought together—from various communities, various ages, various family configurations, as one big “RRPC Family.”

It’s a “block party”

At the Annual Meeting you’re able to catch up with “church neighbors” you might not have crossed paths with for awhile. You can ask about their health, their work, their kids, their travels.

It’s a “church picnic”

Our deacons offer a light luncheon to sustain us after a morning in church, and we get to chat across the table as we eat.

It’s a “State of the Union”

You get to hear about our church’s ideas for the future—what we plan to

continue, what we plan to change, what new ventures we are exploring.

It’s a “Prime Minister’s Questions”

I know—you may not be familiar with this phenomenon. But in England it’s been a tradition since the 1880s for the Prime Minister to appear in the House of Commons on Wednesdays from noon until 12:30 p.m. During this time he or she takes questions from Members of Parliament. They can ask the Prime Minister just about anything. (If you’ve never seen this before, the televised event is re-broadcast in our country on C-SPAN. Once you’ve seen it you may wonder, “Jon wants our Annual Meeting to sound like that?!” Well, no, I trust that our gathering will not become as raucous as the behavior of the MPs...!) But the point is this: like “Prime Minister’s Questions,” our Annual Meeting is a time for the free and open sharing of ideas, opinions, suggestions. This is not “Jon’s church” or “the Session’s church” or “the staff’s church.” It’s your church, and you have both the right and the responsibility to take an active role in shaping and supporting and advancing our Christ-inspired witness to the world.

For the 63rd time, on Sunday, January 27, 2019 our congregation is invited to congregate for an Annual Meeting that is also

a reunion...
a party...
a picnic...
a forecast...
a time of sharing.

I hope you’ll share in it this year.

See you on Sunday!



January Birthdays

January 5	Lance Wilson
	Beth Erml
January 6	Maddie Dillon
January 7	Bob Murphy
January 8	Dawn Gorman
January 10	Ross Brochhagen
	Hilary Watts
	Emma Clark
	Erin Lavelle
January 12	Gretchen Koch
	Linda Esdon
January 13	Jessica Koberg
January 15	Marcella Myers
	Lee Ann Eyre
	Joel Solak
	Melanie Fredrickson
January 17	Lisa Watts (Mrs. Bryan Watts)
	Owen Stickney
January 18	Evan Jennings
January 19	Bob Davis
	Jack Lavelle
January 20	Marty Heath
	Carol Jenkins
January 21	Alaina Watts
January 25	Thomas Kennedy
January 26	Susan Penning
January 30	Noble (Bud) Jones

****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.**



"Thank you to everyone for your prayers and concern during our granddaughter's, Alexcis Martinez, National Guard Training. She graduated Nov 30th from Fort Lee. She is now attending Kent State studying criminal law and with the National Guard Reserves for at least the next 4 yrs."

~ Jim & Marcella Myers

Your January Per Capita gift

The power of the "First Envelope"

If you've opened your offering envelope packet for 2019, you've seen that the "First Envelope" is for a special offering called "Per Capita." Every Presbyterian church member across the country is urged to make a special gift through their church to defray the "per capita" expenses of being Presbyterian: what it costs "per capita" (literally, "per head") to support the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the levels of the local presbytery, regional synod, and national General Assembly.

This year, churches in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve are being asked to pay **\$32.41 per member**. For RRPC, that totals \$11,214. Without each member's special gift of \$32.41, that's \$11,214 that we won't be able to apply to our Christian education or Music programs, our Mission support or for building and ground maintenance.

The Session urges you to find that First Envelope and make a special gift in January of \$32.41 per church member in your household... and if you can, perhaps you could add something to your gift on behalf of some of our members who simply cannot make a Per Capita gift this year.

—Stewardship and Finance committees



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 debffurry@northerntitle.com or 440-336-5114 for further information and/or questions.



Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 3



Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. All of the money collected will be donated to the local missions. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$180 million has gone to help people in need.

Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on February 3. Proceeds will go to the Rocky River Assistance Program.

It's Almost “Spaghetti Time!”

Proceeds help support Presbyterian Youth Triennium participants



Let the kids do your cooking on Sunday, Jan. 27 when our youth fellowship groups present their Spaghetti Dinner Benefit. The meal will be served in Fellowship Hall from 5:00-6:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit our high school youth participating in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University July 16-20. Tickets will be sold after worship beginning January 6, or you can purchase your tickets that night.

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 btcase@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

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





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Semi-Circle

Semi-Circle will meet on **Monday, January 14th 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 **Thursday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m.** in the West Room. All are welcome! If you have any questions you may contact Gretchen Koch or Sara Gresh.

Expressions of Faith

Our group will meet **Tuesdays, January 8th and the 22nd** 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 in January until Wednesday, January 9th.** We spend the first hour in study and the second hour in prayer (all kept in confidence).

Women of Grace

Are you looking for a chance to get together with other women for Bible study, fellowship, and mission? Then please join us, we will meet on **Tuesday, January 22nd** at 7:00 p.m. in D-3,4. Our Bible study this year is titled "Unafraid" by Adam Hamilton. If you have any questions you may 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.

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.

"Is RRPC closed? Activities cancelled?"

Our church is on the **iAlert** system. In the unlikely event that we have to close for evening events or Sunday services (because of weather, utility disruption, etc.) you can find that message on Channel 3 WKYC, or listen to WCLV-FM 104.9, WMJI-FM 105.7, WTAM-AM 1100, or check the Channel 3 WKYC website. (Our weekday preschool has its own separate listing on **iAlert**, so pay attention to whether the notification is for the church or the preschool.)





JANUARY 2019 LIBRARY LINGO

Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS:

New books
Martin Luther King Day



NEW ITEMS FOR CHILDREN:

New Thanksgiving books that were displayed in November:

- The Berenstain Bears Give Thanks E BER
- Thanks for Thanksgiving E MAR
- Give Thanks to the Lord E WIL

Picture Book Fiction:

The Slobfather: A lesson in Telling the Truth

E PET

This Veggie Tales book, through the adventures of the veggie detectives, teaches the value of telling the truth. "Speak the truth to one another." Zechariah 8:16

Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose

E SEU

In this Dr. Seuss book, Thidwick allows some freeloading forest folk to hang out in his antlers, but he soon learns that some critters will take advantage of a big-hearted moose, which can be a pretty big problem if you happen to be that moose.

Young Elementary Nonfiction Books: (yellow dot)

Arch Books series:

<u>One Boy, One Stone, One God</u>	(David and Goliath)	j222.43 CUR
<u>Jesus Calms the Storm</u>		j226 COO
<u>Jericho's Tumbling Walls</u>	(Joshua and the Battle of Jericho)	j226.2 CUR
<u>Bright Light, Saul's Sight</u>		j226.6 ZIM
<u>The Wise and Foolish Builders</u>		j226.8 BUR

Upper Elementary Nonfiction Books:

God's Beautiful Daughter: Discover the love of your heavenly Father

j248.8 DOU

In this FaithGirlz Series book, we learn the awesome truth that we all have a Father who loves us deeply, completely, and forever. You'll meet him in this book, through stories and quizzes about a girl just like you.

Why Are People Different Colours?

j305.8 WAD

Explore 12 big issues for little people. Scenarios and questions around identity and diversity have been devised by two child psychologists to provide children with the perfect platform to discuss what's on their mind.

NEW ITEMS FOR ADULTS:

New Christmas books that were displayed in December:

- Home for the Holidays: Stories and Art Created for the Benefit of Habitat for Humanity FIC HOM
- The Christmas Town FIC VAN
- Why the Nativity? 232.92 JER
- 25 compelling reasons why we celebrate the birth of Jesus

HAPPY READING AND VIEWING!!

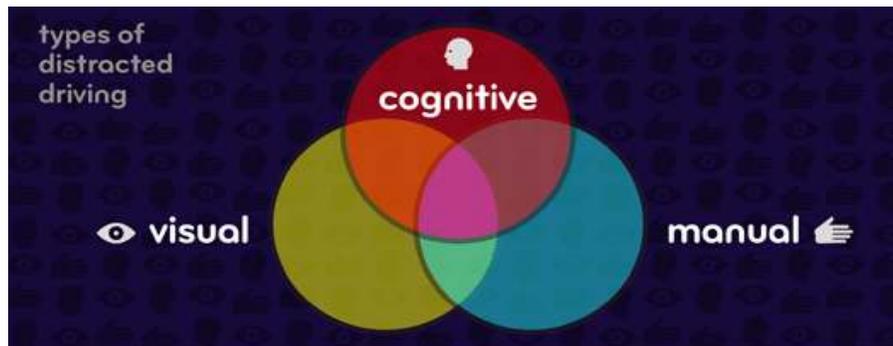
(All descriptions have been taken from book jacket, title page verso, or review article)

Healthy Happenings

... Notes from the Parish Nurse

Dear Friends and Family,

Happy New Year! I would like to start off this New Year sharing information about distracted driving and give you some tips to avoid accidents. Distracted driving comes in 3 different forms:



1. Cognitive or mental distraction is when a driver's mind isn't focused on driving. Talking to another passenger or being preoccupied with personal, family, or work-related issues are some examples. Even drivers listening to their favorite podcast or radio station are at risk; the audio can take drivers' focus away from their driving and overall surroundings.
2. Visual distraction occurs when a driver looks at anything other than the road ahead. Drivers who check the kids' seat belts while driving are visually distracted. Electronic devices for the car, such as GPS devices and portable DVDs/digital entertainment systems, also distract drivers.
3. Manual distraction is when the driver takes one or both hands off the wheel for any reason. Some common examples include eating and drinking in the car, adjusting the GPS, or trying to get something from a purse, wallet, or briefcase.

*****Texting while driving is particularly dangerous because it involves all 3 forms. *****

Here are some things you can do to avoid driving distractions and keep yourself focused on the road.

- ⇒ Turn off your cell phone, even if you're expecting an important business call.
- ⇒ If you always need to be reachable, get a hands-free device to use only in case of emergency. Why only in emergencies? Because studies have shown that hands-free devices prove just as distracting as normal cell phone use while driving.
- ⇒ When driving with children or pets, make sure the kids are strapped into their seats and pets are in carriers. If they need your attention during the drive, pull over before handling the situation.
- ⇒ Eat before or after you drive. Just don't eat while driving.
- ⇒ Program your GPS before you leave the driveway.
- ⇒ Driving and multitasking do not mix! We know it's tempting to answer that email or reprogram that GPS which just rebooted itself for the third time. But if you're able to resist the temptation and focus on the road ahead, you'll be able to react to the unexpected and maybe even avoid an accident.

*****NEVER Drink and Drive. *****

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!



BOB DAVIS

1. Profession

Retired from IBM after 35 years of service

2. Hobbies / Interests

Computers and programming (PC and website)

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

Traveling anywhere with our camping trailer with my wonderful wife beside me. The trip to the Hot Balloon Fiesta at Albuquerque, NM was the greatest (see picture).



4. Why do you worship here at RRPC?

Absolutely the people at RRPC. So many have reached out to us in friendship that it has warmed our hearts. Jon also presents so many great messages.



SUSAN PENNING

1. Profession

I am a retired Cleveland public school teacher and a former employee of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services.

2. Hobbies / Interests

My favorite hobby is being a grandparent. Other interests include gardening, reading, volunteering and socializing. (You never realize how boring you are until someone asks what you do for fun!)



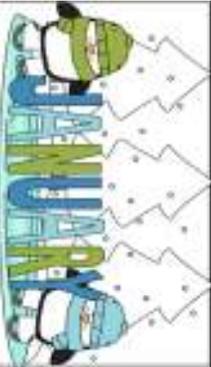
3. Favorite trip you've taken, or where you'd like to go

We are looking forward to celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this summer in Hawaii with our children and grandchildren.

4. Why do you worship here at RRPC?

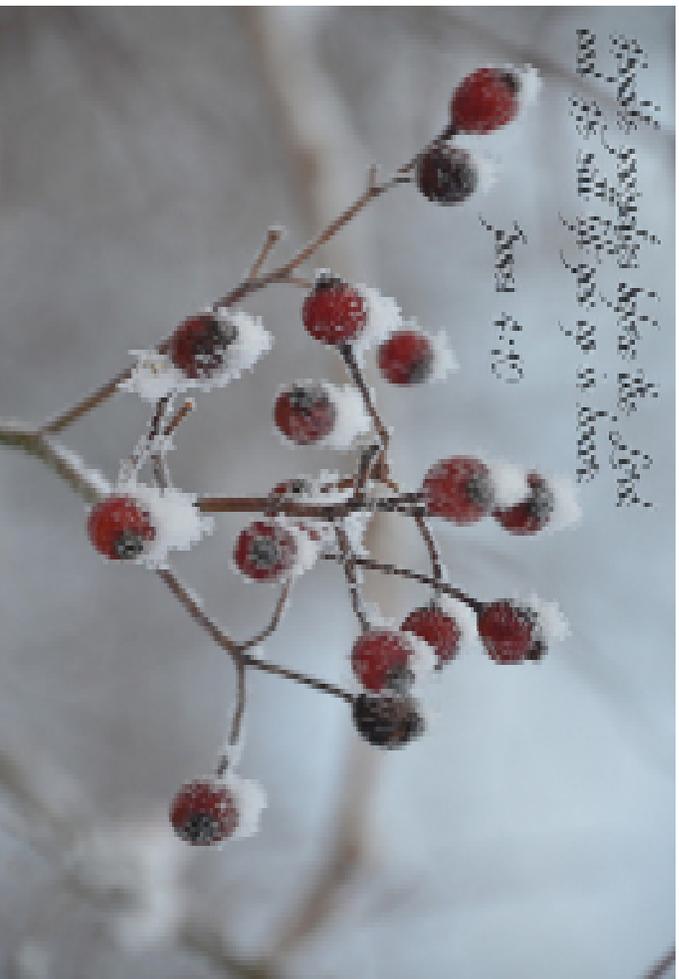
When looking for a place to worship, I was very impressed with the friendliness of everyone at RRPC, and how interesting the church services were. A win-win combination.

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>6 Communion / Food Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship / KISS / Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Mission Committee Mtg. 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.</p>	<p>7 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee 7:00 p.m. Christian Education 7:00 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day <i>Church office closed</i> 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.</p>	<p>2 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.</p>	<p>3 6:30 p.m. Seekers Class #1 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics AA</p>	<p>4 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbucks)</p>	<p>5 7:00 p.m. AA Altered Attitudes</p>
<p>13 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship / Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Evang. & Membership Mtg. 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 11:45 a.m. Session Meeting 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.</p>	<p>14 12:00 p.m. Semi-Circle Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p>15 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.</p>	<p>16 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Prayer 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.</p>	<p>17 7:00 p.m. PW Priscilla Circle 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics AA</p>	<p>18 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbucks)</p>	<p>19 7:00 p.m. AA Altered Attitudes</p>
<p>20 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship / Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.</p>	 <p>n Luther King Jr. Day <i>(church office closed)</i> 7:00 p.m. Women's AA 7:30 p.m. Session Mtg.</p>	<p>22 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 7:00 p.m. PW Women of Grace 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.</p>	<p>23 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Prayer 10:00 a.m. RRPC Staff Mtg. 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.</p>	<p>24 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics AA</p>	<p>25 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbucks)</p>	<p>26 7:00 p.m. AA Altered Attitudes</p>
<p>27 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship / Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Annual Congregational Mtg 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 5:00 p.m. Youth Spaghetti Dinner 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.</p>	<p>28 7:00 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p>29 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.</p>	<p>30 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Prayer 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.</p>	<p>31 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics AA</p>		

“The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of
Rocky River Presbyterian Church
January 2019



Inside this Issue:

- From Your Pastor 2
- Birthdays, Music 3
- Youth & Children 4
- Presbyterian Women 5
- Library Lingo 6
- Healthy Happenings 7
- Member Spotlight 8
- January Calendar 9

Please refer to the website
calendar for any updates which
may post after the published
Pulse date. Thank you.

Rocky River Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Jon M. Fancher, Pastor
21750 Detroit Road
Rocky River, OH 44116-2220
(440) 333-4888
www.riverpres.org