

The Pulse

May
2019



of Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Sun., May 5 11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Hear from RRPC's Holy Land travelers

After worship on Sun., May 5 you can hear from fellow RRPC members who visited the Holy Land in February.

Marion Good, Dave Hensel and his wife **Sharon**, and (via letter) former member **Dana Straub** will each make brief presentations about a personal highlight of their visit to Israel/Palestine and Jordan with our pastor a few months ago. Presentations may include a few photos and artifacts. The brief program starts at 11:45 a.m. in the West Room, and will conclude by 12:30 p.m.

"Celebration of Music Sunday" May 19

Live music with no cover charge!

Since last September we've enjoyed songs, solos and anthems by our bell ringers, Chancel Choir singers and our youth. The choirs close out their program year on Sun., May 19. They'll bring back favorite songs and anthems from the past year. Maybe you'll hear a Christmas carol or a harvest song or an Easter hymn.

While the choirs take a break over the summer, worship this summer will be graced by duets, solos, and other guest musicians.

—Worship Committee

8:30 a.m. service starts May 26

"Early Worship" returns to our worship schedule

From Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend, "Early Worship" at 8:30 a.m. in

Walker Chapel joins our customary worship service at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The services are the same, though Early Worship is slightly abbreviated—it usually lasts about 35 minutes. That means that shortly after 9 a.m. you can be on your way to the ballpark or golf course, the boat or garden... and you didn't have to give up the fellowship and inspiration of Sunday worship.

—Worship Committee



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Order gift cards by Sun., May 5

You're going to spend money there—help our preschool, too!

Our weekday preschool is taking orders for gift cards to Mitchell's Ice Cream. You pay face value for the cards (\$5, \$10, \$20 and \$25 cards available), and our preschool receives 25% of the value! You know you're going to spend money there this Spring and Summer, so why not allow *your* money to *make* money for our preschool! Order forms available in the lobby.



—Ellen Schickel,
Preschool Committee Co-Chair

Honor our nation's war dead Mon. May 27

Memorial Day parade & ceremony

10 a.m. Parade from Rocky River High School to Lakewood Park Cemetery.

10:45 a.m. (approx.) Memorial Program in the cemetery (presented by Joint Veterans' Council of Lakewood & Rocky River).

As a courtesy to the community, we make our **parking lot** available to parade-goers, and we have our building open for access to **restroom facilities**.



Encourage visitors to attend!

One more Seekers class Wed. May 15

1. Notice visitors and other "unfamiliar faces" in worship.
2. Introduce yourself to them!
3. Ask if they've been attending RRPC for long.
4. If they answer "No," encourage them to attend a Seekers' Class!

Before he begins his summer sabbatical, our pastor will offer one more Seekers' Class: Wednesday, May 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Visitors and guests wonder how one goes about becoming part of this church—help them out by telling them about the class!

—Jim Pierce, Chair,
Evangelism & Membership Committee

From Your Pastor

What will the summer sabbatical mean for you?

Will you recognize me when I return from the 13-week summer sabbatical?

Will I recognize you?!?

I ask that because, by design and from experience I can assert that this sabbatical experience will bring about a positive change for both of us: the pastor and the congregation.

You're familiar with what a sabbatical is: a time away from the regular duties of a position in order to gain perspective from a period of distance from the routine and demands of the job. The expectation is that the one engaging in the sabbatical will gain inspiration and return refreshed, rejuvenated, and refocused for the work ahead.

A unique component of this particular sabbatical was that I was awarded a grant from the Lilly Endowment's National Clergy Renewal Program in order to fund some extraordinary activities. In a nutshell:

- Mary and I will travel to Ghost Ranch Presbyterian Conference Center in New Mexico.
- We will visit the country of Indonesia where I lived as the teenaged son of missionary parents.
- And we will return to a favorite getaway: the Lakeside Chautauqua on the Marblehead peninsula for some R&R with our family.

So from Monday, June 10 through Sunday, September 8, I will be "off-the-clock," so to speak. I won't be available for church-related questions or business or duties. In fact, on my "sabbatical send-off Sunday" I will hand over my church keys to the Rev. Sharon Core, the General Presbyter for the Presbytery of the Western Reserve. That symbolic action affirms that I am being given temporary relief from the duties and stresses of the practice of ministry.

To be clear, while I'm on sabbatical this summer I can still talk with you. We can still socialize with you. If you see me in the store or walking Parker the Dog you don't have to run and hide. But I can't and won't talk any

"church business" with you during the summer sabbatical.

So what will the summer sabbatical mean to you? You'll notice a difference in three areas: preaching, pastoral care, and day-to-day operations.

Preaching:

The most obvious change for this summer is that you'll hear other voices from the pulpit each week (at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.). Fifteen years ago when I had my other sabbatical, it was that summer line-up of lay preachers that generated the most excitement from the congregation.

Was the congregation tired of hearing me? I can't answer that, but when I returned from that sabbatical I heard over and over again that there was a special eagerness week by week as people came to church on Sunday mornings. Whether the guest preacher that week was a long-time church friend or it was fellow member who they recognized by sight but didn't know particularly well, people couldn't wait to hear what their fellow members had to say. They appreciated the insight into scripture and the Christian Life as it was shared by "people like them."

By the way, did you know that every single member of the church who has been a lay preacher once had to do it for the very first time? I mention that because there are a few Sundays this summer that haven't been claimed yet. I'd be happy to chat with you if you're wondering if you have the seed of a sermon inside you to share with your fellow RRPCers.

Pastoral Care:

Another change that you might or might not experience is how the church supports you with compassionate care. Usually you know that you can depend on me to provide pastoral care in times of concern or crisis. I'll visit you when you're hospitalized. I'll call you when I hear you're having a rough time. I'll meet you when you go in for surgery. I'll be with you when you must make arrangements at the funeral home.

But during the summer sabbatical, "pastoral" care, for the most part, will take the form of members caring for members. More than ever you'll rely on one another to offer the support, encouragement, and comfort that you need as you navigate life's bumpy road. Yes, I have lined up minister colleagues to be on call for urgent emergencies. But for the most part, you are going to

embody the encouragement found in scripture that you care for one another:

- Romans 12:10—Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Outdo one another in showing honor.
- Galatians 6:2—Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Day-to-day operations:

We have a very capable staff who will continue to devote themselves to their work through the summer sabbatical period. But what happens if a situation arises that they don't know how to handle? What if they need approval before they commit the church to something? In situations where they would expect me to make the decision, during the summer sabbatical period they'll have someone else to call on for guidance.

Members of the Session have volunteered to be the "Elder-on-call" for a week at a time. If a situation arises where a staff member wonders, "What would Jon do?", they simply will contact that week's "Elder-on-call" who will be empowered by the Session to act in my place. Naturally, they aren't left all alone; the Elders-on-call know they can call on other elders with expertise in particular areas like finance, property, personnel, worship. They have many resources available to them, but when it comes down to "yes-or-no," "do-it-or-not" decisions, the Elder-on-call for that week will have the authority to act.

This summer sabbatical experience will reinforce a truth that we sometimes forget: this is your church. I've never liked it when people refer to RRPC as "Jon's church." This church was here before me and will be here after me. Although I love the privilege I have to be called to serve this church, it has always been your church. (For that matter, it's Christ's church that is entrusted to you to provide for the care of the people, mission to the community, and witness to the world.)

You'll receive a pastor in September who has gained rest but also fresh perspective on the life and opportunities of this congregation. And you'll be more appreciative of the depth of riches to be found within you and your fellow RRPC members.

See you on Sunday.





May Birthdays

May 1	Julie Stavole
May 3	Audrey Bruggers Forrest Bishop Grace Bennett
May 7	Walt King Aileen Busher
May 8	David Clash Griffin Roberts
May 9	Rachel DeAtley
May 10	Susan Variakojis
May 12	Jessica Bohannon Kira Katterle
May 14	Kathy Roos Lisa Poole John St. Pierre
May 15	Kevin Costello
May 16	Raymond Bohannon Susan Pierce
May 17	Finn Carney Carol Garibaldi
May 18	Kendal Purohit Ellen Schickel Christopher Heierding
May 20	Cher Bourne David St. Pierre Dylan O'Flaherty
May 21	Rudy Gulstrand Sue Krizman Jackson Ward Elliana Carmack
May 22	Jury Mirceta Thomas Matile Stella Schriner
May 24	Bill Buettner Allie Sakai Brian Fancher
May 25	Chuck Erickson
May 26	Judy Bryan Pam Brown Bernie Hisey Melissa Stickney
May 27	Joshua Kirchner Jacob Shaver
May 29	Patrick Gorman Thomas Stickney
May 31	Bill Allport Mike Yezbak

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

Pastor's sabbatical happens this summer

Who, me? Give a sermon this summer?!?

That's right—RRPC members just like you are going to be our "guest preachers" this summer while our pastor is away on his Sabbatical Summer. The last time Jon enjoyed a sabbatical back in 2004, that's what happened: church members "filled the pulpit" every Sunday. Many people recall how exciting it was to anticipate hearing what fellow church members would share week by week.

Now it's your turn. "Everyone has at least one sermon in 'em," Jon's fond of saying. If you're wondering, "I'm not sure I could do it—what, actually, is involved?" he looks forward to hearing from you.

- He'll help you figure out what message you might want to share.
- He'll give you whatever guidance you want in how to go about preparing a message.
- He'll even give you feedback on what you prepare if you wish.

There are 13 chances to preach this summer (you'd get to preach at both Early Worship at 8:30 *and* the 10:30 service). A few "veterans" are planning to be guest preachers again, but this will work only if we have some people take a "leap of faith" and commit to give the gift of a sermon to our church this summer. So look within your heart, and check your calendar!

To learn more, or to claim one of the Sundays, speak with Jon.



—Session's Human Resources
and Worship Committees

Easier for you & RRPC

You don't have to write that check

How many monthly payments do you make electronically?

Did you know you can add your monthly church offering to the list—you can save the time and trouble of writing your offering check every month, and you won't have to wonder, "Did I remember to make that gift?"

Our Financial Secretary Dave Wolfe can assist you with setting up a monthly Electronic Fund Transfer from your bank account directly to the church. It's secure, easy and free:

- ⇒ Only one simple form to fill out
- ⇒ No fees to pay
- ⇒ You can adjust or stop the EFT at any time just by calling the church.

Questions? Want to get started? Email or call our Financial Secretary Dave Wolfe at (440) 333-4888 or dwolfe@riverpres.org.

—Stewardship Committee

Graduate Recognition Sunday

If you or someone in your family will be graduating from high school, college or graduate school this spring please give the church office a call with the details and supply a picture if you are able. We would like to honor the graduates during our worship service on Sunday, June 2.



9:00-11:30 a.m. June 10-14

VBS poses basic question: "Who Is My Neighbor?"

Mark your calendars now for June 10-14, this year's Vacation Bible School experience. We will spend our week hearing stories of Jesus caring for others and how we can care for our own neighbors near and far. This program is open to all children age four through 5th grade, and will run from 9-11:30 am each day. Look for registration forms on the church website. They are also available in the church office and the CE office.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED RIGHT NOW...we are putting together the volunteer team that makes this incredible week happen- regular meetings have begun. We are looking for adults and teens who are willing to help out in a variety of areas: worship, snacks, recreation, mission, music, crafts and shepherding. If you would like to be involved in this week of fun, faith, and fellowship, you can get more information in the Christian education office. Don't miss it!

Summer Camp Information is Available

Are you starting to plan your summer, even though it is still cold and gray? We have information on several excellent Christian camping opportunities for kids of all ages. For more information or to pick up camp flyers, see Lisa Watts.



RRPPreschool 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,
Session's Preschool Committee



ROCKY RIVER PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

FIVE GUYS

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

3100 Westgate, Fairview Park

(440) 333-5570

Present this flier or simply mention that you are there to support the *Rocky River Presbyterian Preschool*. Five Guys will donate up to 25% of your purchase to the RRPP.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Semi-Circle

Semi-Circle will meet on **Monday, May 13th** 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, May 16th** 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, May 14th** and the **28th** 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).

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, May 28th** 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.

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

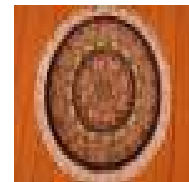


How does the church know someone's hospitalized? Someone tells us.

Due to privacy laws regarding medical information, the church is not notified when someone is having surgery, is hospitalized or faces some other crisis. Please share joys, concerns and sorrows by telling the pastor or by calling or messaging the church office.



One World Shop Rug Event Rocky River May 15—19



Support artisans in 100 villages in Pakistan by purchasing a "fair trade" hand knotted, heirloom-quality rug during the One World Shop Rug Event in Rocky River May 15th thru 19th. From intricate florals to hand spun wool natural dye tribals, the rugs are created by over 850 families who are fairly paid for their work. Every rug sold helps empower women, support families, and send children to school. For more information, visit the store at 19321 Detroit Rd. or call 440-333-7709, or to to rugs.tenthousandvillages.com to see samples of rugs.



Please Join us for the 4th of July!

All RRPC members: please join Zack and Jayne Hoon as we open our home and yard to our church family to celebrate the 4th of July! Party starts at 6:00 PM. We live at 1465 Queen Anne's Gate in Westlake. (Be prepared for street parking and walking several blocks!)

We'll have burgers, hot dogs and fixin's and some basic picnic beverages. Feel free to bring something to share (*if there's no potluck it ain't Presbyterian*) and your favorite "party beverage" if you like.

We live right on Clague Park where the City of Westlake will put on an impressive 45-minute fireworks show starting at 9:15 PM. Bring a blanket or folding chairs and walk over with us to enjoy the show!

Though ours are grown, we welcome children. No pets, please. We do have two protective dogs who will not be permitted into the festivities.

If you can attend, please RSVP via email: zackaryhoon@gmail.com or jaynehoon@gmail.com.

We're hoping it doesn't happen, but, in case of inclement weather we might need to postpone.



MAY 2019 LIBRARY LINGO

Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS:

New books
Mother's Day books
Spring books



NEW ITEMS FOR CHILDREN:

Picture Book Fiction:

God's Princess Treasury: 4 Books in One

E HOD

The Princess Twins and the Puppy

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

The Princess Twins Play in the Garden

People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)

The Princess Twins and the Tea Party

He (God) gives grace to those who are not proud. (Proverbs 3:34)

The Princess Twins and the Birthday Party

Be kind and compassionate to one another. (Ephesians 4:32)

Llama Llama and the Bully Goat

E DEW

Llama Llama Red Pajama

E DEW

Llama Llama Time to Share

E DEW

Young Elementary Nonfiction Books (yellow dot):

Board Books:

Bible Heroes

BOARD BIB

David and Goliath

BOARD DAV

God Made the World

BOARD GOD

In the Beginning

BOARD INT

Little David and the Giant

BOARD LIT

The Story of Jonah (2 books) pop-up books

BOARD STO

Jonah and the Whale (2 books)

BOARD JON

Little Bible Heroes Flip Over Book Series:

Creation/ Noah

Miriam/ Daniel

Joshua/ Rahab

Samuel/ The Little Maid

David/ Esther

Christmas/ Easter

Joseph/ The Good Samaritan

Martha/ Jesus' Miracles

Upper Elementary/Junior High Nonfiction Books:

One-Minute Devotions for Girls

j242.2 LAR

Earth-Friendly Toys: How to Make Fabulous Toys and Games from Reusable Objects j745.592

There are 30 different activities to choose from, all including complete step-by-step instructions and illustrations. Plus you'll learn important facts and tips about helping to save our environment through recycling.

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,

We've all had those well-intentioned moments when we resolve to make sweeping lifestyle changes: Quit smoking. Lose 20 pounds. Join a gym and start exercising every day. While we should always strive to accomplish these types of health goals, the road to better health doesn't always have to mean making huge leaps. There are also many smaller steps you can take that will help improve your overall health and quality of life and because they're things you can easily incorporate into your routine, they'll be easy to maintain for the long haul. Even if you have only a few minutes to spare, you can use that time to improve your well-being. Try incorporating the following activities and strategies into your day. When these simple steps become habits, they can add up to a big positive effect on your overall health.

Enjoy de-stressing. Experts recommend regular exercise, meditation and breathing techniques to reduce stress. But even something as simple and enjoyable as listening to soothing music, reading a good book, soaking in a hot tub or playing with your pet can help you relax. That's advice you should take to heart because prolonged stress can cause or exacerbate a number of health problems, including heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, depression, ulcers, irritable bowel syndrome, migraines and obesity. If you don't have a lot of time, even brief periods of relaxation are beneficial. Spending even 10 minutes at a time doing something you enjoy can go a long way toward beating the stressors of everyday life. Just reading one chapter or taking your dog for a few laps around the block will help you feel calmer, more refreshed and more energized. If you can't take a full break from whatever you're doing, try simply taking a few slow, deep breaths in that moment. When you slow down your breathing, it helps you relax. This relaxation response releases body chemicals that relieve stress and may improve immune function. Deep breathing can also lower your resting heart rate. People with lower resting heart rates are typically in better physical condition than those with higher rates.

Put away the salt. A saltshaker on the dining table makes it all too easy to consume excess salt, which can lead to high blood pressure. So put the shaker in a cabinet or pantry and bring it out only when you're cooking. "It's also a good idea to taste your food before you salt it," Quintana says. "You may find it doesn't need it." You can also try spicing up your food with lemon or lime juice, garlic, red pepper flakes, herbs or a salt-free seasoning blend. Stock your fridge and pantry with your favorite fresh and dried herbs so you'll always have them on hand to flavor your foods.

Get to bed earlier. Most of us don't get the seven or more hours of sleep that we need as adults. Over time, a shortage of shut-eye can raise your risk of a heart attack or stroke regardless of your age, weight or exercise habits. If you're consistently sleep-deprived, going to bed even 15 minutes earlier every night could help. Also set a regular sleep and wake schedule, and stick to it even on days off.

Do a crossword puzzle. Researchers have found that mentally challenging activities, such as reading, doing crossword puzzles or Sudoku and playing chess, may have a protective effect on your brain. According to research studies, regularly engaging your mind may help lower your risk for the dementia associated with Alzheimer's disease. Connecting with others and staying socially engaged may also protect against dementia.

Make a few dietary substitutions. Swap white bread, rice, crackers and pasta for healthier whole grain versions. Use skinless chicken and turkey in your recipes instead of skin-on, and leaner cuts of other meats such as beef or pork. Replace one sugary drink (soda, juice, etc.) each day with a tall glass of water. If you get hungry between meals, snack on a handful of almonds or cashews, a piece of whole fruit, or carrot sticks dipped in hummus rather than reaching for candy bars, potato chips or cookies. For dinner, serve broccoli or spinach as a side dish instead of mashed potatoes or try adding green peas to your brown rice. It's no secret that vegetables especially dark, leafy greens are good for you. But there's another benefit to packing more veggies into your daily diet: They're rich in fiber and contain lots of water, so they'll leave you full and satisfied without a lot of calories and fat.

Take the stairs. The next time you're going to a higher floor, bypass the elevator and climb the stairs instead. You'll get your blood pumping, exercise your lungs and work the muscles in your lower body. It's a great way to add physical activity to your day without having to block out time to exercise. Try to walk 10,000 steps each day.

Stretch it out. Regularly stretching your muscles helps you avoid injuries and help you stay limber and move freely as you age. Take a few minutes to stretch out before and after you exercise. If you aren't working out that day, take a few stretch breaks. Find a quiet space in the office where you won't be disturbed. Stretching right before bed helps to relieve tension and helps you get to sleep.

Healthy habits can help you control any diseases you have and lower your risk of getting others in the future.

RRPC Member Spotlight

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



Melissa Stickney

1. Profession

Attorney, Stickney & Stickney LLP

2. Hobbies / Interests

Enjoy reading literary fiction, serving as a Trustee at the Rocky River Public Library, attending theater locally at the Beck, Playhouse Square and on Broadway, and visiting art museums and galleries; but mostly just strive to keep up with the kids, Owen, Hugo and Beatrix.

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

Our family thoroughly enjoyed traveling to Switzerland, revisiting Neuchatel where I lived as a child, and discovering anew the majesty of Lauterbrunnen with its surrounding alps and waterfalls.

4. Why do you worship here at RRPC?

To quote one of my favorite VBS songs: "The church is not a building. The church is not the steeple. The church is not a resting place. The Church is the people." I love the RRPC people, their faith, generosity, and big Christian hearts.

Jury George Mirceta

1. Profession

Construction/Landscape professional

2. Hobbies / Interests

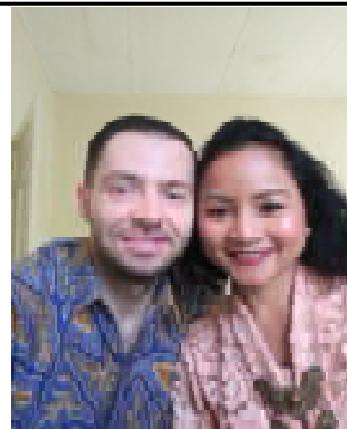
I work 7 days a week to help support my family, so I just work. But I cook professionally as a hobby.

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




I just came back from a month in Indonesia. There I toured many amazing cities and did marry my best friend, my wife. If you'd like to know more, just ask.

4. Why do you worship here at RRPC?

It was a sign from God I should be here. Finding out Pastor Jon lived in Indonesia, and my wife is from Indonesia, this was an easy choice.



May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
5 Communion / Food Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship/Children/ Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Mission Committee Mtg. 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 11:45 a.m. New Church Officer Orientation Option A 4:00 p.m. ACS Presents Western Reserve Brass Band 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.	6 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	7 8:30 a.m. Three Arts Club of Lakewood Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.	8 11:30 a.m. RRPP Staff Lunch 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	9 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Bible Study & Breakfast	10 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbuck's)	11 7:00 p.m. AA Altered Attitudes
12 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship/Children/ Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:35 a.m. Evang. & Membership Mtg. 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.	13 12:00 p.m. Semi-Circle Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	14 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 9:30 a.m. RRPP/Preschool Committee Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.	15 Five Guys fundraiser for Preschool 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 6:45 p.m. Seekers Class "B" 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	16 7:00 p.m. PW Piscilla Circle Mtg.	17 Last Day of Preschool  7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbuck's)	18 9:00 a.m. Girl Scout Flower pick-up (South lot) 7:00 p.m. AA Altered Attitudes
19 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship/Children/ Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs 11:45 a.m. New Church Officer Orientation Option B 7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Mtg.	20 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Session Mtg.	21 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.	22 10:00 a.m. RRPPC Staff Mtg. 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	23 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Bible Study & Breakfast	24 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbuck's)	25 7:00 p.m. AA Altered Attitudes
26 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship/Children/ Nursery 11:35 a.m. Time of Fellowship 11:40 a.m. Children's & Youth Choirs	27 Memorial Day <i>(church office closed)</i>  7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	28 7:00 p.m. PW Women of Grace 7:30 p.m. Alanon/Alateen Mtg.	29 6:15 p.m. Chancel Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	30 5:00 p.m. Community Meal	31 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (RR Starbuck's)	

Progress seems slow but determined

Update on our Vitality and Renewal Initiative

A little over a year ago our congregation embarked on an initiative to bring vitality and renewal to our ministries, our life together, our mission to the community and the world.

The process began with guided conversations during a worship service. During Lent the initiative offered Bible study inspiring us to consider how we can more closely follow Jesus. The initiative continued with Vitality & Renewal Team members engaging various groups and committees and boards in discussions about our church.

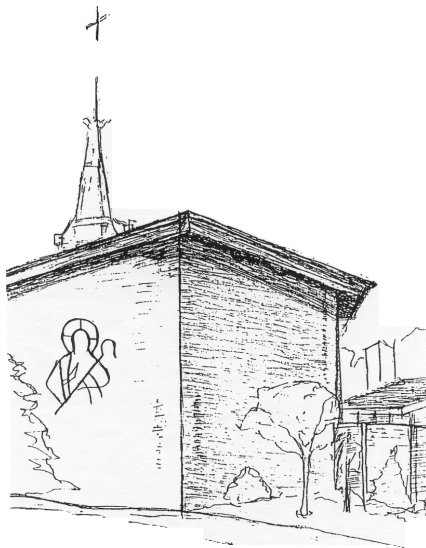
All that time and effort was very helpful: the Vitality & Renewal Team gleaned a clear focus on our collective vision for what God wants our church to become. The Team shared that information at the Annual Meeting back in January in the form of desired “outcomes,” that is, “What will we become if we are to be the kind of church God is calling us to be?” Those five outcomes are:

- 1) An inclusive engaging community of faith
- 2) Vibrant participation in worship and mission
- 3) An environment that bridges generations
- 4) Christian voice advocating for justice
- 5) Faithful stewardship of God's resources for future generations

What next? Right now each of the Session’s committees is developing goals to draw the church closer to those outcomes. Those goals will be set by this month and will guide them in their work for the rest of the year. We will publish all of the goals in the June issue of The Pulse.

Please don’t hesitate to contact either of us with your questions or observations.

—Dave Hensel, Vitality & Renewal Team Chair & Dan McKenzie, Clerk of Session



Artist Concert Series welcomes

BRASS BAND OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

Sunday, May 5 4 p.m.



“We’re forming a band and we’re aiming high!” was the message sent out to local brass players and percussionists in 1997 when it was discovered that the experienced and successful brass band director, Dr. Keith M. Wilkinson, was residing in northeast Ohio. Established in the Fall of 1997 to present a varied repertoire that enralls audiences, BBWR’s prestigious concert venues have included The Amphitheater of the Chautauqua Institution, Hoover Auditorium at Lakeside and Severance Hall, Cleveland. **Music for all ages—and especially for school-aged musicians!**

Community Meal - Please join us!
Thursday, May 30th

We’re opening our doors to offer a free, hot meal to anyone who’d enjoy it! The meal will be served Thursday, May 30 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. (doors open at 4:30 p.m.). We hope RRPC folks will come to share a meal with our “guests.” And if you’d like to help out that day, see the sign-up poster in the lobby!



**MISSION:
POSSIBLE**

a minute for mission

The mission committee kicked off 2019 with a focus on trying many new mission activities, aligned with RRPC's goals and objectives. In an effort to address some areas of opportunity that we identified with the vitality & renewal team in late 2018, we decided to select a monthly mission focus for each month of 2019.

Over the past few months, we've done a lot! And we have to thank the congregation for their support and involvement. In January, we **collected over 170 items for Cleveland's homeless population** via the Community West Foundation's SocksPLUS initiative. In February, we **packed over 65 care packages for local cancer patients and their families** in support of the Village Project (an alternative Christmas charity bazaar charity). We also **packed 40 healthy snack packs to distribute to our community meal guests** as a nice take home treat. In March, we **organized & packaged 100s of snack/food items for local children in need**, distributed by their school via the Cleveland Food Bank. During the month of April, we **hosted a toy and household item collection for families struggling with serious medical issues**, supporting the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland.

May Mission Focus

We will be putting together some healthy treats and thank you cards for our local first responders, in honor of Memorial Day. Please look for cards to decorate throughout the month in the church lobby, near the display case.

We will also be holding our quarterly community meal on Thursday May 30th at 5 pm. If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to Susan Penning (smpenning@gmail.com).

For more information on upcoming mission events, visit the mission wall across from Dr. Fancher's office. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to me!

Matt Pedone
Mission Committee Chair

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“The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of
Rocky River Presbyterian Church

May 2019



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