

# The Pulse

March  
2016



## of Rocky River Presbyterian Church

*Which Holy Week activities will you experience?*

### Holy Week: Palm Sunday to Easter

Holy Week is what we call the week that *began* with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and *concluded* with the discovery of the empty tomb on Easter.

When you're in Jerusalem you can see or participate in re-enactments of many of the events of Holy Week. Here at RRPC we mark the most revered of those moments with these activities:

#### Palm Sunday, Mar. 20, 10:30 a.m.

Hold a palm frond in your hand as you recall Jesus' joyful approach to Jerusalem, but watch in silence as worship concludes with the somber "Stripping of the Chancel" in which candles, banners, flowers, etc. are removed from our sanctuary to prepare for the starkness of Holy Week events. [A children's Easter Egg Hunt follows worship.]

#### Maundy Thursday, Mar. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Our communion service in Walker Chapel features the ancient "Tenebrae Rite" in which the room gradually descends into darkness as the Crucifixion approaches.

#### Good Friday, Mar. 25

**12 noon**—a Community Good Friday Walk hosted by St. Christopher Church. You're encouraged to wear the color red as you join with other Christians for this public witness to faith, walking +/- 2 miles through northeastern Rocky River, pausing occasionally for scripture and prayer.

**6:00 p.m.**—a 30-minute service of scripture and prayer focused on the Crucifixion of our Lord who would be our Savior.

#### Easter Day, Mar. 27

**7:00 a.m.**—Easter Sunrise Service in the Outdoor Chapel overlooking the valley at Rockport United Methodist Church (Wooster Rd., south of Center Ridge) led by our youth and theirs. Service indoors if weather dictates.

**10:30 a.m.**—Behold the array of spring flowers as you worship in our sanctuary

—Worship Committee



*A big thank-you to YOU*

### 2016 budget update

As reported at the congregation's Annual Meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>, and in a letter mailed out shortly thereafter, our church had been staring at an operating budget *deficit* for 2016 of about \$9,400. That was even *after* Session approved a number of tough budget cuts, and agreed to increase the amount we draw from our investments this year by a half-percent.

The plea for help went out to the congregation, and you all responded. Through special gifts and increased pledges, we have covered that \$9400.00 deficit! Of course, in order to keep the budget balanced the Session will work on keeping expenses under control and will depend on offerings to be received as expected.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. As additional money comes in, it will be used to help us fulfill our per capita obligation to the Presbytery (see the per capita update on [page 7](#)).

--Finance and Stewardship Committees



Don't forget to set your clocks **ahead** 1 hour Saturday night, March 12<sup>th</sup> before bedtime. We wouldn't want you to be late for church!

*"River Pres-Bees" strike again!*

### Save the date for 2016 event:

- ♥ **Sat. Apr. 30**
- ♥ **1 p.m.—11 p.m.**
- ♥ **Westlake High School stadium**



Plan to come to our 2016 "Paint Your World Purple" Relay for Life and enjoy our "Carnival"-themed food and games. For more information visit [www.relayforlife.org/westshore](http://www.relayforlife.org/westshore). For more information contact Suzi Piskur (888-227-6446x1212 or [Suzan.piskur@cancer.org](mailto:Suzan.piskur@cancer.org)), or RRPC deacon Lisa Poole at [lpole06@gmail.com](mailto:lpole06@gmail.com).

—Board of Deacons

**From Your Pastor**

**So you thought you were alone, did you?**

Each Sunday during Lent this year our worship experience has included a time of “Reflection & Response.” Following the sermon, worshipers are invited to reflect on how that morning’s message spoke to them personally. Then they’re given a suggestion for how they might respond to the message.

On the second Sunday of Lent (Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>) the message was based on Jesus’ assertion that “those who lose their lives for Jesus’ sake will save them” for the purpose of serving God’s will. The sermon suggested that when our lives feel “empty,” that sense of emptiness is not necessarily a bad thing. Indeed, it could be a blessing to “empty” ourselves of some of the thoughts that preoccupy our minds. It could be beneficial if we were to “empty” our days of some of the behaviors that are less than positive or constructive—like ego, fear of being unloved, worry of not measuring up, that sort of thing. “Emptiness” actually makes space for God to gain a firmer toehold in our lives, pointing us toward seeking God’s will rather than simply our own desires.

During the “Reflection and Response” that followed, worshipers were invited to write on a sticky note that had been placed on the front of every bulletin. They were to jot down on that paper what they need to “let go of,” something that needs to “die” in order that they can live more fully. Then they were invited to bring it forward and adhere it to a large wood cross brought in for the occasion. They were to bring to the cross that note of what-ever preoccupies them... and leave it there.



To be honest, when I made the plans to include this symbolic action in worship, I hadn’t thought about what would happen after that. On Monday morning I went into the sanctuary to remove all the sticky notes so I could dismantle the wood cross and return it to my friend Father John at St. Christopher Church who had been so kind to loan it to me. (I’m telling you, we Presbyterians and our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters down the street have *the best* relationship! Ask me about it sometime.)

Now, when this worshipful response activity was taking place during the worship service, the cross was three feet away from me, visible out of the corner of my eye. But I had decided that I wasn’t going to watch people attach their little sticky notes to the cross. I didn’t want anybody to worry that I was trying to read what they wrote or that I was trying to remember precisely where so-and-so placed his or her sticky note so I could check on it later. I wanted to protect the anonymity of those who participated.

So on Monday morning I went to clear the notes off the cross—the notes of people saying what they wanted to let go of, what they wanted to be rid of. I was going to simply throw them away. But I pulled off a note and read it. I read another one. Immediately it occurred to me that these were... prayers. I collected them and brought them back to my office.

I sat at my desk and read through them. All 86 of them. It was powerful. Categories of burdens and concerns became apparent. I separated these “sticky prayers” into categories, laying them out in strips on my desk.



What kinds of things are the people of this congregation struggling with? The “sticky prayers” revealed that you are carrying around burdens like:

- ◆ Selfishness and pride
- ◆ Control vs. learning to “let go”
- ◆ Perfection and being “good enough”
- ◆ Time—wasting it, or learning to let go of the past
- ◆ Finances and tendencies toward greed
- ◆ Health and preoccupation with physical appearance
- ◆ Concerns about school

- ◆ Job security
- ◆ Family relationships
- ◆ Hesitation to follow God’s guidance
- ◆ Worry and anxiety and fear

Ministers often are encouraged to remember the wide variety of profound but silent burdens that people bring with them to church on any given Sunday morning. Trying to keep a smile on their face, people come to worship to pray and praise, but their minds are filled with nagging questions: *What’s happening with my job? What am I going to do with my child? What am I supposed to do with my parent? How come my friend hurt me? Is something going on with my health? Is God ignoring me? How do I go on after losing my loved one? Is this crazy world coming apart?*

And you thought you were the only one. You thought everybody else in your church seems to be doing fine, and you are struggling just to keep it together.

But that’s why we’re here. And that’s why you’re here. God brings us together not only to offer God the praise and worship God deserves; God brings us together for one another... because this is what the community of faith is all about.

You know these words. But this time read them **c a r e f u l l y**:

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

*We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*

The next time someone asks, “*Why do you bother with church? I don’t need church to experience God—I experience God in my personal thoughts, or in the beauty of nature...*,” give them an answer. Tell them you cherish your church because of caring relationships: church members try to support and comfort and encourage each other. We do our best to show God’s love in human form, because that’s what Jesus did.

“Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2 Good News Translation)

See you in church.

*Jon*

March Birthdays



March 1	Cathy Magnus Trevor Stohr Gabriel Showalter Hazel Sakai
March 2	Mary Fancher Jeff Rayle Elise Myers
March 4	Mary Ann Blunk John Kirchner Eric Heald
March 6	Dave Hensel
March 9	Nancy Buettner
March 11	Jane Doughman Sharon Hensel Shawn Harrison
March 12	Scott Williams Arianna Davis
March 13	Julie Arnold Thomas Clark
March 14	Deb Furry
March 15	Beth Katterle Bob Sweet Eric Kanner
March 17	Elaine Cook Sara Doan Zach Dillon Jocelyn Brown
March 20	Dan McKenzie Karli Katterle
March 21	Amy Gilkison
March 22	Cathi Patton Madelin Shaver
March 23	Hayes Jenkins Aidan Cashmere
March 24	Russ Carson James Penning Julie Cook
March 25	Taylor Pedone Andrew Watts
March 26	Christopher Jakupca
March 27	Jessica Dillon Tori Toth Flannery Costello
March 28	Eric Fancher
March 30	Jeff Koberg Cameron Krizman
March 31	Mark Esdon Susan Flynn

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

*Get involved... even for just a day*

**Presbytery's "Hunger Action Day"  
Sat. Mar. 12 in North Olmsted**

Our Presbytery is staging its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Hunger Action Day" on Sat., Mar. 12 at John Knox Presbyterian Church (Lorain Rd. at Great Northern Blvd. in North Olmsted). The event runs from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 (payable at the door) and includes a healthy lunch.

The day will include informative workshops and great fellowship. The featured presenter will be singer/songwriter Bryan McFarland who will lead the group in "worshipful advocacy."

Whether already engaged in or just interested in hunger ministries, anyone is welcomed to attend. In fact, bring friends from other churches!

Details and registration available at [www.preswesres.org](http://www.preswesres.org) beginning in February. Questions? Contact Laura VanDale (Ruling Elder at Lakewood Presbyterian Church and Hunger Action Advocate for our presbytery) at [Lvandale@preswesres.org](mailto:Lvandale@preswesres.org).

—Mission Committee

**Benefit Ronald McDonald House  
Give us your tired, your poor...  
aluminum can pull-tabs!**



You know you can recycle aluminum cans, right?

And you know that the Rocky River Fire Department collects aluminum cans to raise funds for burn unit patients?

But did you know that if you collect the pull-tabs from aluminum cans, those pull-tabs can benefit Ronald McDonald House in University Circle?

The church has pull-tab collection receptacles by the pop machine and in the church office.

Now you can collect pull-tabs at home, then simply bring them to the church office. When he makes hospital calls at the Cleveland Clinic or University Hospitals, our pastor will deliver your collected pull tabs to Ronald McDonald House for you!

—Mission Committee

**Updated directory pages still available**

We recently updated the church directory listing pages (not the pictures) that go behind tab 2 in your directory binder. If you did not pick them up at the annual meeting or after church the past few weeks, you will find them still available in the church office. Questions? – call Kevin Watts (440-835-9433) or the church office (440-333-4888).

-- E&M Committee

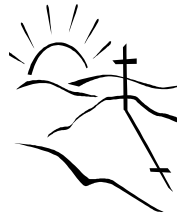
**Theme: "Making a Difference"**

## Middle School Fellowship retreat at Camp Frederick Mar. 5-6

If you're in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade... **this is for YOU!** Don't miss out on our annual retreat Sat. Mar. 5-Sun., Mar. 6. We will be travelling to Camp Aldersgate, near Carrollton. Cost for the retreat is \$45 and includes lodging and meals at the camp. Scholarships are available based on need—have your parents contact Lisa Watts for more information. We will be exploring the many different ways that we can "be the good" in this world. This promises to be a great weekend—you don't want to miss this one! Registration forms are available in the Christian Education office.

Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> at Rockport UMC, Wooster Rd.

## Our youth to co-host 7 a.m. Easter sunrise service



Can you think of a better way to celebrate the resurrection of Christ than attending an Easter morning sunrise service? The high school youth of our church will be working with youth from Rockport United Methodist Church to create a unique worship experience at Rockport United Methodist Church's outdoor chapel. (The service will be indoors in the event of inclement weather.) The service will be held at 7:00 a.m. and will last about 40 minutes. Show your support of the youth of our community as you allow them to lead you in worship.

**Snow may be flying, but...**

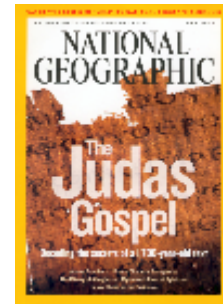
## VBS is on the summery horizon!

Mark your calendars now for June 13-17 this year's Vacation Bible School experience. This program is open to all children age four through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and will run from 9-11:30 am each day. Look for registration forms to be available in early April. **RIGHT NOW...**we are putting together the planning 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!

## Coming in March..."Other Gospels: Lost, Hidden, Suppressed"

In May, 2006, *National Geographic* magazine announced: "An ancient text lost for 1,700 years says Christ's betrayer was his truest disciple."

### Media hype or historical bombshell?



On March 6, 13, 20 and April 3, Dr. Richard Watts will present a series of classes that will shed light on gospels that never made it into the New Testament, attributed to Peter, Thomas, Mary, Phillip, Judas and others. The adult class meets from 9:00-10:00 am. Join us for hot coffee and some great discussion!

### Volunteer opportunity starts in April

## Be a "Spiritual Care Volunteer"

Fairview Hospital is accepting applications for the 2016 Spiritual Care Volunteer training class, "The Art of Being a Spiritual Presence."

Spiritual Care Volunteers visit with patients during their first few days of admission. They provide a caring, listening presence to persons in need. In addition, they offer an introduction to the Spiritual Care and Healing services available during a hospital stay.

The new training classes for Spiritual Care Volunteers at Fairview Hospital begin Tuesday, April 19. Participants receive 30 hours of training, and commit to volunteering on a weekly basis. For more information or to set up an interview, call the hospital's Spiritual Care office at (216) 476-7067.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### Semi-Circle

Semi-Circle will meet on **Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** at 12:00 p.m. in the West Room. Brown bag your lunch; dessert will be provided, as well as the coffee & tea. If you have questions you may contact Betsy Roth at 440-331-8204 or by email at [jrothplace@gmail.com](mailto:jrothplace@gmail.com). New members are always welcome!

### Priscilla Circle

Priscilla Circle will be meeting on **Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 through the Church Office.

### Expressions of Faith

Our group meets twice a month: **Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** and **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 9:30 a.m. in the West Room (or D-3). 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

Women of Grace will meet **Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room (D-3,4). Plan to join us for great discussion and light refreshments! For more information contact Lee Sabolich or Lisa Watts through the Church Office.

### Sanctuary Flowers

Do you have a loved one you would like to honor for a birthday or anniversary. Would you like to memorialize that special person who has passed away? By signing up for a Sunday to provide our sanctuary with flowers you can do this. The cost is only \$30.00 and you may take the flowers with you after our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Your "in honor of" or "in memory" attribution will be listed in our bulletin announcements as well as on the card with the flowers. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the Parlor. Please contact Crystal in the church office if you have any questions.

### Save the date!

## Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering Wed., May 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00—8:30 p.m.

We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner

Guest Speaker: Kandi Withers, Director of Lutheran Ministries' "Next Step," a program for young people "aging out" of foster care. She has led workshops around the country and will enlighten us to what goes on in the lives of "at-risk" youth who become lost in society without a program like "Next Step."

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us, look for more details to come.



## PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN RESERVE SPRING GATHERING SATURDAY, APRIL 23 9:00 A.M.—1:30 P.M.

At Lyndhurst Community Presbyterian Church  
Tickets are \$10 in advance \$12 at the door  
See Sara Gresh for more information

### Opportunities to share in worship leadership

## It's NOT "who you know," it's "would you like to try?"

Every Sunday you see a church member just like you assisting in leading our worship service. How does someone get to be a "liturgist"? Simple: by telling the pastor you're interested. He can describe the duties and requirements, and help you decide if it's something you'd like to try.

Currently we have about a dozen members who take turns serving as liturgists. Worship Committee member Dan McKenzie schedules them to serve about once every three months. Some liturgists bow out after doing it once or twice, while others continue for years. If you'd like to learn more, speak with Jon.

Another opportunity available is to be a "guest preacher" on a Sunday when Jon is scheduled to be away on study leave, vacation, or enjoying a "Sabbath weekend." It's been said that "everybody has a sermon inside them," and if you're wondering if that includes you, again, just speak with Jon. He can help you understand what's involved so you can decide if you'd like to give it a try. Guest-preaching dates are determined far in advance, so you can have all the time you need to prepare.

—Worship Committee

# Healthy Happenings

## ... Notes from the Parish Nurse

Dear Friends and Family,

### March is National Nutrition Month

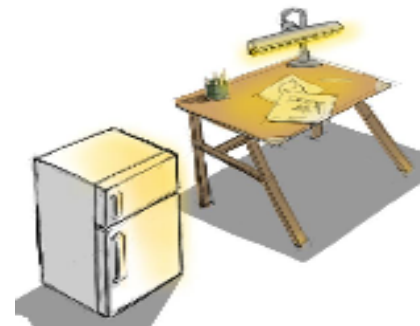
Does your college student need a “mini-fridge makeover”? College students can stock their dorm room fridge with a variety of healthy snacks. This way when they need a quick snack, they will have plenty of options on hand. Here are **10 healthy choices** that your college student can keep in their mini-fridge:

1. **Low-fat cheese.** Pair 1 slice cheese with 100% whole-grain bread for an easy snack or munch on a cheese stick for a quick bite between classes. Low-fat cheeses can even be used when making omelets and quesadillas in your dorm microwave!
2. **Vegetables.** Pre-washed and pre-cut varieties are convenient for quick snacks and meals. Try incorporating green, red, orange, and yellow vegetables into your diet. Pair veggies with your favorite dips, such as carrots with hummus or celery with peanut butter. Add them to omelets and quesadillas.
3. **Fruit.** Remember that fresh, frozen, dried, and canned fruits all count. Just watch out for varieties with added sugars or syrups. Add a tablespoon of raisins or dried apricots to your morning oatmeal or yogurt and grab an apple for a natural source of energy during a late night study break.
4. **Water.** Keep water in your fridge. Investing in a water-filter pitcher and a reusable water bottle is a great way to store water in your dorm room. Drinking water instead of sugary drinks is a healthy choice.
5. **Nuts and nut butters.** These will last longer when stored in the fridge. Try walnuts, almonds, peanuts, hazelnuts, pistachios, or cashews. Peanut butter and almond butter are delicious on apple slices or whole-grain toast.
6. **Eggs.** Eggs in a dorm room? If you have a refrigerator, yes! Use a microwave-safe bowl or mug to scramble eggs for a quick, convenient breakfast or snack. Toss in raw veggies and a tablespoon of cheese for added flavor!
7. **Milk and yogurt.** Fat-free (skim) or low-fat milk can be added to oatmeal or whole-grain cereals for a filling, nutritious breakfast. Individual containers of low-fat yogurt or low-fat Greek yogurt are convenient and portable. Mix yogurt with fruit and nuts for an energizing breakfast or top with a few chocolate chips and cinnamon for a healthy dessert.
8. **Hummus.** Hummus can be paired with almost anything! Enjoy dipping red pepper slices, carrots, or other raw veggies into this delicious dip. Spread hummus onto a whole-wheat pita with tomatoes and cucumbers for an easy, nutritious lunch.
9. **Salsa.** A fresh salsa with tomatoes, jalapenos, cilantro, and onions is a fun and yummy way to incorporate veggies into your diet. Pair low-sodium salsas with a small serving of whole-grain tortilla chips or raw veggies.
10. **Use the Nutrition Facts label.** Use the Nutrition Facts label to choose beverages and foods at the store. The label contains information about total sugars, fats, and calories. Reading the Nutrition Facts labels on packaged foods can help you make better choices.

Remind your college student that refrigerators should be set to maintain a temperature of 40 °F or below. Have them keep an appliance thermometer in the refrigerator to monitor the temperature

Source: <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/ten-tips-mini-fridge-makeover#sthash.QwqsG6l5.dpuf>

Catherine A. Patton RN, BSN  
440-333-4888 ext: 105  
[Parishnurse@riverpres.org](mailto:Parishnurse@riverpres.org).



### ***Taking the mystery out of “per capita”*** **No, it’s NOT “too late”...**

One of the many things you received as the New Year began was your new set of offering envelopes. You may have noticed an envelope near the front of the packet labeled “Per Capita.” Like many Presbyterians, you may have wondered, “*Exactly what does per capita do?*”

“Per capita” (Latin for “per head”) is an amount of money per member (this year, \$28.00) that our congregation pays to the “greater church,” that is, the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, the Synod of the Covenant (Ohio & Michigan), and the national/international General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). **This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together.** It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

How important is per capita? Here are a few examples:

- ◆ Does our congregation want to benefit from relationships and cooperation with other Presbyterian churches across the country? Your per capita pays for the General Assembly meeting every two years where Presbyterians gather together to worship and discern the mind of Christ for the church.
- ◆ Does our congregation want to be involved in **mission work** throughout the world, sharing the gospel in all parts of the earth? In many places in our world, it is difficult to “do mission” except by working ecumenically with other church bodies and denominations. Your per capita helps to pay for meetings of Presbyterians with people of other Christian churches, allowing us to maintain those ties for mission.
- ◆ Do we want to benefit from helpful **Presbyterian resources** such as the *Book of Order* and *The Book of Confessions*? Your per capita pays for producing these basic resources, including in Spanish, Korean, and Braille.
- ◆ Do we want **future generations** to learn about our congregation’s present work (e.g., anniversary celebrations, membership rolls, session actions)? Your per capita helps to fund the Presbyterian Historical Society – preserving and sharing the Presbyterian experience.
- ◆ Do we want **pastors** who are well prepared to lead our congregations? Your per capita funds the preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students.
- ◆ Do we want well-trained leaders for our presbyteries and more? Your per capita pays for annual training events for presbytery executives, stated clerks, and others who help lead our work and mission.

In addition, your per capita pays for the travel expenses of the Moderator and Vice Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as they make their way across the church to share with and listen to folks like you about the exciting things God is doing in our midst.

We do not believe in being “lone rangers” in the PC(USA). We need each other as we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As we benefit from the gifts, skills, vision, and ministry of

each other in this place, so, too, do we benefit from an even wider array of gifts and ministry of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters across the church. Your per capita pays for the programs, training, and resources that help us work together and discern the mind of Christ for the PC (USA).

Thank you to all of you who have already paid your share of the just over \$11,088 that we owe in support of our presbytery, synod and the General Assembly of the PC(USA). As of February 25<sup>th</sup>, we have collected \$4,670 toward offsetting that expense in our church’s annual budget. By contributing your portion of per capita—\$28 per confirmed (i.e., youth or adult) member in your household—you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community.

So-o-o-o... if you haven’t yet contributed, **it’s not too late** ...and we hope that you will consider doing so very soon.

—Stewardship Committee

### **You’ll never forget your offering again!**

### **Electronic Fund Transfer now available for your monthly church offering**

Save yourself the time of writing your offering check every month. Our Financial Secretary can assist you with setting up a monthly Electronic Fund Transfer from your bank account directly to the church. There’s one piece of paper to complete, and no fees to pay. And, you can adjust or stop the EFT at any time. For information, email or call our Financial Secretary Dave Wolfe at (440) 333-4888 or [dwolfe@riverpres.org](mailto:dwolfe@riverpres.org).

—Stewardship Committee

### **February’s Session highlights**

- Our pastor offered opening devotions by reading an essay in Christian Century magazine entitled “The Post-Anxiety Church” by M. Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary.
- Session approved a Finance Committee proposal that will direct to the Capital Endowment Fund special gifts or bequests that donors choose not to otherwise designate.
- Session voted to modify the 2016 Operating Fund budget based on favorable response from the congregation to the appeal at the Annual Meeting to make up the projected \$9,507 deficit.
- Human Resources received approval of revised job descriptions for the Office Administrator, Director of Christian Education and Pastor, as well as approval for 2% pay increases for the Organist/Choir Director, Director of Christian Education and Office Administrator based on exceptional annual performance reviews.
- Communications/Information Technology Committee reported that the church’s new website is now live ([www.riverpres.org](http://www.riverpres.org)) although it continues to receive minor “tweaking” from both its developers and the church’s webmaster.

—Moderator of Session



## MARCH 2016 LIBRARY LINGO

Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS: New books, Women's History books,  
Easter books



Be sure to enjoy our many Easter books for both children (DVDs, too) and adults.

They are located on the display shelves just inside the library entrance. When the librarian is not present, just sign the date and your name on the card at the back of the book. Place the card in the wooden box on the library desk. Returns are made to the basket on the low shelf by the lamp table.

### NEW ITEMS FOR CHILDREN:

#### Valentine items that were on display in February:

- The Story of Valentine's Day

j394.2618 BUL

Why do we celebrate with red and pink hearts, flowers, chocolates, and cards? Who was St. Valentine? The ancient legends behind the celebration are revealed, including how Valentine's Day evolved over the centuries and who wrote the very first valentine.

- Silly Little Thing Called Love (VeggieTales DVD)

jDVD SIL

Three classic stories of true love, with lessons on "loving your neighbor," "loving your family," and "loving God."

#### Easter items:

- God Gave Us Easter

E BER

As Little Cub celebrates Easter with her family, she asks her papa questions about this special day of the year. Papa lovingly explains God's plans for his children and shares how Easter came about in clear, simple terms that even the littlest cubs can understand.

- Three Easter Journeys

j232.96 WIL

The first Easter journey began happily as Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem. The second Easter journey began sadly as the two Marys went into the cave where Jesus had been buried. The third Easter journey began with a long wait as Peter and his friends waited for Jesus to join them in Galilee.

#### Books about Noah:

##### BOARD BOOKS:

- All Aboard Noah's Ark!
- The Story of Noah

##### PICTURE BOOKS:

- Noah and the Very First Rainbow
- Noah and the Ark Beginner's Bible
- Noah's Trees

E GRI  
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##### NONFICTION BOOK:

- Noah and the Ark

j222.11 DEP (Tomie dePaola)

#### Nonfiction books:

- The Light of the World: the Life of Jesus for Children

j232.9 PAT

This is the story of a great light coming into the world.

HAPPY READING!!

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





***Your input will be invaluable!***

## **We're on a "mission from God"**

The Mission Committee is currently developing a strategy to examine how our church should address its mission work. A few weeks ago, Jon pointed out that we find ourselves in a time of transition. Some of our long-time mission projects have ended, are ending or could possibly be ending. The closing of Faith Presbyterian Church has eliminated a long-time community meal project. Our foreign mission partners' work in Egypt is coming to an end. And the future of Trash & Treasure beyond 2016 is uncertain due to the difficulty of lining up volunteers. Jon suggested that rather than rush to simply fill the voids with similar projects, we take the time to carefully examine what mission means to us as a church and the place we hold in the greater community and use that knowledge to determine the best course of action.

The Mission Committee is enthusiastically embracing that challenge. We are preparing to embark on an interactive and energetic quest to hear the voice of our congregation, identify our passions, and tap into our talents.

Over the next few months, we will be surveying the congregation to quantify what is important to us as a whole when it comes to mission work. After all, mission is one of the three focuses of the Rocky River Presbyterian Church Mission Statement: *Praising God, Teaching Faith, Serving Others*. Having a strong mission program will provide meaningful work for all, which will strengthen our congregation, which will allow us to continue providing meaningful work and continue strengthening the congregation. Everybody wins with a strong mission program.

But we need your input—INPUT FROM ALL OF YOU—to come up with a program or programs that truly reflect our congregation as a whole. So, we will be in touch in a variety of ways in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please give some thought to what MISSION means to you PERSONALLY and how you think Rocky River Presbyterian Church is perceived and should be perceived when it comes to MISSION. We look forward to channeling the wishes of the congregation into meaningful mission work that benefits all.

—Zack Hoon,  
Mission Committee



## **Session Committee Chairs '16-'17**

### **"Who should I speak to about...?"**

See something that needs attention? Want to comment on the service? Have suggestions for the church website? Want to help out on a task or committee? Don't know who to tell, see, ask? Here is a list of the Session Committees and their respective Chairpersons for 2015/16:

- Christian Education: Susan Varikojis
- Communications/IT (website): Matt Pedone
- Evangelism & Membership: Sara Gresh
- Finance & Memorials: Jim Penning
- Human Resources: Amy Boyd-Kirksey
- Mission: Rudy Gulstrand
- Property: Marc Hustek
- Stewardship: Denise Zona Fresenko
- Worship: Melissa Stickney
- Congregational Nominating: Jim Penning

—Mark Esdon, Clerk of Session



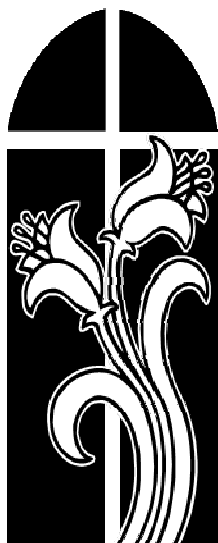
## ***I Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:***

Do you like working with figures? If the answer is yes, consider becoming a member of RRPC's Counting Committee. We have four, two-person teams who count once a month with a rotating 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. They count the Sunday offerings, special offerings, and facility fees received each week. A team typically meets on Monday morning around 9:00 a.m. to count the checks and cash, fill out a deposit slip, make copies of the checks, and make the bank deposit. The counting process can be as fast as a half an hour and usually does not take more than an hour.

We are currently looking for church members who would be interested in becoming a substitute counter on an experienced team with the option of becoming a regular team member in the future. Substitute counters fill in when a team member has a scheduling conflict. Counting is an easy but important job. If you would like to observe one of our teams in action or talk to one of the members of our committee please contact Lisa Poole: (440) 376-9495 or Eva Rudolph: (440) 356-4006.

## Easter Gifts to Your Church: Flowers... In His Name... Endowment

At Easter 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 Easter Sunday bulletin. **The deadline for Easter contributions is Monday, March 14, 2016.**



1) *Holiday Flower Fund* - Contributions to the *Holiday Flower Fund* provide plants for our sanctuary (**suggested minimum donation \$10 for a plant**). The RRPC Deacons' sanctuary decorating group purchases adequate plants for a tasteful display. Following the 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday 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 flowers, is used for sanctuary flowers on Sundays without flower donations!)

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.

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.

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

(Contributors to the RRPC Holiday Flower Fund may select a plant after the 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday service.)

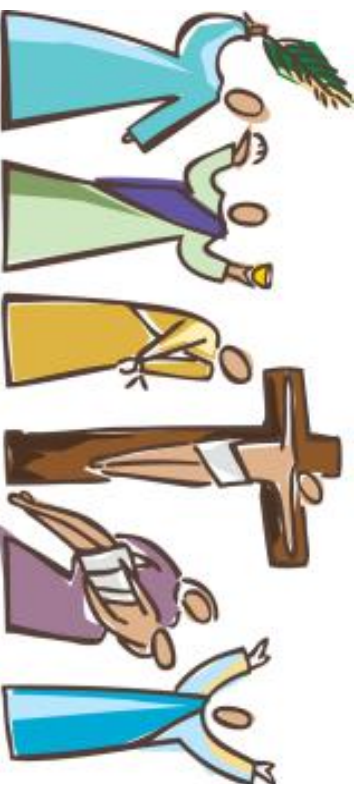
Name _____			Phone _____		
Include payment with form. Designate: Holiday Flower, In His Name or RRPC General Endowment Fund in your check's memo area.					
Fund	\$ Amount	Exact wording for bulletin (In honor/memory/celebration of...etc)			
<i>Flower Fund</i>					
<i>In His Name</i>					
<i>RRPC General Endowment</i>					



# “The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of  
Rocky River Presbyterian Church

March 2016 issue



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