

October 2023

## Rocky River Presbyterian Church

# The Pulse



### *Pastor's Pen*

For those of you I haven't met, let this be my official greeting to you as the new Transitional Pastor at the Rocky River Presbyterian Church. I'm very thankful for the many people who have been so helpful and supportive since my arrival.

I'm grateful to the Transitional Pastor Search Committee for their due diligence in bringing the search process to a completion. They are: Jayne Hoon (Chair), Dan McKenzie, Dave Hensel, Luke Zinda, Chuck Erml, and Kathy Bast. Not only was this group helpful throughout the search, but also in helping me get on board after I arrived. I would also like to express my appreciation to Rev. Eric Dillenbeck for his service to this congregation as the "Gap" Pastor. Eric was very helpful to me in providing important information and guidance during the handoff from the "Gap" Pastor to the "Transitional" Pastor. I'm grateful as well for the ministry of Rev. Jon Fancher which he faithfully provided to this congregation for over thirty years. "Well done good and faithful servants," all of you!

Now, we turn our attention to moving forward in the search for your Installed Pastor. I would like to challenge members of this congregation to actively engage the process in the months ahead, and that you prayerfully support the Pastor Nominating Committee (once they are elected) in the work they will have in front of them. On my part, I will work hard with leaders of the church and representatives of the presbytery to move the process along in a positive direction.

I told the Transitional Pastor Search Committee that my main task as a Transitional Pastor is to prepare the way for the Installed Pastor. I've shared this with many others since arriving here as well. My primary goal is to set your Installed Pastor up for success and to enable that person to "hit the ground running" once he or she has arrived. Whatever steps we take together to clear the way for the follow-on Pastor, will benefit both the Pastor and the congregation. To do this requires us to honestly reflect on the ministry of this church and what it has been in the past, what it is now, and what, with God's guidance, this ministry will be. I'm hoping this can be an exciting time for all of us involved as we anticipate what God has in store for Rocky River's future.

I've truly appreciated the teamwork of this congregation which I have observed in the short time I've been here, and I encourage you to keep that same team spirit going throughout this ongoing period of change. Let's also remember that God is with us in times of change, and because God is present and at work within and among us, we can all look to the future with hope and joyful expectation.

*Pastor Peter*

### **OCTOBER 1: EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

This Sunday will be the final sermon in the series on Moses. After leading God's people across the desert to the cusp of the Promised Land, God allows him to this land from a distant mountain. Yet, God will not allow Moses to cross over to that land (Deuteronomy 34:4). The message for this is called, "When God says 'No'". We will also be celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as it is World Communion Sunday.

### **OCTOBER 8: NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Rev. Kathy Hartzell will be filling the pulpit this Sunday.

### **OCTOBER 15: TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

This Sunday's message is called "Dusting Off," and is based on the words of Jesus as he was sending his disciples out to do his ministry: "If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them" (Mark 6:11).

### **OCTOBER 22: TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

The message for this Sunday is called, "Asking Right," and is based on I Kings 3:5-13. Here God appears in a dream to King Solomon saying to him, "Ask what I should give you" (I Kings 3:5). How would we respond if we were asked that God give us what we want?

### **OCTOBER 29: TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

People were surprised that Jesus associated himself with those many referred to as "enemies." That's what we have an example of in Matthew 8:5-13 which describes an occasion when a Roman Centurion approached Jesus. This "enemy's" actions made a positive impression on Jesus. The message is called, "What An Enemy Can Teach Us."

## Peace & Global Witness Offering received on Sunday Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>

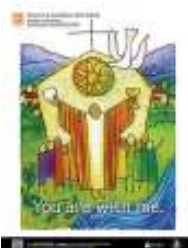
One of the special offerings our church participates in is collected each year is the Peace & Global Witness Offering. By supporting the Peace and Global Witness Offering, our congregation joins in sharing the Peace of Christ by promoting ministries of reconciliation and peace within cultures of violence and conflict, including our own. By design, this offering is shared at various levels of the Presbyterian Church:

**25% | Congregational Peace Initiatives**  
Retained by our congregation to invest in local responses to injustice and violence, and connect with the global witness to Christ's peace.

**25% | "Mid-Council" Peace Initiatives**  
Linking congregations in ministries of peace and reconciliation throughout the presbyteries of our synod (Michigan & Ohio).

**50% | Advocating Peace and Advancing Justice**  
Advocating for peacemaking and justice through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

**The peace of Christ belongs to everyone, everywhere**



## October Birthdays



October 1	Olivia Sweet
October 5	Dick Norman
October 6	Eva Rudolph Gretchen Roche
October 7	John Weedon Liz Dillon
October 9	Sue Hoffner
October 10	Carole Nelson
October 11	Phyllis Gross
October 12	Brenda Peterson
October 13	Carter Hoon
October 14	Kemper Arnold
October 17	Sue Krivok Jeffrey Prudhoe Brian Roche
October 18	Becky Ahren
October 20	Kimberly Prudhoe Luke Zinda
October 29	Matthew Davis

## Dougbe River School 2023 Gala

**Start your holiday shopping now!** We invite you to help support a worthy cause of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve—the Dougbe River School's annual Gala and fundraiser. We have some amazing items this year, including a weekend in NYC, Cavs and Indians tickets, Swarovski crystal figures, and many lovely handmade items. Over 130 items with bidding starting anywhere from \$5 to \$500. Thanks for helping make our auction a success!!

Link to auction:

<https://www.32auctions.com/2023drsgala>

The Gala is Sunday, October 1 from 5-8 pm. If you'd like join the fun in person, RRPC has a table for 8. Text or call Jayne Hoon at 440-502-7222 to save your seat.

## Join with Christians around the world on World Communion Sunday Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

Who do you remember during a communion service? Dear ones who have died? Family or friends living far away? Do you imagine yourself with Jesus and the disciples in the Upper Room?

On World Communion Sunday (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m.) we're encouraged to remember that there are Christians in almost every corner of the globe. As we "gather around the table" it's as though we are standing side-by-side with them: barefoot children in Mexico, stooped widows in Albania, gregarious youth in South Korea, blue-collar families in Arkansas, each one important! So please, join us for World Communion Sunday!



—Worship Committee

**\*\*Please note: Submissions for the monthly Pulse need to be in to the church office no later than the 25th of each month. Thank you!**



**SYMPATHY:** We extend our prayers and sympathies to friends and family of **Nancy McGillicuddy**. Nancy passed on Friday, September 15, in Wooster Ohio. Her memorial service at Rocky River Church is Saturday, September 30 at 11:00 am. A reception will follow in the West Room, with light refreshments.

We also extend our prayers and sympathies to friends and family of **William J. Marx** (Ann Gilbert's significant other) a Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday Sept 30, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 19951 Lakeshore Blvd., Euclid. Celebration of life to follow immediately after. Interment private, Holy Cross Cemetery. The family will receive friends AT THE CHURCH FROM 9 A.M. UNTIL MASS TIME. <https://obits.cleveland.com/us/obituaries/cleveland/name/william-marx-obituary?id=53110780>

## **Trash & Treasure Rummage Sale - Saturday, October 7**

Our annual Trash and Treasure sale is scheduled for **Saturday, October 7**. We have filled quite a few volunteer spots, but there's a lot more available!! We need people to set up in each room, run sales in each room, clean up, bake items, run the bake sale, etc. We will also be looking for volunteers to assist during the week before the sale (**October 2-6**). This event truly "takes a village!" Please contact Eric Watts ([ewatts610@gmail.com](mailto:ewatts610@gmail.com)) if you would like to assist, or simply sign up following worship on Sunday.

Item drop off will begin on **Saturday, September 23** and continue through **Wednesday, October 4**. **\*\*Please note that we will not be collecting any furniture this year.**

**Sorting Sunday is Oct. 1st following the morning**  
**Worship service!**



**Mark your calendars!** The annual Alternative Christmas Charity Bazaar will be held on **Sunday, November 19** following the worship service. Give your friends and family a gift with greater meaning this year while supporting our local charities and organizations!



**SING UNTO THE LORD!** The choir will sing on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with a quick rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. on those Sunday mornings. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Sundays of the month we will have rehearsal following the morning Worship Service. Anyone interested is welcome to attend! If you have questions see Ann Gilbert.



## **2024 Stewardship Commitment**

### *Expressing our Gratitude*



As we approach the 2024 Stewardship season, we invite you to pause, reflect and give thanks for the good things God is doing in your life as well as in our church. We all need reminders to respond to the blessings of God with gratitude! We hope that you will think about how **you** can make a difference in your church and community in the coming year by helping to support our church's ministries and outreach.

- On **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**, each household will receive a packet of materials to assist in making your stewardship commitment for 2024.
- On **Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**, we invite you to join our longstanding tradition of presenting your "pledge card" during the service, indicating your estimated weekly, monthly, or annual financial gift to the church for 2024.
- Following worship on **Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**, everyone is invited to a **light luncheon** in Fellowship Hall.

Denise Zona-Fresenko  
Chair, Stewardship Committee

## **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5:**

All Saints Commemoration Service will be held on Sunday, November 5, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. On this day the church will lift in memory those persons associated with our congregation who have departed this life since the previous year All Saints Sunday which was November 6, 2022. This is a day in the life of the church to reflect on the lives those who have gone before us and to express appreciation for the positive influences they made. The service will include the reading of the names and a lighting of a candle for each. We are glad to include names of nonmember friends and relatives who have passed away within that timeframe as well. Please contact the church office with the needed information.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<div>OCTOBER 2023</div>				
	<b>1 World Communion / Food Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship / Communion 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>2</b> 7:00 p.m. CE Committee	<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m. Three Arts of Lakewood Board Mtg.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (Zoom)
		<div>TRASH &amp; TREASURE SORTING AND SET-UPS</div>				<b>7 Trash &amp; Treasure Sale</b> 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
<b>8 Peace &amp; Global Witness Offering Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:35 a.m. Choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship.	<b>9</b> 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	<b>10</b> 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 9:30 a.m. RRP/Preschool CommitteeMtg. 4:30 p.m. HR Committee Mtg.	<b>11</b> 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	<b>12</b> 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics (AA)	<b>13</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (Zoom) 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Group (West Room & Zoom)	<b>14</b> 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
<b>15</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Special Session Mtg. 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>16.</b> 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Session Mtg. (West Room & Zoom)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	<b>19</b> 11:30 a.m. RRP/Preschool Staff Mtg. 7:00 p.m. PV Priscilla Circle 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics (AA) rehearsal	<b>20</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (Zoom)	<b>21</b> 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
<b>22</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	<b>23</b> 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	<b>24</b> 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 5:00 p.m. RRP "Just Playin' Around".	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. RRPC Staff Mtg. 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Prayer & Bible Study 5:30 p.m. RRP Preschool "Just Playing Around" 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	<b>26</b> 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics (AA)	<b>27</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (Zoom) 8:30 a.m. Senior Men's Group (West Room & Zoom)	<b>28</b> 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
<b>29 Stewardship Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:35 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	<b>31 All Saints Eve</b>				



# “The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

October 2023



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