

November 2023

# The Pulse

## Rocky River Presbyterian Church



### *Pastor's Pen*

The month of November is about both looking back and looking forward. The first Sunday of the month, November 5th, is *All Saints Sunday*, a day in the life of the church when it reflects on the forebearers of our faith who demonstrated great faithfulness and service to the Lord. Whether they lived centuries ago or in recent memory, the church sets aside this time to offer gratitude for the gift of their lives. *All Saints Sunday* provides us with the sure and certain hope that is embodied, not only in Jesus Christ, but made visible and tangible in the people of faith who have gone through many ordeals and remained steadfast in their loyalty to Christ and their love for neighbor and the world. Perhaps some of these were people known to you here at this church who helped you with your faith and demonstrated a model of Christian living for you.

Yet, even as we remember and appreciate the past, we are also called to look toward the future. As the Book of Hebrews says, "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance that race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12.2). This is to say, as we reflect on our forebearers and give thanks for their lives, we must also fix our eyes forward on what the ministry and mission of our church will be in the future.

That's why our stewardship commitment to the church is vital to the church's mission and ministry. It enables us to carve out what the future of the church's service to the Lord can and will be. Your financial support of the church matters! Our stewardship is the visible vehicle by which our gratitude to God finds expression. We give, not simply to meet our church expenses and pay bills, but to express our thanks for what God has done for us in Christ. We give with the confidence God will use what we render to provide tangible expressions of God's grace in people's lives. Heartfelt gratitude leads us to make passionate investments for the building of God's kingdom! This is why our giving can and should be a prayerful decision.

I look forward to our worship service on Sunday, November 12, when together as a community of faith we will dedicate our commitments for the upcoming year. Together, we are given the opportunity to again express our thanks to God and commit in faith our resources to the future ministry of the Rocky River Presbyterian Church.

*Pastor Peter*

### WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER:

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

The text for the sermon on this special day of remembrance is 2 Samuel 1:19-25. The sermon is called "When the Mighty Fall." We will also be celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper that day.

#### **NOVEMBER 12: STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

The text for this Sunday is 2 Corinthians 9:1-8, and the sermon message is called "Annual Dues?" Notice the question mark! Do we give to the church in the same way we give to other charities and causes? Please remember to bring your pledge form for the Stewardship Dedication portion of the worship service.

#### **NOVEMBER 19: HARVEST SUNDAY**

This is the Sunday before Thanksgiving and that will be our focus! The text is Luke 17:11-19 and the sermon is called "One Turned Back."

#### **NOVEMBER 26: CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar year before the new liturgical year begins the following Sunday with the First Sunday of Advent. This is referred to as *Christ the King Sunday*, and as the title implies, it is a celebration of the Lordship and Kingship of Christ. The text for this Sunday is Psalm 121 and the sermon is called, "Our Help".

### **Office hours for Thanksgiving holiday**

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** and **Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**. We will re-open Monday, **November 27<sup>th</sup>**.



## FROM THE SESSION...

The session met for its stated meeting on Monday, October 16. Actions of session included:

- ◆ Approval to hire Brenda Peterson as the full-time Christian Education Director. She will perform these duties in addition to her duties as the parish counselor.
- ◆ Approval to hire Jim Akoury as the financial officer of the church. He will be replacing Dave Wolfe who will be retiring on November 15. Jim is a Certified Public Accountant.
- ◆ Approval to promote the Christmas Joy Special Offering during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.
- ◆ Approval of submission of names of possible candidates in the congregation to serve on the Mission Study Team of the Presbytery. This mission study is a Presbytery requirement which must be completed before moving forward with the formation of the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- ◆ Approval for the special meeting of the congregation on October 29 to vote on the Nominating Committee's recommendations to fill vacancies.

**WELCOME BRENDA PETERSON:** We welcome Brenda Peterson as the new **Director of Christian Education** at the Rocky River Church! She is the temporary replacement for Lisa Watts who served faithfully in this position for 22 years. Brenda has longstanding experience with our congregation by way of her service as the Congregational Parish Counselor and we welcome her talents and skills which she can bring to the position of Director of Christian Education. She will continue in her role as Parish Counselor in addition to her responsibilities as Director of Christian Education.

**\*\*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!**

## November Birthdays



November 1	Bonnie Erickson Marion Good Kevin Watts Grace Ward Henry Ward
November 5	Marshall Zinda
November 6	Kenneth Grady Lynn Stohr Lisa Mach
November 9	Chase Prudhoe
November 13	Joe Clark
November 14	Karen Jones
November 16	Marion McBride
November 20	Hannah Heierding
November 22	Sue Hustek
November 24	Janice Brochhagen Jonathan Sakai
November 26	Phil Schickel
November 27	Josephine Sweet
November 29	Audra Costello Matthew Esdon Michael Esdon
November 30	Mary Schulz Kamryn Wilson



**Don't forget to turn back your clock one hour before bed on Saturday 11/4. Daylight Saving Time officially ends Sunday, November 5th at 2 a.m.**

**See you at church!**





Dear friends,

As most of you know, I am retiring, effective October 31, 2023. I know this is a time of many changes at RRPC but I have given this much thought. I am excited at the prospect of new leadership and what possibilities that holds for our church!

I have tried very hard to have things planned out beyond my departure. I feel that this church is in a good place right now, ready to take on the work of transition. This is a church where folks step up when there is a need and this will be no different! I am also very happy that RRPC has created an interim CE position to be filled by Brenda Peterson. I have had several weeks to work with Brenda and share with her helpful information. I know that you will all be in very good hands, and that you will support her as you supported me in my time here.

This process will be very different from Jon's departure. I am not in a called position. I am not required to stay away from the church for any period of time. If you would like to contact me, my personal email is [grammalisa55@gmail.com](mailto:grammalisa55@gmail.com). I do think it best if I make myself scarce for a few months so folks can get used to a new way of doing things, however, this is my church. My family attends RRPC. My kids and grandkids are involved here. You are all very dear to me and I consider you my church family. My plan is to worship with you virtually for a few months. When I do come back, you will probably find me sitting in the back pew. In addition, while I am leaving my position at our church, I still plan to stay involved in the greater church. I will be attending presbytery meetings, I have accepted a position on the Leadership Committee for PWR, I will continue to serve as a Certification Advisor for the PC(USA), and I plan to stay active in the Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) on both a national and regional level.

It has truly been my joy to serve RRPC for these many years. I have felt God's call again and again that this is where I was meant to be. I have gotten to work with so many delightful people from babies to seniors. I have watched many of those babies grow up and have babies of their own. I have had my spirit fed again and again with the kindness, generosity, and faith shown by so many. I have been blessed to work as part of an exceptional and supportive team in ministry. My dad always told me "Do what you love and you will never work a day in your life." It is true. It has not always been easy, but it has always been worth it. As much as I have done for anyone in my educational ministry at RRPC, I have received so much more in return. I am sad to leave the position, but I know it is time. I want time to enjoy my grandkids while they are still young, and Kevin and I have plans to do some travelling.

"Thank you" hardly seems enough but thank you. My heart is full.

Peace,  
Lisa

## Who's Who in the Pew!

### Say hello to Frank & Anne Busher!



I (Anne) have gone to RRPC since 1962, when my parents joined the church. I grew up in the church attending Sunday School, Vacation Bible school, middle school and high school youth groups, bell choir, children and youth choirs and the yearly week-long Synod School with my 3 brothers. When I was young my Mom was the Christian Education Director at RRPC and so we were at church with her all the time (so I know all the great places to hide for hide-n-seek or sardines). RRPC has helped shape the person I am today. As I grew older and left for college, I was always home for the holiday. When I got my first job in the area, I was back to my "family", this church, regularly attending services and functions.

At RRPC, I have served on Session, on the board of deacons, on the pastoral search committee that recommended the hire of Jon Fancher, and long, long time High School Youth Group Leader with great people like Dave Clash, Chuck Erml, Donna Erml, and Elizabeth McLean. Here at RRPC, I married Frank, baptized my daughter Aileen and celebrated the life of my Grandparents (2 sets), and my Mom and Dad (David and Rev. Jane Anderson). RRPC is part of my family and I celebrate life and worship with this con-

gregation. I have formed life-long friends at this church. You are all important and you are All part of the RRPC family and MY family. AMEN!!

### A note to the Choir...

We're getting the choir back together!

We will rehearse after church this Sun., Oct. 29 and before church on Nov. 5 at 9:30.

We will be singing River in Judea.

Then we will sing It's a Good Thing to Give Thanks to the Lord on Nov. 19 with rehearsal before church

and after church on Sun., Nov. 12.

See you there!

Thanks,





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

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

The deadline for Christmas contributions is Dec. 17, 2019.



- 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 last Christmas Eve service we encourage donors to pick out a plant (there will be plants of varying sizes and styles) suitable for giving to someone who is sick, shut-in or needing a lift in spirit! (Added bonus: Flower Fund money remaining, after buying Christmas flowers, is used for sanctuary flowers on Sundays without flower donations!)
- 2) *In His Name [IHN] Fund* - This is a discretionary fund used by the pastor to address appeals for emergency assistance, special mission support and other unmet needs within or outside of our congregation. Donations to the *IHN Fund* may be in any amount.
- 3) *RRPC General Endowment Fund* - This fund is an *abiding endowment* which is never decreased. All contributions add to the fund and generate increased interest income for the church. Donations to the *RRPC General Endowment Fund* may be in any amount.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## "Extra" Food Sunday: Harvest Sunday Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>

Imagine the "harvest" if every person brought even 1 bag of groceries to put in front of the communion table on "Harvest Sunday" Nov. 19th. Your small part will make a big difference for many families.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving is celebrated as Harvest Sunday here. One way we express our gratitude to God is with a special collection of non-perishable food on that day.

So join us in helping to make the holidays more bountiful for families in our area.



## **ATTENTION FANS OF THEATRE!**

Several students in our congregation are involved in Rocky River High School's upcoming play. "Lost in Yonkers" will be presented November 17th & 18th. The performance features **Ben Sakai as Jay on stage, with Beatrix Stickney and Flannery Costello** working on costumes. The play is free for seniors and kids under 5. The group would love to share their hard work with everyone!



For tickets, visit: [rocky river.hometown ticketing.com/embed/all?depts=3](https://rockyriver.hometownticketing.com/embed/all?depts=3). Seniors select the "\$0" Ticket Level.

## **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAZAAR**

Rocky River Presbyterian Church will host the Annual Alternative Christmas Charity Bazaar on **Sunday, November 19, 20 from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.** Come learn about and visit around 12 charities and the One World Shop in one place. Donations to the charities at the Alternative Christmas Charity Bazaar are financial contributions to non-profit missions given as "Christmas presents" in honor of family and friends.

How does it work?




At the bazaar, visit booths where representatives for each charity will be present to explain their services. Select one or several charities to make your cash (or check) donation to and receive a custom-designed greeting postcard with a description of the gift's ministry. Donate to one charity or to all 12. The cards can then be given to your family, or friends telling about the charitable gift selected by you and given in their honor! 100% of all donations go directly to the charity and your gifts will be tax deductible.

### **Who needs another ugly sweater?**

In 2023, shoppers are able to select from more than 12 missions and the One World Shop. Businesses include Cuyahoga County Habitat for Humanity, Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter, The Gathering Place, Shriners Children's Hospital, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, North Coast Health, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Doughbe River Presbyterian School, National Association of Mental Illness, the One World Shop, The Cleveland Food Bank and more.

We urge you to join us on Sunday November 19, 2023 at 11:30 am for this exciting mission project—you can be "God's hands and heart" as you honor loved ones in more meaningful ways. If you have any questions, please contact the church at 440-333-4888.



Join us for the 2nd Annual

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE**

December 3rd

Fellowship Hall, 11:30 AM

**Bring cookies to share with RRPC Homebound  
and fellow parishioners!**

**Questions? Contact Paula Clark**

**clarkpu713@gmail.com**

**Or 440-668-2715**



**Sat., Dec. 2 9:00 a.m.**

**All ages invited to help RRPC “Deck the Halls”**



“Deck the Halls” is the morning we decorate the entire church for the Advent/Christmas season. This year “Deck the Halls” happens on December 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 9:00 a.m. (We usually wrap up around 11-11:30 a.m.) Come even if you can only stay a short time. We’ll have juice, coffee and doughnuts and great fellowship! Questions? Contact Becky Ahren for more info.

**How does the church know someone’s hospitalized? YOU tell 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.





## **2024 Stewardship Commitment**

### *Expressing our Gratitude*

***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.”***

***1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***



This year's Stewardship theme is "Expressing our Gratitude." Having been blessed by the grace of God, how can we best give back to God, our church, and to each other with gratitude? We hope that you will prayerfully consider 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 by making a pledge. As the Session's Finance Committee begins to finalize next year's operating budget, **each pledge** is vitally important in being able to meet even our minimum budget requirements.

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, we will join in Fellowship Hall for a celebratory luncheon.

Thank you for your continuing support of the ministries and programs of our church.

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 of 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.





# NOVEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5 All Saints Sunday</b> <b>Communion/Food Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 9:30 a.m. Choir Practice 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>6</b> 5:00 p.m. Board of Elections 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed. Mtg.	<b>7 Election Day</b> 5:30 a.m. Board of Elections 10:00 a.m. 3 Arts of Lakewood 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee	<b>1</b> 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	<b>2</b> 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics (AA)	<b>3</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (Zoom)	<b>4</b> 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
<b>12 Stewardship Sunday</b>	<b>13</b> 12:00 p.m. Semi-Circle Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	<b>14</b> 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 9:30 a.m. Preschool Committee 4:30 p.m. HR Committee Mtg.	<b>15</b> 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	<b>16</b> 11:30 a.m. RRP-Preschool Staff Mtg. 7:00 p.m. PW Priscilla Circle	<b>17</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (Zoom)	<b>18</b> 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
<b>19 Harvest Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. <b>Alternative Christmas</b> <b>Charity Bazaar</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Session Mtg.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	<b>23 Thanksgiving Day</b> Church office closed	<b>24</b> Church office closed 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Group (Zoom)	<b>25</b> 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes
<b>26</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	<b>27</b> 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	<b>28</b> 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith	<b>29</b> 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	<b>30</b>		



# “The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

November 2023



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