

February 2024

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

The Pulse



Pastor's Pen

*"Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick." Matthew 9:12*

These are the words Jesus shared with those who criticized him because of the questionable company he kept, that is, people who were often not respected in religious circles because of their unsavory and corrupt lifestyles. In this case, the religious authorities were criticizing Jesus because he was sitting at table with a well-known scoundrel whom Jesus had called to be one of his disciples, a tax collector named Matthew. He was breaking bread with Jesus, along with Jesus's other disciples and the scoundrel-like friends of Matthew. "Why," it is asked, "does your teacher (Jesus) eat with tax-collectors and sinners?" Jesus' response is, "Those who are well have no need of a physician; only those who are sick."

We may be inclined to think Jesus is referring to the fact that these low-life's were sick people, "outsiders," and Jesus, the great physician, had come to heal them. They're sick in their addictions, their crooked lifestyles, their corruption, and their lack of any concern for what is good and righteous. Jesus, the great physician, is willing to pour out his kindness and forgiveness on these who are "sick."

Yet, Jesus wants to make it clear to those pointing their fingers at these "bad" people Jesus associated himself with that they also needed the great physician. It was as if to say, "You who believe you are well are in fact sick, and you need the healing which only the great physician can provide." Put another way, "I have not come to call the righteous, but the sinners. And guess what? That group of sinners includes you!"

The season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, reminds us that we all need the Great Physician. We all belong to the "sinners" club, equal in our need for God's forgiveness, God's care, and God's love. Each of us needs the healing which only our Lord can provide. Our Savior, the Great Physician, counted us worthy, even as we were unworthy, to give his life for the ultimate healing of us all.

Pastor Peter

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY:

FEBRUARY 4: FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

On this Sunday we will look at the Miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand as told in the Gospel of John. While the power of Jesus is the driving force for this miracle, it's worth noting there were others who contributed to its happening as well. The text is John 6:4-14 and the Sermon is called, "Key Players in a Miracle." This is also a communion Sunday.

FEBRUARY 11: TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD:

This day on the liturgical calendar describes what happened when Jesus took three of his disciples up a high mountain and was "transfigured" before them (Mark 9:2). Rev. Joyce Lawson will be preaching this Sunday at Rocky River on this Sunday and Pastor Peter will be preaching at the United Methodist Church in Chagrin Falls where Joyce is the Pastor.

FEBRUARY 14: ASH WEDNESDAY: 12:00 NOON AND 7:00 PM:

This service marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the forty days leading up to Easter. For this service we are offering the Imposition of Ashes, a sign of the cross on the forehead with ashes, to symbolize our mutual human frailty. **Note we are offering two services for Ash Wednesday.** The service at noon will be an abbreviated service in the chapel, the later service will be in the sanctuary.

FEBRUARY 18: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: This First Sunday of Lent reflects on the passage in which Jesus was tempted in the desert following his baptism (Mark 1:9-15). We are told that the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert. What is the significance of the desert in the Bible?

FEBRUARY 28 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: The message is called "Storm Clouds" and the text is Mark 8:31-38. Here Jesus makes it known that he must walk a road of sorrows to accomplish God's purpose. "Son of Man of Man must suffer many things."

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERING:

During the season of Lent and Easter Sunday (beginning February 14 through March 31), we will be promoting and receiving the One Great Hour Special Offering, which supports many mission efforts of the Presbyterian Church throughout the world. We will be explaining more about what those efforts are throughout that timeframe and there will be envelopes designated for that purpose or you may designate on your offering envelope. We hope to have a generous response!



Rocky River Presbyterian Preschool

Registration is **now open** for the 2024-25 school year.

There is class availability for 2 ½ year olds through 5 year olds.

If you or a family you know are looking for a half day preschool program, please contact the preschool office at 440-895-5437 or email at rrpns@riverpres.org.

Diana Wolfe, the preschool director, and Kathleen Winters, the assistant director are available for tours.



****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!**



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Amy Solak
	Heath Fredrickson
February 3	Connor Flynn
February 4	Ruth Minnich
	Hugo Stickney
February 5	Kathy Hartzell
February 7	Michelle Davis
	Brendan Mach
February 8	Maeve Costello
	Charlotte Zinda
February 9	Jan Erml
February 12	Emma Poole
February 14	John Roth
	Stephen Bohannon
February 15	Michelle Behar
February 16	Katherine Timmons
	Thomas Krizman
February 19	Greg Ward
February 22	Marilyn Harris
	Jayne Hoon
	Michael Wilson
February 24	Deborah Radcliffe
	Trina Nummela
February 25	Ian Schulz
February 27	Gail Raabe
February 28	Kristen St. Pierre



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

Lent begins February 14th

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Services

We will have two services that day, one at noon (in the Chapel) and another at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Christian Education Corner

Sunday School: We welcome back Ellen Schickel, to the youth Sunday school. Ellen has been out since October healing from her broken wrist and surgery. We are grateful for your return to share the teachings of Jesus to our young worshipers. Ellen has an assistant working with her, Melanie Fredrickson.

Melanie was gracious and jumped right in, to be the teacher while Ellen was recovering. Melanie throughout the months has been teaching the children through scripture, crafts, singing and praying. Melanie and Ellen are now working together each Sunday to teach our youth.

The dedication that Ellen and Melanie have given to teaching Sunday school deserves a huge Thank you from all of us.

YOU CAN DO THIS TOO! We can assist you through this. We need two adults in the classroom. One teacher and one assistant (helper). The reward for this... is all the love, smiles, and joy you receive while teaching our young worshipers. Please contact Brenda Peterson.

Adult Education: Sunday's 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

ADULT EDUCATION: Have enjoyed our January sessions learning more about Artificial Intelligence. The speakers provided wonderful and thought-provoking material. The material brought up many questions and concerns that we as a group were eager to ask and to hear other opinions and thoughts.

It looks like we will begin our Lent series on Sunday, February 11. If you have questions, please contact Brenda Peterson. We would thoroughly enjoy having you join us.

2nd Corinthians 5:14-15 *"Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them."*

Youth Fellowship:

We are so grateful for the warm accessory donations for our Mission Mitten Tree. We received **348 items!** Thank you. You have blessed many young homeless people. We chose to donate all items to **A Place 4 Me**, a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preventing and ending youth homelessness in Cuyahoga County. www.aplace4me.org

Hungry??? Great! We are having our **Annual Pancake Supper, Tuesday, February 13th**. This is our fundraiser for our annual retreat in March. You may purchase tickets ahead or at the door. Tickets will be sold before and after church service on January 28, February 4 and February 11. \$8.00 -Adults, \$ 4.00 Children and Under 3 are Free. You can also contact Brenda Peterson. bpeterson@riverpres.org



Coming soon YOUTH RETREAT!

March 22-24 CAMP ALDERSGATE

See Brenda Peterson for more information at bpeterson@riverpres.org
or (440)-333-4888 or after church on Sunday!



Who's Who in the Pew!

Say Hello to Sara Gresh -



Sara Gresh, was the first baby baptized at Rocky River Presbyterian Church. Her parents were charter members of the church. She grew up in Westlake and currently lives in Rocky River. She has lived in northeast Ohio except for two years in Michigan.

She is Presbyterian on both sides of her family for at least four generations. She is an ordained ruling elder, chairing and/or serving at Rocky River on all the committees at some point in time. She currently serves on the Mission, Christian Education, and Stewardship committees. She has led numerous adult education classes, and has served as a confirmation mentor several times. Sara has served on our Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, Leadership Development (chaired) and Mission Outreach (chaired) as well as Coordinating Cabinet. Currently serving on Outreach Committee, Mission & Vision Task Force and the Operations Committee and as the Treasurer of the Presbytery. She also has served as a commissioner to General Assembly. She completed the Disaster Preparedness training through the denomination's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. A major accomplishment was

completing the four year certification course Education for Ministry.

Presbyterian Women has been a major part of her spiritual journey and leadership training. She has served in numerous positions at Rocky River (circle leader, secretary, treasurer, mission coordinator, moderator and for sixteen years chaired the Trash & Treasure sale.) For the Presbytery PW she served as treasurer, secretary, registrar, newsletter editor, vice-moderator for programming and as moderator. For the Synod PW - served as treasurer, vice-moderator for Justice and Peace and is currently serving as Vice-Moderator for Leadership Development. She has led numerous retreats and workshops for Presbyterian Women at all levels.

She worked at a Public Accounting firm for eighteen years as the Firm Administrator followed by nearly eighteen years at Old Stone Church as their Financial Administrator. She was a Girl Scout troop leader for quite a few years. She left a position at a small manufacturing firm to join the team at Fairmount Presbyterian Church as their Financial Secretary and also works at Lakewood Presbyterian Church as their Finance & Office Administrator. She and Dennis are excited to welcome grandchild #3 in March. She enjoys getting to know and spending time with folks at RRPC and is looking forward to the future of the church.



NEW STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Please note we have email addresses for our two new staff members.

Finance—James Akoury can be reached jakoury@riverpres.org

Christian Ed./Youth—Brenda Peterson at bpeterson@riverpres.org

Parish Advisor Thoughts...

The **World Health Organization's** definition of Health... "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

"The link between diet and our brain health is profound. You name it, food plays a role. Depression, anxiety, dementia, behavior problems, violence, or just plain old brain fog are all connected to what we eat." – While therapy, stress reduction, and movement are equally critical in many brain disorders, food plays a pivotal and often overlooked role." Dr. Mark Hyman



February is **National Heart Month**. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, but it can be often prevented. Adopting a heart-healthy lifestyle can help you reduce the risk of heart disease and its risk factors. Take action to protect your heart by following these tips.

- Get enough quality sleep, 7-9 hours/night,
- Eat Better, Read the ingredient list. If you don't know what it is then it is best not to eat it.,
- Stop smoking,
- Maintain a Healthy Weight- eat whole food, skip the sugar, stay hydrated with water and exercise- some type of daily movement,
- Control Cholesterol,
- Manage Blood Sugar,
- Manage Stress,
- Control Blood Pressure,
- Practice Self -Care and Find Social Support.

If you would like more in-depth information, please contact Brenda Peterson

bpeterson@riverpres.org

1 Corinthians 10:31

"So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Paul's words remind us that everyday actions, including our dietary choices, should glorify God. This verse implies that conscious food planning and mindful eating are part of living a life devoted to God.

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. info@riverpres.org or (440)333-4888.



FEBRUARY 2024 LIBRARY LINGO



Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS:

New books

Valentine's Day books

Black History Month books



NEW ITEMS FOR ADULTS:

Fiction:

FICTION SERIES: *Mystery and the Minister's Wife*

Escape to the charming town of Copper Mill, Tennessee. Nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, it's a place of tradition and tranquility. But when Kate and Paul Hanlon move in, they discover that small-town life is anything but boring. The mysteries Kate uncovers are puzzling, but she uses her quick mind and the help of her friends to figure out the answers. See how faith can solve life's mysteries in this series.

Through the Fire #1

The Hanlons take over the pastorate of a church, but when they arrive, the church is in flames. Evidence shows that it was not an accident. As Kate investigates, she receives threatening phone calls and mysterious packages. Paul struggles to keep the wounded church together. Hope can rise out of the ashes and lead to glorious new life.

A State of Grace #2

The Hanlons are settling in, and Kate learns about a widow whose daughter has leukemia. Kate tries to show God's mercy, but discovers that this grieving woman harbors a terrible secret, and getting to the truth may save the life of her child. In our darkest moments, God's grace shines.

(After #1 and #2, it doesn't matter which order you choose to read them)

Angel's Undercover

Civil War reenactors come to town. When valuable historical memorabilia disappear from the library, Kate vows to help find answers. Break-ins around town raise fears, but not all the burglaries are as sinister as they appear. A debate about worship music might tear the church apart. Can Paul hold this fractured church together? Sometimes God sends angels where you least expect them.

Beauty Shop Tales

Missing documents, a suspicious stranger, and a dangerous secret lead to a life and death chase for the owner of the beauty parlor, who has been missing for over a year. Secrets can hurt, but the truth can set you free.

The Best Is Yet to Be

After thefts from the food program for the elderly, Kate wonders if one of the volunteers is stealing from the shut-ins. Paul's band sessions end in discord, and their location leads to suspicions about the pastor's real pastimes. Things aren't always what they seem.

Dog Days

A dog preparing for the dog show was stolen. A series of pranks, a heated argument, and a stranger's auction throw Kate off the trail. Paul organizes a car-care clinic for needy families and meets a woman who wants nothing to do with the church. Can they help everyone realize that trophies have nothing to do with the biggest prize of all?

The Missing Ingredient

It's a recipe for disaster as a cooking show comes to town and the producer disappears. Clues point to Kate's friend, the show's star. How well does Kate really know her? Paul offers his congregation wisdom and faith when there are suspicious sightings in the unused wing of the hotel, leading to speculation of otherworldly occurrences.

A Test of Faith

When a stolen car crashes through the diner's window, Kate vows to find the driver who has vanished. When her wallet is found in the car, she has a new reason to find the culprit. Townspeople seem to believe that the pastor's wife is a car thief. Paul breaks his ankle and Kate finds herself caring for him. When everything falls apart, can faith hold them together?

Where There's a Will

Kate enrolls in an art course and discovers that the teacher is Paul's college sweetheart. Kate helps her prove a claim on her family's land, but can she decipher the clues in time? Paul joins the Chamber of Commerce, but his plans for revitalization only lead to frustration. Sometimes the truth is hidden in plain sight.

HAPPY READING AND VIEWING!!

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

February 2024



				1	2 RRPP Conferences NO classes 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study(Zoom)	3 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
4 Communion/Food Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Mission Comm.	5 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:30 p.m. CE Committee Mtg.	6 10:00 a.m. Three Arts of Lakewood – Board Mtg. 4:00 p.m. HR Committee 7:00 p.m. Worship Comm.	7 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	8	9 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00 a.m. Senior Men's Group Mtg.	10 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
11 Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:35 a.m. Evang.& Mem. 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	12 12:30 p.m. Educators Roundtable 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg.	13 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 9:30 a.m. Preschool Committee Mtg. 5:00 p.m. Pancake Supper	14 Ash Wednesday + 12:00 p.m. Ash Wed. Service 1:00 p.m. Staff Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Ash Wed. Service 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	15 11:30 a.m. RRPPreschool Staff Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle Mtg.	16 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9	17 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
18 First Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:35 a.m. Stewardship Mtg.	19 Presidents Day (Church office closed) 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Session Mtg.	20 5:00 p.m. RRPPreschool Family Movie Night	21 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	22	23 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00 a.m. Senior Men's Group Mtg.	24 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	26 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	27 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith	28 12:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	29		

“The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

February 2024



Rocky River Presbyterian Church
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