

MARCH 2024

# The Pulse



## Rocky River Presbyterian Church



### *Pastor's Pen*

If there ever was one affirmation considered more important than any other in the Christian faith, it would undeniably be the claim we make on Easter: "Christ is risen!" If it could be said that if the whole of the Christian faith could stand or fall with one teaching or doctrine, it would be the resurrection of Jesus.

It was not Jesus's teachings which transformed the Mediterranean world. Emperors did not stop and take notice of a peasant carpenter because of what Jesus stated in the Sermon on the Mount or his parables, or even in the miracles he performed. The world was changed, people were transformed, principalities and powers stopped in their tracks, because of the news that Jesus, the man who had been dead and laid in a tomb, had been raised to life.

The story is that one morning some women went to a tomb, with heavy hearts and tear streamed faces, and discovered that the stone in front of the tomb of Jesus had been rolled away from the entrance. And when they stepped inside the tomb, they saw that it was empty. They reported this news to the disciples who ran to the tomb to see if what the women had told them was true. Later it would be said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Then it was told to them that this man Jesus was alive, that he was going on ahead of them. And it was to these that the risen Christ appeared. The too good to be true message of Easter is that Christ is alive. The center of our faith is not a dead sacrifice, but a living Lord.

We can say without question that the resurrection transformed the behavior of Jesus's disciples. When Jesus was arrested, they abandoned him. Yet, these same frightful followers would become the boldest of witnesses for Jesus and his resurrection. They could do this because they had encountered the risen Christ. They knew that with the power of the risen Christ there was nothing in this earthly life which could defeat them and no obstacle in their lives too great to overcome.

And we are the ones who keep the Easter story and message going! We are the messengers of life in a death-filled world. We speak of love in a world bent on hatred; we speak of hope in a world bent on despair. God sets his people apart to be the resurrection and the life for other people. The Easter story continues wherever the story is told wherever faith is lived so that others see it, and hear it, and are claimed by it.

*Pastor Peter*

### WORSHIP FOR March:

**MARCH 3: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT:** On this Third Sunday of Lent we will look at an encounter Jesus had with the father of sick boy (Mark 9:14-29). The message is called, "Help My Unbelief." This is also a communion Sunday.

**MARCH 10: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT:** As Jesus made his journey to Jerusalem, Mark's gospel describes him coming to a crossroad (Mark 10:32-34). At this juncture, Jesus could choose to go north, where there was safety and security. Or, he could continue south to Jerusalem where the cross awaited him. The message is called, "No Turning Back."

**MARCH 17: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT:** On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we see two disciples of Jesus, James and John, ask Jesus to give them positions of prominence in his future Kingdom (Mark 10:35-45). Jesus lets them know that their understanding of greatness and his are not the same. The message is called, "True Greatness."

**MARCH 24: PALM SUNDAY:** Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. This day is also referred to as Passion Sunday. The word "passion" means suffering. Despite Jesus's triumphal entrance as described in Mark 11:1-11, his focus is on what will happen five days later when he is condemned to the cross. The message is called, "Blessed Is He!"

**MARCH 28: MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:30 PM:** On this evening, we will celebrate the *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper* as we recall the events of the Upper Room when Jesus gathered his disciples and offered them the bread and the cup to remember his sacrifice. Our worship will also include a *Service of Tenebrae* (Service of Darkness), to commemorate how, when Jesus died, it appeared the darkness had prevailed over the light. There will be a special emphasis on the symbols of the crucifixion according to the Gospel of Matthew's account: The thirty pieces of silver, the towel and the basin, the nails, the crown of thorns, and the purple robe.

**MARCH 31: EASTER SUNDAY:** On this Easter Sunday we affirm the declaration which is central to our faith: "Christ is Risen; He is Risen Indeed." Our focus will be on the Gospel of John's account (John 20:11-18). The message is called, "Do Not Cling." This is a day to remind ourselves that we must be Easter People every day!

## Mission Study Team Update - RRPC Contracts with Consultant

Great News! RRPC has signed a contract with a consultant to help guide our Church through the mission study process. The consulting firm "Convergence," has years of experience helping Presbyterian and Christian churches nationwide perform self-studies. The Mission Study Team had its first meeting with Convergence on Sunday, February 25. At that time the team will learn what tasks lay ahead to understand the needs of our church. We'll share next steps and ways in which you can get involved in upcoming Worship services and in the *Pulse*. Involvement from the entire congregation is important. Keep in mind that the Mission Study is a critical stepping stone that will help us prepare for the Called Pastor search. Stay tuned!

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

#### SPECIAL OFFERING:

We continue to promote and receive the *One Great Hour Special Offering*, throughout the month of March. As of the last Sunday of February we have received \$753.00 toward this offering. This supports many mission efforts of the Presbyterian Church throughout the world. We hope to continue to have a generous response!



75 YEARS |  ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 1	Cathy Magnus Hazel Sakai
March 2	Mary Fancher Elise Myers
March 4	John Kirchner
March 6	Dave Hensel
March 11	Jane Doughman Sharon Hensel Shawn Harrison Lillian Watts
March 12	Arianna Davis
March 13	Julie Arnold
March 14	Deb Furry
March 15	Beth Katterle Bob Sweet
March 17	Elaine Cook Sara Doan Jocelyn Brown
March 20	Dan McKenzie Karli Katterle
March 21	Amy Gilkison
March 23	Hayes Jenkins
March 24	Marie McNeal Russ Carson James Penning
March 25	Andrew Watts
March 26	Janet Beutel
March 27	Flannery Costello
March 28	Eric Fancher
March 29	Liliana Harrison
March 30	Cameron Krizman
March 31	Mark Esdon Susan Flynn

## Ushering Team Opening

Ushers play an important role in the life of the church! They are one of the first welcoming faces visitors meet and work to ensure that the worship service runs smoothly. RRPC has four ushering teams. Each team ushers three months out of the year. We have one opening on Team 3 Mar/July/Nov. We also have a group of ushering subs who will fill in as needed. If you would like to find out more about this opportunity please see Lisa Poole or Anne Busher.

## USHERS





*Rocky River Presbyterian Church  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Immediately following 10:30 a.m. service.*

*Bring your basket and a friend!*

## **From the Preschool—Granola Bites and More - Fundraiser**

The preschool is holding a fundraiser for the next two weeks. This fundraiser features Granola Bites in a variety of flavors as well as bags of mini-cookies. Popcorn, beef jerky and a Soft Pretzel Home Kit are also offered.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these products, please contact Diana Wolfe at the preschool, 440-895-5437. There will also be an order form in the church office.

You can also order online by going to [Bit.ly/rockyriver2024](https://bit.ly/rockyriver2024) and go to Diana Wolfe and place an order.

The order deadline is **March 6<sup>th</sup>**. The products will be distributed at the church by Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

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The preschool is also participating in the church mission project for March, Project Noelle.

Families are bringing in the requested items and they will be included in the baskets the church is assembling.

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Upcoming fundraisers for the school include our Annual Plant Sale with delivery in time for Mother's Day and Mitchell's Homemade Ice Cream gift cards, just in time for summer!

## **Rocky River Presbyterian Preschool**

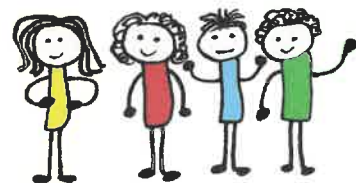
Registration is **now open** for the 2024-25 school year.

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](mailto:rrpns@riverpres.org).

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



## ***Christian Education Corner***

Christian Education Facilitator, Brenda Peterson

[bpeterson@riverpres.org](mailto:bpeterson@riverpres.org)

**Adult Education** – We are having great conversations and sharing our perspectives as we journey through our current Bible Study, *The God We Can Know*. March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our fourth session out of session. Our last session is Palm Sunday, March 24.

There is still time for you to come in and take this journey we us. **Adult Education meets Sunday mornings 9:00 - 10:00AM.** We look forward to having you join us. Coffee and tea will be served.

**Sunday School** – A huge thank you to Ellen Schickel and Melanie Fredrickson for their dedicated and devoted work with our Sunday School children. I know that we are continuing to look for helpers in the class and teachers. It would be delightful to have a rotating schedule for teachers and helpers. Please reach out to Ellen Schickel, Melanie Fredrickson, Emily Zinda or Brenda Peterson if you are interested or have questions.

**Youth Fellowship** – We may be a small group but, this is an awesome group of youths! Dave Hensel and I are continually moved with their insightful questions, comments and willingness to hear others' perspectives as well without judgement.

On behalf of this amazing group we **THANK YOU** for your support of our Shrove Pancake Supper fundraiser. Because of you we raised \$529.00 towards. This will be put towards our retreats and education. We are grateful for our adult volunteers, that assisted with or dinner. Lisa Poole, kitchen duty is no joke and you jumped in and did SO many dishes and clean up. Joey Alvis, a master on the griddle making the pancakes. With grateful hearts we thank you for all your help to make this dinner successful. Our youth decorated, helped cook, clean up and mingled with our guests. Thank you everyone.

We do have a change in our itinerary for our March retreat. We have decided that we are going to stay local...we are going to have a "Lock In" at RRPC on March 22-March 23, 2024! We will continue with education and have fun in the 24 hours at our Lock In.

**3 John 1:4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."**

## **Thoughts from Parish Advisor**

### ***Impact***

*You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So, don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.*

***Colossians 3:12 – "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."***



## Who's Who in the Pew!

### *Say Hello to Ross Eyer -*

Ross grew up in Harrisburg PA before moving to Ohio. Ross is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace College (now a university) where he earned an MBA. Ross spent his career in the corporate world where he worked in management and was also a Vice President. In his personal life, Ross has a 68 year marriage with 2 children and 3 grandchildren and enjoys reading and music. He served 6 years on the charter BW men's chorus.

Ross is a transfer from John Knox Presbyterian Church where he was a 50 plus year member. Ross served 3 terms on Session, 3 years as a trustee of the Presbytery and also sang in the choir.

Please be sure to say hello to Ross next week in church! Hopefully RRPC will soon be blessed to have his voice a part of our choir!



Join the **Dinner-Out Crowd** for dinner out on Saturday April 6th, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

**This adult ONLY group welcomes singles, couples, new friends or old...come along!** The Dinner-Out Crowd is a group that gets together for fun and fellowship, and maybe a drink, at local restaurants around town. This is an adult only group. New to the church? Been around a long time? Just need a night out? You are all welcome.

We will meet at BJ's Restaurant at Great Northern in North Olmsted at 6:30 for drinks and dinner. This outing will include separate checks and full menu choice. So, reserve your spot, and bring cash or your credit card to pay for your check. A couple of notes: a 20% gratuity will be added to each check due to the size of our group. Also due to the size of our group, dinner may take a little longer.

**BJ's Restaurant**  
25779 Brookpark Road  
North Olmsted, OH 44070  
[www.BJsRestaurant.com](http://www.BJsRestaurant.com)



To reserve your space, contact Melanie Frederickson (440)420-6867 or Anne Busher (440)-333-4901 **by March 29th.**



## March 2024 LIBRARY LINGO

Mary Schulz, Librarian

### DISPLAYS:

New books  
Women's History books  
Spring books



### NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

These will be in the children's biography section:

Who Was Helen Keller?

Who Was Rosa Parks?

Who Was Ruth Bader Ginsburg?

Who Was Anne Frank?

Who Was Mother Teresa?

### FOR CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK SECTION:

These will be alphabetical by last name in the E (Everybody) picture book area: E SPR

These are written for children by theologian, pastor, and author Dr. R. C. Sproul. His life's work was to make deep biblical truths clear and understandable to students of all ages.

#### The Barber Who Wanted to Pray

Based on a true story, a barber asked Martin Luther, who was sitting in his barber chair, to teach him how to pray. Dr. Luther wrote him a 500-word letter, now known today as the book A Simple Way to Pray.

#### The Knight's Map

This is the story of a knight who undertakes a perilous journey full of bad advice and wrong turns. In the end, he must decide whether or not he will trust the map provided by the King.

#### The Lightlings

These tiny beings are a picture of humanity as they pass through all the stages of the biblical drama—creation, fall, and redemption.

#### The Priest with Dirty Clothes

This draws on the story of Joshua the high priest to teach young hearts about our Great Prince, who offers "new clothes for the heart" to all who trust in Him.

#### The Prince's Poison Cup

This book tells the story of Jesus's willingness to drink the terrible "cup" of the Father's wrath at great cost to Himself—humiliation, suffering, and death. In the conclusion, children will see the triumph of Christ and the great good that came from His obedience to His Father's will.

HAPPY READING AND VIEWING!!

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



## 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](mailto:info@riverpres.org) or (440)333-4888.

**\*\*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!**



## We need you!

We're looking for 2-3 people to join the Counting team. You'll help the church by counting contributions once per month, usually on Mondays, and making the bank deposit. The time commitment is low--about an hour a month. Please contact Sally Schriener at [sallybabs@gmail.com](mailto:sallybabs@gmail.com) or 216-849-1587 if you are able to help.



## 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](mailto:jakoury@riverpres.org)

Christian Ed./Youth—Brenda Peterson at [bpeterson@riverpres.org](mailto:bpeterson@riverpres.org)



## Calling all adults!

The children of RRPC need caring, fun adults to help teach them about Jesus; can you help? Commitment can be as little as just helping in the room once per month, or if you'd be able to teach we would love to discuss that as well! Please contact Brenda Peterson [bpeterson@riverpres.org](mailto:bpeterson@riverpres.org) or Emily Zinda at [eezinda@gmail.com](mailto:eezinda@gmail.com) if you're interested.



## Our March Mission project will be collecting items to benefit **The Gathering Place**.

TGP offers free programs and services to help individuals and families cope with the impact of cancer in their lives. RRPC will be collecting items to create "care bags" to donate to **The Gathering Place** to provide to families in need. We will be collecting travel packs of tissues, small hand lotion & sanitizer, chapstick, tea bags, travel snacks, cozy socks, small notebooks, pens/pencils, & blank notecards. This collection will conclude on Sunday, March 24. Additionally, if you would like to make a financial donation you can visit their website at [touchedbycancer.org](http://touchedbycancer.org)



Any questions can be directed to Eric Watts ([ewatts610@gmail.com](mailto:ewatts610@gmail.com)) as chair of the Mission Committee.

# It will be here before you know it!

## Vacation Bible School

### June 10 - 14

## Look for info in the coming months

# March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study	2 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
<b>3 Third Sunday in Lent</b> <b>Communion / Food Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Mission Comm.	4 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:45 p.m. CE Committee Mtg.	5 10:00 a.m. Three Arts of Lakewood Board Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Worship Commit.	6 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	<b>7 No Preschool</b> 8:30 a.m. Preschool Staff Training	8 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00 a.m. Senior Men's Group Mtg.	9 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
<b>10 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Evang. & Membership 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	11 10:30 a.m. Educators Roundt. 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	12 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 9:30 a.m. Preschool Committee Mtg. 4:30 p.m. HR Committee	13 12:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	14 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	15 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	16 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
<b>17 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	18 5:00 p.m. Election Day Set-up 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	<b>19 Election Day</b> 7:00 a.m. Polls open	20 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	21 11:30 a.m. RRP/Preschool Staff Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle Mtg	22 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00 a.m. Senior Men's Group Mtg.	23 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	25 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	26 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith	27 12:30 p.m. Staff Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg	<b>28 Maundy Thursday</b> 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	<b>29 Good Friday</b> 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	30 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
<b>31 Easter Sunday</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour						







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

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 25.**

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. 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.

### *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>		



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# “The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of

**Rocky River Presbyterian Church**

**March 2024**



Rocky River Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Peter Lawson, Pastor  
21750 Detroit Road  
Rocky River, OH 44116-2220