



Pastor's Pen

During the season of Lent, we have been looking at penetrating questions from Jesus which Jesus conveyed during his ministry. These questions came about from various encounters Jesus had with people which challenged their faith and their understanding of God. We've looked at how these questions are relevant to us as well, as they cause us to reflect on what they mean for us.

Yet, I would wager, the most penetrating question which Jesus asked of all, was not made to his disciples or one of the various people he interacted with, but to God himself. On the night of Jesus's arrest, that is the night before his trial before Pilate and his crucifixion, Jesus went to a place called the Mount of Olives (otherwise known as the Garden of Gethsemane). This occurred just after Jesus had gathered his disciples in the Upper Room and provided the Last Supper, saying to them, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me;" then saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:19-20). Afterwards, the Gospel of Luke tells us he withdrew from them to be alone, knelt and prayed these words: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me" (Luke 22:42). While not stated specifically in the form of a question, clearly Jesus is asking: "Father, is there any way possible to fulfill your will than by me dying on a cross?"

The answer to this foreboding question is no. Only Jesus, the Son of God, could be the perfect sacrifice to God for our forgiveness. As Jesus, throughout his earthly life, yielded to the will of God, regardless of the consequences, he would at this critical moment submit himself to what God required him to do. In the verse which Jesus asks that he be spared of the cross – "if you are willing, remove this cup from me" – it concludes with the unbending obedience of Jesus: "Yet, not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Submission to sacrifice describes the essence of who Jesus was, and the cross was the culmination of that sacrificial life.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

APRIL 13, PALM SUNDAY: The first day of Holy Week marks the triumphal entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. In the days leading up to Palm Sunday, Jesus asked questions which challenged people's faith and discipleship. Now, as Jesus enters the Holy City, people are asking questions of him. "Who Is This Man? What is his purpose?" (Matthew 21:10)

APRIL 17, MAUNDY THURSDAY: 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. The word Maundy is derived from Latin word meaning command. At the Last Supper, when Jesus broke the bread, his command was that they "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). It is his command to us as well. Our worship will include a Service of Tenebrae (Service of Darkness), to commemorate how with the death of Jesus it appeared that the darkness had prevailed over the light. This service begins at 7:30 pm.

APRIL 20, EASTER SUNDAY: On this Day of Resurrection, the question is asked of those who came to the tomb where Jesus was buried, "Why Do You Seek the Living Among the Dead?" (Luke 24:5) The answer is that Jesus is not among the dead because he has risen! Our central affirmation as the followers of Jesus is: "Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!"

April 2025

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 a.m. 3 Arts of Lakewood	2 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg.	3 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics AA	4 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	5 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
6 Communion/Food Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Nominating Committee	7 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 8:00 p.m. CE Committee	8 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 4:00 p.m. HR Committee Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee	9 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg. 7:30 Pastor Nominating Committee	10 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle mtg. 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics AA	11 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00 a.m. Senior Men's Group Mtg.	12 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
13 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	14 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg.	15	16 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg. 7:30 Pastor Nominating Committee	17 Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics AA	18 Good Friday 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	19 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
20 Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 p.m. E & M Committee	21 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Session Mtg.	22 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith	23 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg. 7:30 Pastor Nominating Committee	24 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics AA	25 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00 a.m. Senior Men's Group Mtg.	26 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
27 9:00 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	28 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Mtg.	29	30 7:30 p.m. Men's AA Mtg. 7:30 Pastor Nominating Committee			

April Birthdays

Marlee McGorray	04/02
Patti Smith	04/02
Ezra Hustek	04/02
Jill Orosz	04/03
Luke Erml	04/04
Austin Davis	04/05
Kalen Hustek	04/07
Al Yeckel	04/08
Zack Hoon	04/08
Barb Davis	04/08
Kathleen Schriener	04/08
Steve Sabolich	04/08
Andrew Palka	04/09
Barbara Johnson	04/12
Betsy Campbell	04/13
Marge Bodenhamer	04/14
Tyler Stohr	04/ 14
Suzanne Eyer	04/15
Jim Pierce	04/17
Lewis Bohannon	04/17
Al Stohr	04/22
Travis Stohr	04/22
Barbara Kirsop	04/22
Charlotte Solak	04/25
Sage Mach	04/25
Ann Gilbert	04/29
Savio Mahfouz	04/29
DJ Furry Jr.	04/29



Would you like to help a child our community?
RRPC is creating Easter baskets for [Project Noelle](#).
Project Noelle is helping the smallest victims of the
opioid epidemic.

We have a goal of 50 baskets. Please make sure you
have your donations in by Sunday, April 6th.

Any questions please contact Melanie Fredrickson.



TRASH AND TREASURE SALE - 2025

The Mission & Evangelism Committee is discussing the potential of holding a 2025 Trash and Treasure sale. The event would be held on October 4.

In order to hold the usual Trash and Treasure event, we will need a Chair and 35 volunteers. The volunteers would be working the week before the sale sorting, testing, pricing, and organizing the donations. On the day of the sale, we would also need volunteers to handle the sales during the entire day, and packing/cleaning up after the sale.

If there are not 35 volunteers available, the Committee may decide to either hold a smaller sale (fewer categories of merchandise) or not hold the sale at all.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Trash and Treasure sale, please let Barb Johnson know at bjohns8303@sbcglobal.net, no later than April 15, 2025.



Thank you!

Christen Education Corner

Christian Education Facilitator, Brenda Peterson

bpeterson@riverpres.org

Adult Education: We look forward to having you join us any Sunday mornings. 9:00–10:00 AM. We meet in the West Room. Coffee is available.

Our next topic of discussion will be Matthew Kelly's book, *Holy Moments*. The dates for this will be March 30, April 6 and 13.

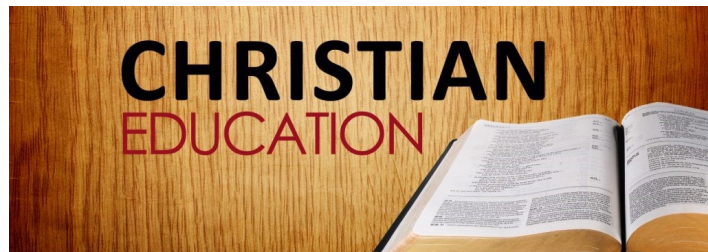
The last session we have before we break for summer will be April 27, May 4, 11, and 18.

Lisa Watts will be facilitating a wonderful session for us. **"Do We Still Need Religion? Reflections on Faith and Community."** Lisa will be using video clips of Nadia Bolz-Weber as well as excerpts from her book "Accidental Saints." The discussion will revolve around how our church communities can remain active and even vibrant in these challenging times. Please come and journey through this discussion with Lisa.

Youth Fellowship: The Youth group, David Hensel and I give a grateful thank you to everyone that supported our Shrove Pancake Supper. It was fun having the Sax Machine Band playing and people dancing! A huge heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers, Joey and Audrey Alvis, Bob and Mary Murphy, Sue Curtis, Sue and Marc Hustek, and Kathy Bast. We could not have done this without you.

We had a dynamic Youth Lock- In at RRPC Friday, March 21-22. Fun, fellowship and inspiring brainstorming sessions for our Youth Sunday Worship. Please mark your calendars, May 18, 2025.

Sunday School: They are enjoying their lessons from the Bread of Life curriculum. They also have a home family activity to do with is called Breaking the Chain.



Youth Fellowship Schedule

- **April 13 & 27 @ 6-7:30 PM**
- **May 4 @ 6-7:30 PM**
- **May 18 : YOUTH WORSHIP SUNDAY @ 10:30 AM Service.** Arrival time TBA*** There is a possibility that we may have a rehearsal during the week of May 11th

**youth
FELLOWSHIP**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, June 9 – Friday, June 13, 2025

9:00 – 11:30 am

Ages 4 through Grade 4

Family Picnic and Program

Friday, June 13, 2025, 6:00 pm



A donation of \$40 for the first child and \$25 for each additional child is suggested. Please make checks payable to Rocky River Presbyterian Church. The maximum per family is \$75.00.

Late registration (after May 16) is an additional \$10 per child, with a maximum of \$100 per family. Scholarships are available by calling Brenda Peterson at (440) 333-4888.

Registration and class size are limited, so early registration is encouraged.



We are moving along with our planning for VBS, and this year's program theme is called, *Great Big Beautiful World*. It is all about god's creation and how we can take care of it.

Once again, we have three (3) denominations collaborating for this vacation bible school week. Rocky River Presbyterian Church, St. Christopher Parish and Rockport United Methodist Church.

We are looking for teen and adult volunteers. We need classroom helpers and leaders, daily counters for donations that come in, kitchen help for snacks and nursery room attendant, 18 and older plus helpers. Please contact Brenda Peterson if you are interested.



bpeterson@riverpres.org or 216-798-2365 (mobile).



Parish Advisor Thoughts:

The month of April marks the beginning of Spring. A month of rebirth and new beginnings. April brings a sense of optimism and hope, reflecting on the natural awakenings around us. The weather begins to warm up and the flowers begin to bloom.

The beauty we see brings delight to our eyes and soul. When you see the gifts of beauty and color you may feel joyful, inspired or energized. What if you could take these feelings and share them with others?

You can! Life is all about love. Sometimes we think about doing something and before you know it a day, a week a month has gone by. Procrastination is the thief of time. If you think it, feel it, dream about it, then just do it. Maybe it is a phone call to a friend, a note to someone you haven't seen for a while, or just maybe it is telling someone that you love them or care about them. By the time we deliberate about doing it, it could have been done already.

Time is our most precious gift. How do relationships begin, continue and last?... by investing our time. It is the best expression of love. When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you will never get back.

Relationships and love are what God asks of us. Four out of the Ten Commandments are about our relationship with God. The other six are about our relationships with people. Jesus reminds us, what matters most to God is to love God and love people.

What can you do today that shows someone they matter, you care, and you love them.

Your time you give, is a loving gift to others.

Let's say they are far away, and you cannot physically be with them, making the time to call or write a note to them is still giving them your time. Build, nourish and cherish your relationships. Remember you can continue to make more relationships throughout your life and share God's love.

Life is about love and relationships. We are all God's children.



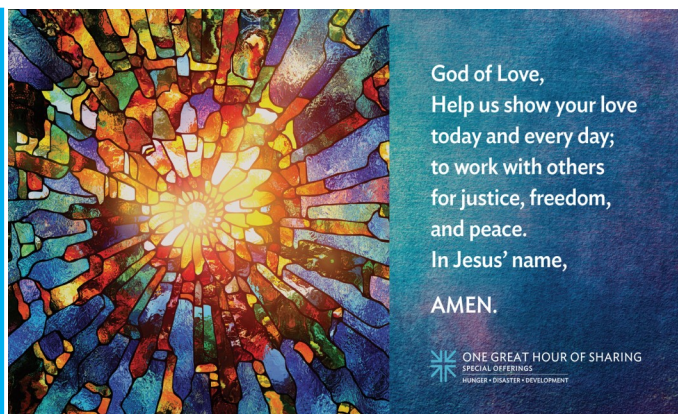
PLEASE NOTE: If you have not yet made your annual per capita contribution, please do so at your earliest convenience. For 2025, the per capita amount is \$40.00 per each confirmed church member in your household. Simply mark your contribution “per capita” and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Thank you in advance for helping us fulfill our obligation to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

If you have already made your per annual per capita contribution, we thank you!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING:

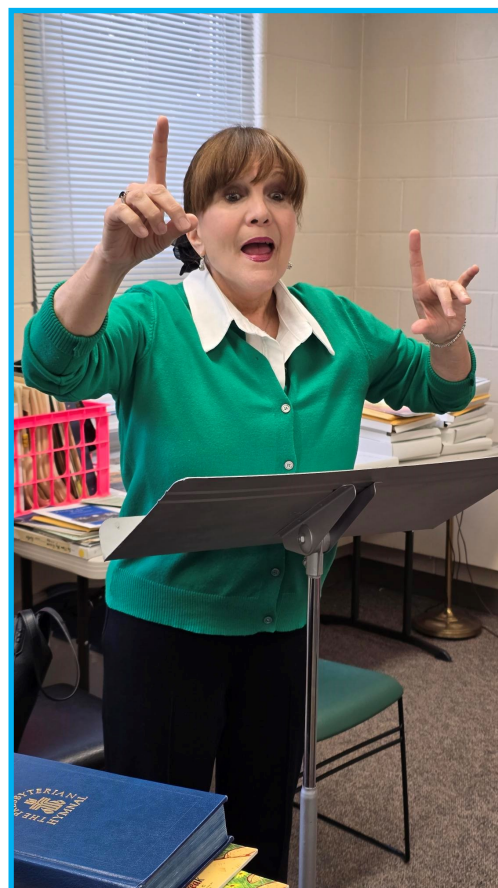
We have been receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering during the season of Lent. You may continue to use the envelopes designated for this purpose and are available on the table at the entranceway of the church. You may also designate this offering on your regular offering envelope. So far, we have received **\$ 1,135.00** toward this offering.



Meet Jill Hayman

New Member to RRPC and our New Choir Director

To say that God has been working in my life this past year would be an understatement. At the beginning of 2024 I had no idea the direction my life would take. Then God led me back to my home town- Rocky River, Ohio. One of my biggest concerns was finding a church family. Meeting Anne Gilbert through mutual friends has not only helped me become a part of a faith community but has also allowed me to use my abilities to hopefully contribute to the music ministry. Having spent most of my life touring and on Broadway has been an experience I treasure. Performing in shows like *Les Misérables*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Wicked* was wonderful and now having been all over the world coming home again means so much more. My thanks to my new church family and I look forward with Anne to doing my very best to make a positive contribution to this church. Your choir, by the way, is fabulous!



Preschool News:

THANK YOU! For your support of our fundraiser, Malley's candy! Delivery of candy will be delivered April 2nd.



Preschool Registration



RRPP is currently enrolling for 2025-2026 school year.

If you know a family member, friend, or neighbor looking for a preschool, please have them contact the Preschool office for a tour.

We had a very generous donation of a pack of 4 tickets for the Labor day weekend Air Show.



Support RRPP and enter to win tickets to the 2025 Cleveland Air Show!

When: Labor Day Weekend 2025

What: Pack of 4 Tickets (value at \$35 each); Admission to the family and friends tent

Drawing will be held on May 1, 2025

Purchase 1 ticket for \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20



For further questions or to purchase please contact:

Rocky River Presbyterian Preschool

21750 Detroit Road Rocky River, OH 44116

(440) 895-5437

RRPP MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER

RRPP is holding a Mother's Day Plant Sale Fundraiser!

This is a great opportunity to purchase high-quality hanging baskets or patio pots at competitive prices, while also supporting RRPP. Beautify the outside of your home or purchase as a gift for family and friends! The cost of each hanging basket and patio pot is \$35. The plants are locally grown and sold by Uncle John's Plant Farm, located in Olmsted Falls.

ORDERING: Stop in the church office at RRPP any time prior to Monday, April 14th to fill out your order form. Please make all checks payable to RRPP.

DELIVERY: week of May 5th, right before Mother's Day!

QUESTIONS: Please contact Molly Kenny

(molly.kean86@gmail.com) or Kathleen Winters (kmwinters@riverpres.org).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

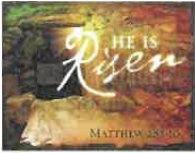


APRIL 2025 LIBRARY LINGO

Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS:

Books for Easter, Earth Day, and new books



EASTER for children:

An Easter Egg Hunt for Jesus: God Gave Us Easter to Celebrate His Life 158.0 BRO Little Bunny and his friends get ready for the special day with an egg hunt. When he makes a mistake, he thinks he has ruined the fun. But, his friends and family help him understand the meaning of Easter- a celebration of Jesus's resurrection and the new life He offers us.

Berenstain Bears' The Very First Easter

E BER

The night before Easter, Papa reads Brother, Sister, and Honey Bear the story of Jesus' final days, death, and resurrection.

EASTER for Adults:

Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects

242.34 DUF

In this devotion for the season of Lent, readers' attentions are drawn to 10 ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones.

Meditations on the Cross

232.96 BON

These letters and sermons contain Dietrich Bonhoeffer's personal and faithful word about the crucifixion and the power of the cross for all Christian disciples.

NEW ITEMS FOR CHILDREN:

Nonfiction:

Five-Minute Devotions for Children: Celebrating God's World as a Family

j242.62KEN

From polliwogs to prickly porcupines, here are short stories that are perfect to read to even the youngest children. Each 2-page story tells about a different animal and its outstanding trait, such as truthfulness and kindness. Included are questions to discuss and a relevant Bible verse.

Duck Commander Devotions for Kids

j242.62 ROB

Each devotion contains a brief message, an anecdotal story from Duck Dynasty family, a passage from Scripture, a prayer, and a Duck Commander in Action. Not only are the messages motivational, but they are also mixed with the characters' trademark wit.

The Purpose Driven Life: 100 Illustrated Devotions for Children

j242.62 WAR

Based on the best-seller The Purpose Driven Life, pastor Rick Warren provides the kid-sized devotions and Scripture passages that will allow even the youngest children to grow confident of their value in God.

Jesus Calling: 365 Devotions for Kids

j242.62 YOU

Help your child develop an intimate relationship with the Lord through daily time with Him and His Word. These are written as though Jesus is speaking directly to your child.

A Child's Book of Poems

j811 CHI

The Classic Treasury of Children's Poetry

j811 CLA

These short poems, with elegant full-color illustrations, are by some of the best-loved poets of the English language. Verses by William Blake, Robert Louis Stevenson, Lewis Carroll, etc.

HAPPY READING AND VIEWING! !

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

“The Pulse”
the monthly newsletter of
Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, April 13th, 2025

Immediately following 10:30 a.m. service.

Bring your basket and a friend!



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