

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

The Pulse May 2025

Pastor's Pen,

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers; for in doing so, you entertain angels unawares.

(Hebrews 13:2)

When the Bible describes the appearance of an angel, it is often a dramatic happening. I think of the picture created in the vision of Isaiah. In the prophet's vision he says, "I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs (which is another name for an angel) were in attendance above him; each had six wings; with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another saying, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory'" (Isaiah 6:1-3). Or, I think of when the angel Gabriel came upon Mary, the mother of Jesus, to announce that she would bear the Christ child. "Greetings O favored one, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1.28). When we think of an angelic encounter, we think of being whisked into a world not known to us.

And yet, that is not always the way the Bible speaks about angels. In Hebrews 13 it says, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers; for in doing so, you entertain angels unawares." Far from being something foreign and otherworldly, angels are described as beings we can meet in everyday life.

I think this is the Bible's way of saying that there are holiness opportunities when meeting the "stranger," and when we show hospitality, as Hebrews indicates, we have the chance to convey something of God's presence, love and concern to another person. My hope is that the Rocky River Church can be a place where the stranger is welcomed and made to feel a part of God's community of faith. There are many people in our neighborhood who need to know the presence of God – often without even realizing it – and we as the church are the ones God counts on to be that presence. Let this be a time to engage the "stranger," and to "entertain angels unawares."

Pastor Peter

Upcoming Events:

May 4 - Free Concert with the Avon Lake Women's Chorus and Steppin' Out at 3:00 pm

May 6 - Election Day

May 11 - SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION:

The session has called for a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, May 11**, following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the Nominating Committee's nominations for the new slate of officers.

May 12 - Free Rocky River Community Band Concert at 7:00 pm

May 18 - Youth Sunday and Spring Social following worship

May 25 - **Worship Time Change to 9:30 a.m.**

Kathy Hartzell Preaching

Coming in June: Meals served at North Church:

June 1, 8 and 15.



May Birthdays

Julie Stavole	05/01
Audrey Bruggers	05/03
Grace Bennett	05/03
Aileen Busher	05/07
David Clash	05/08
Rachel DeAtley	05/09
Susan Variakojis	05/10
Jessica Bohannon	05/12
Lisa Poole	05/14
Kathy Roos	05/14
Raymond Bohannon	05/15
Susan Pierce	05/16
Kendal Purohit	05/17
Carol Garibaldi	05/17
Ellen Schickel	05/18
Sue Krizman	05/21
Rudy Gulstrand	05/21
Jackson Ward	05/21
Jury Mirceta	05/22
Stella Schrinier	05/22
Kathy Bast	05/23
Brian Fancher	05/24
Alexandra Sakai	05/24
Chuck Erickson	05/25
Peter Lawson	05/25
Pamela Brown	05/26
Melissa Stickney	05/26
Joshua Kirchner	05/27
Thomas Stickney	05/29
Patrick Gorman	05/29
Bill Allport	05/31



**Please member if you have articles
for The Pulse to send to the office by
April 24th.
Thank you!**





Just In Case You Missed It!



We went out to dinner and had a great time.



We made and delivered

100 Baskets for Project Noelle!



Join your RRPC Family for the



On May 18th After Worship!

2025 Crushers Baseball Outing



VS



Evansville Otters

Friday July 18th 7:05 PM
Mercy Health Stadium -
2009 Baseball Blvd. Avon
Tickets Sold Sundays
6/15, 6/22, 6/29, 7/6

Tickets \$12

Contact: Bob Murphy
440-781-1231

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Men's Bible Study	3 7:00 pm Altered Attitudes
4 Communion / Food Sunday 9:30 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour 3:00 p.m. Avon Lake Chor- us	5 7:00 p.m. Women's AA 8:00 a.m. CE Committee	6 Election Day 10:30 a.m. Three Arts Lakewood Board Mtg. 	7 7:00 p.m. Worship Com- mittee 7:30 p.m. Men's AA 7:30 pm. Pastor Nomi- nating Committee	8	9 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Men's Bible Study 9:00 Men's Bible Study	10 7:00 pm Altered Attitudes
11 9:30 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Special Congrega- tional Meeting 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellow- ship	12 7:00 p.m. Women's AA 7:00 p.m. Community Band Concert	13 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith 4:30 p.m. HR Committee 6:30 Property/Finance Committee	14 7:30 p.m. Men's AA 7:30 pm. Pastor Nomi- nating Committee	15 7:00 p.m. Priscilla's Circle	16 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Men's Bible Study	17 10:30 a.m. Nancy Nowlin Funeral 7:00 pm Altered Attitudes
18 9:30 a.m. Adult Education 10:30 Youth Sunday Wor- ship 11:30 Coffee Hour / Spring Social	19 7:00 p.m. Women's AA 7:30 p.m. Session Meet- ing	20	21 7:30 p.m. Men's AA 7:30 pm. Pastor Nomi- nating Committee	22	23 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Men's Bible Study 9:00 Men's Bible Study	24 7:00 pm Altered Attitudes
25 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 9:30 am Worship 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellow- ship	26 	27 9:30 a.m. Expressions of Faith	28 7:30 p.m. Men's AA 7:30 pm. Pastor Nomi- nating Committee	29	30 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Men's Bible Study	31 7:00 pm Altered Attitudes

MAY 2025 LIBRARY LINGO



Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS:

Mother's Day books for adults and children

New books for adults and children



NEW ITEMS FOR ADULTS:

Fiction books:

The Little Liar (Mitch Albom)

FIC ALB

Nico has never told a lie. When the Nazis invade, the trustworthy boy is offered a chance to save his family. All he has to do is persuade his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading "north," where new jobs await. The innocent boy reassures them on the station platform every day. When the final train is loaded, he sees his family herded into a boxcar, and only then does he discover that he has helped sent them all to Auschwitz. Nico escapes, but never tells the truth again.

The Handmaid and the Carpenter

FIC BER

This novel transports us to Nazareth where we meet Mary and Joseph, young and in love. For Mary, her pregnancy is a divine miracle and a privilege. For Joseph, it is an ongoing test of his faith in his wife and in his God. The author movingly takes the story of the least ordinary couple in history, and makes them more human.

Trust

FIC DIA

Set in New York City and focusing on the world of finance, this is a look at a secretive financier and his wife. It is composed of 4 fictional texts: A Novel (Bonds), an incomplete autobiography (My Life), a completed memoir (A Memoir, Remembered), and a diary (Futures). While each book focuses on many of the same characters, the information included in each is often mutually exclusive, with it being left up to the reader to determine the truth. (NY Times Bestseller) (Winner of Pulitzer Prize)

The Midnight Library

FIC HAI Somewhere

beyond the edge of the universe, there is a library containing an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at some point in your life. We all wonder how our lives might have been. What if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better? (NY Times Bestseller)

Wellness

FIC HIL

A witty and poignant novel about marriage, middle age, tech-obsessed health culture, and the bonds that keep people together. The author has synthesized 100 years of the American delusion called self-improvement, the broken need to fix what may not need fixing. (Oprah Book Club)

Breakfast with Buddha

FIC MER

When his sister tricks him into taking her guru on a trip to their childhood home, Otto, a confirmed skeptic, is not amused. Six days on the road with an enigmatic holy man who answers every question with a riddle is not what he'd planned. In an effort to westernize his passenger, he decides to show the monk some "American fun."

Jerusalem's Heart

FIC THO

Set in 1948, during the conflict between Jewish and Muslim forces, 9 days of fighting have passed since the new State of Israel was proclaimed. Hundreds of loyal soldiers who do not speak the same language have come together in faith and are willing to die for Israel. The leading strategist is trapped in enemy territory and races to reach those still fighting, including his pregnant wife, Rachel.

Remarkably Bright Creatures

FIC VAN

A witty exploration of friendship and hope that traces a widow's (Tova) unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus, Marcellus, in the aquarium where she works. Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's 18-year-old son vanished on a boat over 30 years ago, and tries every trick his invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for Tova.

The Covenant of Water

FIC VER

This is a stunning epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret. In each generation, at least one person dies by drowning. A 12-year-old girl, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding where she will meet her 40-year-old husband for the first time. From this beginning, she will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life. (Oprah Winfrey- "One of the best books I've read in my entire life.") (New York Times Bestseller)

HAPPY READING!!

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

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Saint Christopher Catholic Parish &

Rockport United Methodist Church

Present:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

at

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

21750 Detroit Road

Rocky River, Ohio 44116

(440) 333-4888

Great Big Beautiful World

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 Rocky River Presbyterian Church at (440) 333-4888.

Sign up on riverpres.org under Vacation Bible School



Regular cost registration closes Friday, May 16, 2025, at 3 pm;
registration closes officially on Wednesday, June 4 at 3pm.



Graduations: Please share with Brenda Peterson if you have anyone in your family who is graduating from High school, College. Master's Program or PhD this Spring/Summer.

Artist Concert Series

presents

Songs from the 50's and the 60's

featuring

The Avon Lake Women's Chorus

with guest appearance by

Steppin' Out

Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 3:00 pm Free!

Donations Accepted



Rocky River Community Band Concert

Monday, May 12th at 7:00 PM Free!

Members of the band will play a variety of music, including patriotic, swing and pop.



Thought from the Parish Advisor-

30 Acts of Kindness and Holy Moments in Thirty Days!

Definitions: Kindness - the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.

Matthew Kelly author, Holy Moments – “A Holy Moment is a single moment in which you open yourself to God. You make yourself available to Him. You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is calling you to do.”

Let's spread kindness and Holy Moments throughout our communities!

Complete at least one act of kindness each day for the next 30 days. Below are some suggestions of small ways to positively impact those around you. Be creative if you are planning an act. Also, remember that Holy Moments can happen without being premeditated. It is just in that moment.

Let's create the ripple effect and encourage others to join in with us. Our world needs a huge hug! Let's see what happens and how you and others feel before, during and after this.



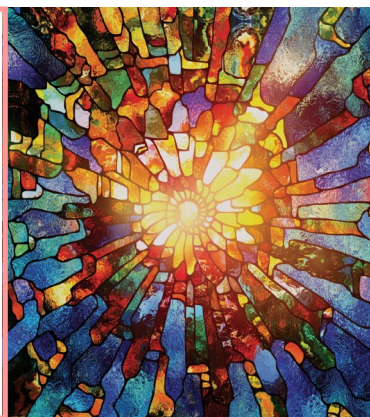
Sharing God's Love

- List 30 people and pray for one each day.
- Take a walk in your neighborhood and pray for each house and those that live there.
- Leave the largest tip you can afford for a kind server.
- Write a letter to someone whose has made a difference in your life.
- Chalk a sidewalk with uplifting messages.
- Send encouraging text messages to 5 people.
- Write cards for a local hospital or community care facility (nursing home).
- Pay for the person behind you at a drive thru.
- Donate seasonal clothes to a clothing pantry.
- Complement the first 3 people you talk with today.
- Reconnect with someone you haven't spoken with in a while.
- Donate towels, blankets and toys to an animal shelter.
- Surprise a neighbor or friend with freshly baked treats.
- Give parents a night out by offering to babysit for free.
- Give a thank-you treat to your mail, delivery and sanitation employees.
- Donate new socks and underwear to a local shelter.
- Post an encouraging sticky message on a mirror or door.
- Host a clean-up party at a nearby park.
- Donate books to your local library or a book drive.
- Send a 'Thank you' card to your local police or fire station.
- Leave your server and encouraging note on their receipt.
- Post a positive and encouraging message on social media.
- Help your neighbor with their yard work.
- Donate packages of diapers and wipes to a local agency supporting families.
- Pause to hold the door open for someone behind you.
- Surprise someone with flowers.
- Participate in a blood drive.
- Donate food to a local pantry.
- Write a positive review online for a local busi-



Look for the bulletin board in Fancher Garden Hall and write a positive expression on it! - Your Parish Advisor.

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 \$ 1,205.00 toward this offering.



God of Love,
Help us show your love
today and every day;
to work with others
for justice, freedom,
and peace.
In Jesus' name,
AMEN.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Preschool News:

New drawing date for Airshow Package is May 12th! Still time to purchase for raffle.

Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 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 rrpps@riverpres.org.



SOARING INTO A NEW YEAR RAFFLE

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

2 • 0 • 2 • 5

CLEVELAND-NATIONAL

AIR SHOW

PRESENTED BY

For further questions or to purchase please contact:
Rocky River Presbyterian Preschool
21750 Detroit Road Rocky River, OH 44116 (440) 895-5437

Christian Education - Brenda Peterson/ Facilitator

bpeterson@riverpres.org



Adult Education – We completed our reading of Holy Moments, by Matthew Kelly. A most refreshing and uplifting book on how we can make a difference in the world. A reminder that being kind and loving is what we are made to be. Putting ourselves to the side and do what we believe God wants us to do.

Lisa Watts will be facilitating the next 4 weeks, April 27, May 4, 11 and 18, 2025. Please come and join us as we journey through this discussion with Lisa. **“Do We Still Need Religion? Reflections on Faith and Community.”** Lisa Watts 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. No materials for you to purchase or read ahead of time.

This will end this 2024-2025 session for us. We will begin our gatherings again in September 2025.

Youth Fellowship – Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 18, 2025, Youth Worship Sunday.** This wonderful group of Junior and Senior High students with bright minds will share with you what they have learned and shared over the past 8 months. Please support this group by attending service and hear what they have to share with you.

After service the Deacon’s have organized a “Spring Social”. Be sure join in the festivities.

Our regular gatherings will begin again in September 2025.

Sunday School - The energy and enthusiasm this group has is contagious! They love their time in Sunday School with Miss Ellen and or Miss Melanie. They were joined this year with our dedicated volunteers, Mrs. Susan Pennnig and Mrs. Diane Beer. They have also enjoyed youth group volunteers as well. Miss Ellen and Miss Melanie make their lessons fun, and the children are very willing to participate in sharing what they know.

The week of May 5-9th is Teacher Appreciation Week. Please give your thanks to these wonderful women who have dedicated their time to teach our young children of our church for the past 8 months.

Classes will resume in September 2025.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JUNE 9 – 13TH

YES! You can help out.

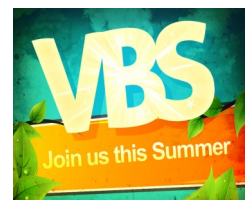
We are looking for daily counters for the daily donations that the children bring in. You count at the end of each day. It doesn’t take long.

Enjoy decorating, we would love to have you help us. We decorate the Sunday before VBS. Time to be determined.

Volunteers to help in the nursery, classrooms and recreation are welcome.

Please contact Brenda Peterson if you are interested. We welcome teenagers as well.

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



“The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of

Rocky River Presbyterian Church



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