

## Pastor's Pen

For the five Sundays in the month of August we will be directing our attention to the Old Testament Book of Genesis during our 9:30 a.m. summer worship time. We will be looking at five episodes which occur in this ancient book and see what they have to say for us today. Genesis means "beginning," and that's where the book of Genesis starts: "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1-2). The Genesis account affirms the goodness of God's creation. "God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). This includes the creation of us human beings.

Yet, more than being just another good thing God created, Genesis makes it clear that the human person is set apart from the rest of creation: "God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). This is to say we humans are different from all the other creatures of the earth in that there is a piece of God's design in all of us.

And we have to ask ourselves what this means in terms of how we relate to one another and to our Creator. We are set apart from the rest of creation and God has certain expectations of us because of it.

Other aspects of the Book of Genesis concern how human beings are prone to rebel against God's good purposes for their lives. We see this in the account of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden when they ate of the forbidden fruit. Why would they be tempted to do that which is forbidden, knowing their disobedience would bring misery upon their lives? This prompts us to ask why we are prone to do the same. Even though Genesis is an ancient book, it has much to say about human nature and how much it has remained the same.

Moreover, this ancient book tells us a great deal about God's nature and how God continues to seek out and love us humans even as we humans fail to seek out and love our Creator. We see God reaching out to Abraham with whom he made his covenant (which means promise): "I will make you a great nation, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2). God made this promise, not because Abraham deserved it, or because he was the most qualified to receive it, but because God chose to be gracious to him. This would become a theme throughout the Old Testament and the Bible as a whole.

So, Genesis may be an ancient book, but it has much to say that's relevant to us today!

## WORSHIP IN AUGUST

**AUGUST 3:** This Sunday is the first in the Five Episodes in Genesis series, and it starts with the Creation Account: Genesis 1:1-10; 24-31. The message is called, "In the Beginning..." We will also be celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on that day as we do the first Sunday of each month.

**AUGUST 10:** The second episode we are looking at in the Book of Genesis concerns Adam and Eve's disobedience and the consequences which follow (Genesis 3:1-13). The message is called, "Apples and Snakes."

**AUGUST 17:** This week will focus on the story of two brothers, Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-16). Both brothers brought an offering to the Lord and Cain's offering is rejected while Abel's offering is accepted. We can sympathize with Cain, as we have all experienced rejection and have struggled with how to deal with it. The message for this day is called "Descendants of Cain."

**AUGUST 24:** In the fourth episode in Genesis, we will look at God's covenant with Abram, later given the name Abraham. Here God promises that he will make of his lineage a great nation. Why would Abraham be the one God chooses? The message for this day is "An Impractical Covenant" (Genesis 17:1-8;15-22).

**AUGUST 31:** This Sunday is about Jacob. He was, among other things, a thief and a con-artist. Yet God chose him be the continued link in God's covenant plan. The focus for this Sunday will be on Jacob's encounter with a divine being who "wrestled with him until daybreak" (Genesis 32:24). The message is called, "A Wrestler of Angels."

**WORSHIP SERVICES IN AUGUST WILL BE  
HELD IN WALKER CHAPEL**





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
3 Communion / Food Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:45 a.m. Nominating Committee	4 7:00 p.m. Women's AA 7:00 p.m. Women's AA 7:00 Deacons Meeting	5 8:00 p.m. Christian Ed. Mtg.	6 7:30 p.m. Men's AA 7:30 p.m. Pastoral Nominating Committee	7 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics	8 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Men's Bible Study	9 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
10 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	11 7:00 p.m. Women's AA 7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg.	12 10:00 a.m. Expressions of Faith	13 7:30 p.m. Men's AA 7:30 p.m. Pastoral Nominating Committee	14 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics 7:00p.m. Priscilla Circle	15 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Men's Bible Study	16 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
17 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 10:45 a.m. E & M Commit-	18 7:00 p.m. Women's AA	19	20 7:30 p.m. Men's AA 7:30 p.m. Pastoral Nominating Committee	21 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics	22 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Men's Bible Study	23 4:00 p.m. Church Picnic 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
24 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	25 7:00 p.m. Women's AA	26 10:00 a.m. Expressions of Faith	27 7:30 p.m. Men's AA 7:30 p.m. Pastoral Nominating Committee	28 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics	29 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Men's Bible Study	30 7:00 p.m. Altered Attitudes AA
31 9:30 a.m. Worship						

## Personal and Property Safety

Did you know that you can purchase a lock box for your home? What is a lock box you ask. This is a key box installed by your city's fire department near your front door. You provide a key to your home, and it goes into the lock box. In case of a medical or fire emergency the first responders can unlock the lock box and gain access to your home without having to break the front door or window.

Rocky River residents can purchase the lock box at the local ACE Hardware, for wholesale cost. You provide the clerk with your city name, and they provide the Box. Then call the Fire Department, NON-EMERGENCY number, and they will schedule a time to install the box. You can also send an email to [fpo@rrcity.com](mailto:fpo@rrcity.com) if you are in Rocky River. This email address is changing soon, but your email will be forwarded to the new address. A sticker is added to your door area to notify the fire department of the lock box. Installation and chatting with the fire official took 15 minutes.

### Fire Department Service Community Service:

The fire representative told me that they also provide a community service for changing light bulbs and other home chores. He said they don't do gutters and roofs. They would prefer to send someone out to assist with light bulbs, than send an emergency squad to respond to someone who has fallen off a ladder and injured themselves. So check with your local fire department to see if they can assist you, before climbing on the ladder yourself.



Remember the last Summer Worship is August 31st.  
We resume Church Services at 10:30 a.m. in September.




David Timmons 8/2  
Andrew Brown 8/3  
Hannah Bennett 8/3  
Jennifer Bohannon 8/5  
Phil Koch 8/5  
Beatrix Stickney 8/8  
Fred Garibaldi 8/9  
Gillian Esdon 8/11  
Max Sabolich 8/11  
John Schriener 8/12  
Eric Watts 8/15  
Marc Hustek 8/17  
Jill Hayman 8/19  
Cassie Rangel 8/19  
Dick Heath 8/22  
Elizabeth Cseh 8/25  
Josh Hustek 8/26  
Karol Hoeffler 8/28  
Mary Lou Busby 8/30

**August  
Birthdays!**

Sp Adobe Spark

Please join us for our  
annual RRPC Picnic  
August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at  
4:00 p.m.

Graciously hosted at  
**The Fredrickson's**  
10980 Lagrange Rd.  
Elyria OH

 Live Music with The  
Sax Machine.

Oktoberfest Theme!

 **Wear your  
lederhosen or dirndl  
or come as you are!  
All are Welcome!**





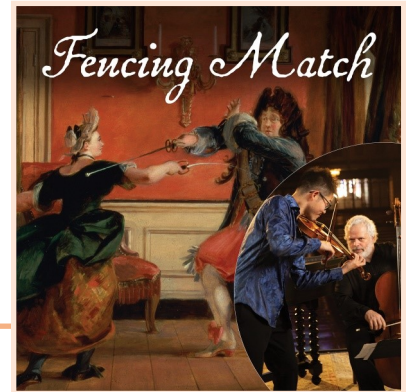
**Apollo's Fire presents: FENCING MATCH: Round One – Sunday, August 10, 4:00 PM**

**RRPC Sanctuary**

Late summer nights are for passion, romance, and sometimes... fiery duels. Join us for a red-hot concert of dueling double-concertos! Highlights include J.S. Bach's Concerto for Two Violins; René Schiffer's thrilling Tango Concerto for Two Violas da Gamba; a colorful suite by Marais; and Telemann's Concerto for Flute and Recorder, with its famous Polish folk-inspired finale. AF principal players including concertmaster Alan Choo take turns stepping into the spotlight in this evening of dazzling agility.

Kathie Stewart, flute  
Daphna Mor, recorder  
Alan Choo & Susanna Perry Gilmore, violins  
René Schiffer & Rebecca Landell, cellos

Tickets: <https://apollosfire.org/tickets/?id=fencing2025>



**Rocky River Presbyterian's Artist Concert Series presents:**

**VIVA VIVALDI**

**Featuring Andrew Sords - Sunday, September 21st, 4:00 p.m.**

**Lara Nie, mezzo soprano**

**Elizabeth DeMio, piano**

**Mari Sato and Andrew Sords, violins**

**Lynne Ramsey, viola**

**Nathanael Matthews, cello**

Rocky River Presbyterian's Artist Concert Series hosts works for voice, strings, and piano by the Baroque era's "Red Priest". Famous for his enduring tunes, Four Seasons, and flowing red hair, Antonio Vivaldi's works come to life by some of Cleveland's most prolific musicians, and guest artist Lara Nie (from New York City) lends her alluring mezzo soprano talents to the afternoon's arias.

**Free and open to all, Donations greatly appreciated.**



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and PARISH ADVISOR

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

Greetings Everyone!

I pray that everyone is doing well and taking time to enjoy the summer days. Making time in your day to participate in events or activities that bring you joy. This is another dimension of self-care. Generally, our first thoughts are "I don't have the time". Until you make the time it won't happen. Sometimes we think we must carve out a huge bulk of time (that also depends on what it is that you are choosing to do) you can begin with small increments of time. For example, you need that moment to collect your thoughts. Possibly, you drive to a park, the lake or somewhere that you can get grounded. Enjoy those moments while you are there quietly, in prayer, reading a few pages of a book or a quick nap! Allow peace and stillness into your soul. Chances are you will thank yourself later for making time to "just be".

August is approaching quickly.

Please remember to mark your calendars for educational classes: Sunday School, Adult Education and Youth Fellowship will **begin our Fall season for classes on September 14, 2025.**

We are looking for one or two other Sunday School teachers. Ideally, it would be wonderful to have someone twice a month or even one Sunday a month. Lessons are planned. You will not need to make up a lesson.

If you are interested, please contact Emily Zinda and/or Brenda Peterson.



### Update from the Pastor Nominating Team (PNT)

By way of update, the Team has been in in-depth, in-person discussions with a number of candidates. The Team is working very collaboratively in determining which candidates are a good fit for RRPC in this time and place. Different candidates bring different experience, skills, talents, approaches, and perspectives to our Call here at RRPC.

Likewise, candidates are seeking to determine whether the Call at RRPC is a good next step in their spiritual and professional journey. This is a two-way process.

This process goes deep and can take a significant amount of time and interaction. It's important to understand that this must be a good fit in both directions. That can ( and has... ) taken a significant period of time. The patience and trust you have shown in our Team is truly appreciated. We know this seems like it's taking a long time. But, again, understand that this must be good fit in both directions.

Please continue to keep the Team, the candidates, and our Faith Family in your prayers. On behalf of the Pastor Nominating Team, David Hensel



## **AUGUST 2025 LIBRARY LINGO**

Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS:

New books



### **NEW ITEMS FOR ADULTS:**

#### **Nonfiction:**

##### **The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief**

215 COL

Scientist Dr. Collins believes that faith in God and faith in science can coexist within a person and be harmonious. He has heard arguments against faith from scientists, and he can refute them. He has also heard the rejection of scientific truths by some people of faith, and he can counter that, too.

##### **The Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Radical Integrity**

230.044 VAN

Gestapo agents knocked on the door. In an upstairs bedroom, Dietrich Bonhoeffer hugged each member of his family and left with the men in dark coats. Pastor, professor, one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most brilliant minds- Dietrich Bonhoeffer was soon to be a martyr after joining the Resistance against Hitler. Weeks before WWII ended, the Nazis hanged Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

##### **What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?:**

232.8 THI

##### **A Guide to What Matters Most**

The author, a clergyman, invites readers into a safe space to ask the tough questions surrounding our most commonly held beliefs. He releases us from the guilt of doubt and sets us free to examine our faith and ask "Do I have to believe that?"

##### **The Jesus Papers: Exposing the Greatest Cover-Up in History**

232.9 BAI

What if everything we have been told about the origins of Christianity is a lie? What if a small group had always know the truth and kept it hidden..until now? What if Jesus Christ survived the crucifixion?

##### **The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Significance for Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus, and Christianity**

296.155 VAN

Two of the world's most eminent Dead Sea Scroll scholars have collaborated to produce a comprehensive, detailed, but readable account of what the scrolls really say, judiciously considering a wide variety of views including those they disagree with. Their description of the controversies surrounding the publication of the scrolls is alone worth the price of the book.

##### **High Above the Holy Land: Unique Aerial Photographs of Israel**

956 HAL

Albeit from 1986, these photographers have produced a unique record of the sites of biblical interest (Capernaum, Bethlehem, Jericho, Jerusalem, Sea of Galilee, Church of the Holy Sepulchre), accompanied by a descriptive text, with helpful maps and illustrations which inform the background to the places pictured.

##### **The Wingmen: the Unlikely, Unusual, Unbreakable Friendship Between John Glenn and Ted Williams**

951.904 LAZ

The detail in this book gives a perspective on the bond between John Glenn and Ted Williams, one forged through combat missions in Korea and which lasted the rest of their lives. They shared the essential traits of bravery, loyalty, and devotion to excellence. Despite political differences, they both had authentic patriotism.

**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**

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Rev. Peter Lawson, Pastor  
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