

From the Pastor's Pen,



One of the prominent images the New Testament uses to describe the church is that of a body, or more specifically the "Body of Christ." The apostle Paul said, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ" (I Corinthians 12.12). This means that Christians are related to one another as different parts of a body are related to one another, each performing a different function within that body. As Paul says, "If all were a single member, where would the body be?" Each person is able to bring his or her uniqueness to the Body of Christ.

It's important to recognize that in the Body of Christ Jesus Christ is the head, which is to say not a one of us can function in the Body of Christ without Christ, any more than an arm or a leg can function apart from the head.

During these challenging times it's also important to realize how the Body of Christ is interconnected. It is not an exaggeration to say it is just as impossible for anyone to be a Christian by himself or herself as it is for an arm or a leg to live and function apart from the rest of the body. There is no private Christianity. The Apostle Paul also said, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it" (I Corinthians 12:26). We are not alone. Christ is the head of the church and we are the members. Together we draw strength from one another and the one who is our ultimate hope.

Pastor Peter

The Pulse
September 2025

Rocky River Presbyterian



We resume Church Services at
10:30 a.m. in September.

Our August mission focuses on **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**. We will be collecting backpacks and school supplies for local students. In addition to backpacks, we will be collecting pens, pencils, notebooks, crayons, rulers, glue sticks and other school supplies. You can drop off these supplies on Sunday morning at the entranceway to the chapel or sanctuary, or during the regular office hours during the week. We will be collecting the items through Sunday, September 7. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

- Mission and Evangelism Committee





- Brian Titus 09/01
- Cara Haxo 09/01
- David Furry 09/02
- Simon Kirksey 09/03
- Allison Beer 09/05
- Mary Murphy 09/06
- Benjamin Sakai 09/06
- Tom Mach 09/07
- Sandra Norman 09/07
- Tracy Smith 09/08
- Kevin Beer 09/09
- Rich Fredrickson 09/09
- Jack Jennings 09/09
- Amy Boyd-Kirksey 09/10
- Sandy Carson 09/10
- Libby Poole 09/11
- Bonnie Gulstrand 09/12
- Melanie Megyesi 09/13
- Joseph Orosz 09/16
- John Clark 09/16
- Gregory Kisilewicz 09/17
- Nancy Spelman 09/19
- Sue Curtis 09/20
- Sally Schrinier 09/22
- Jacob Ulewicz 09/22
- Nate Furry 09/23
- Shirley Conner 09/23
- Chuck Chaney 09/24
- Jill Erml 09/24
- Jim Flynn 09/25
- Sam Mattocks 09/25
- Karen Stohr 09/25
- Gary Fresenko 09/25
- Sean Wilson 09/26
- Caleb Flynn 09/28
- Pat Koberg 09/30

**Announcing the birth of
Wellesley Michael Fahrenkopf.**

Parents: Eric and Gretchen Fahrenkopf

Grandson of Brenda Peterson.

Born: 9-26-25

8 lbs 7 oz



**The church office will
be closed on Monday**

September 1st



An update from the RRPC Pastor Nominating Team (PNT)

We know it feels like it's taking a long time to call a new Pastor. Because of this, we want to lend some context to the complexities of the call process, as well as give you a deeper look at how our Team is approaching this work with dedication and a commitment to seek the Spirit in all our decisions. It takes a tremendous amount of patience, but with God's guidance, our Team is confident that we will find the right individual to lead our faith family.

On one hand, our focus as a Team is looking for the candidate most appropriate for our position. This candidate can articulate a vision that aligns with our mission of ***"Praising God, Teaching Faith, Serving Others,"*** and our vision that ***"We are united in the belief that we are Christ's body on earth, and we aspire to live every day as Jesus did. Through faith, community, and mission, we strive to positively affect those we meet every day and those in our family, church, community, and in the world."*** For the first few months of this process, our Team was focused on creating a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) based on our Congregational Mission Study to attract candidates who align with that mission and vision.

On the other hand, candidates are looking for a call that aligns with their goals, professionally and personally. Primary matching occurs, initially, on a very generic level – we see a candidate's education and work background at a high level, and some narrative presentation. Only when a mutual interest is expressed is further information shared. If they are still considered a viable candidate, this may lead to a series of virtual interviews to learn more about them and to share more about our call, who we are, and our priorities. This may ultimately lead to an in-person visit here in Rocky River to meet our Team, see our Church, explore the community and partnerships, and dive deeply into our call.

In some cases along the journey, we may decide that a candidate is not a good fit for our call. Likewise, some candidates may decide that we are not a good fit for them. In some cases, they may be under consideration and/or have received a Call from another congregation while we are considering them. Through this process, we have also learned that ministry is more than "a job." It is a lifestyle with many considerations, and you are never really "off the clock." As such, there may be personal reservations about a call, considerations around relocation and work situations with a spouse or education with children, and other logistics. Calling a Pastor is truly a "God process" in that many logistical factors and the mutual leading of the Spirit must occur for a Pastor to be called.

We can end up investing a lot of time with a candidate (and they with us), only to ultimately determine that it is not a good fit. As part of our Covenant, your PNT commits to be open-minded and look where God is leading us, not just relying on the normal places we find answers every day. We further commit to respecting the confidentiality of the search process, to respect one another's viewpoints, and to support one another, our candidates and our Faith Family. We have been meeting every week – sometimes up to three times a week – and each review candidates for hours weekly outside of meetings as well. We hope sharing these details about our Team's continued commitment and the challenges inherent in the process of calling a Pastor offers some insight to you all as you stand with us through this process. Your patience and your prayers for the work of our Team are truly appreciated, and know that we are moving forward with confidence and faith.

On behalf of your Pastor Nominating Team,

David Hensel (Chair)
John Kirchner

Anne Busher
Emma Poole

Sara Gresh
Luke Zinda

Heavenly Father, we come before You to ask for Your divine guidance as our Pastor Nominating Team undertakes this sacred task.

Grant wisdom and discernment to each member of the Team, that they may perceive Your will clearly and make decisions that are both faithful to Your Word and beneficial to Your people.

Instill in them a spirit of unity, love, and respect for one another, even amidst differing perspectives, so that their work together may be a testament to the body of Christ.

Remove all distractions and secondary issues, and grant them focus to clearly identify candidates who possess the gifts and character to shepherd Your flock effectively.

As they review potential candidates, give them sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's direction and the courage to act according to Your perfect will.

Bless the entire congregation with a spirit of patience, trust, and prayerful support for the committee. May we remain receptive to the new thing You are doing and humble in our desires, seeking Your perfect will for our church.

We ask that You prepare the hearts of the candidates and their families, equipping them for the call and the journey ahead.

Ultimately, O God, we trust that You are the One who calls and guides Your church. Lead us in this process, that our next Pastor may be a faithful under shepherd who will faithfully proclaim Your Word and equip us for ministry.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UPCOMING
EVENTS



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.

Featuring David McCarroll, violin

Sunday, November 23rd, 2025, at 3:00 PM RRPC Sanctuary

BlueWater
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Waves of Passion

Brouwer: The Art of Sailing at Dawn

Copland: Music for the Theatre

Beethoven: Concerto for Violin in D Major, Op. 61



We embark on an emotional journey that begins on Lake Erie at sunrise, in Cleveland composer Margaret Brouwer's peaceful tone poem *The Art of Sailing at Dawn*. Then flow to the jazzy undercurrent of *Music for the Theatre*, an early work by Aaron Copland, written during the Roaring Twenties. Finally, we arrive at the "King of Violin Concertos," with David McCarroll, Concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, as soloist in Beethoven's monumental 1806 Violin Concerto, an unappreciated sleeper during the composer's lifetime that became one of the most beloved works ever written for violin. Join us and immerse yourself in a vast musical voyage navigated via the baton of maestro Daniel Meyer.

****Scouting Recruitment Event - September 4****

**Families are invited to attend a Scouting recruitment event on
Thursday, September 4, 2025, from
6:00 to 7:30 P.M. at Rocky River City Hall Park**



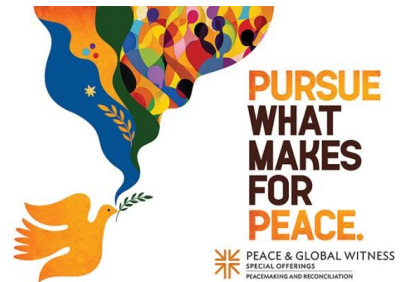
This is a great opportunity to learn about Cub Scout Packs and Troops in our area and find the unit that best fits your family's schedule.

Cub Scout Packs: Co-ed, Grades K-5

Troops: Boys or Girls, Ages 13-18

We encourage all interested families to come to explore the exciting opportunities Scouting has to offer.

• **PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING:** During the month of September, we will be promoting the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering. Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.




- **25% of the proceeds from the Peace & Global Witness Offering be donated to North Church.**
- 25% retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts at the regional level.
- 50% supports peacemaking, reconciliation and global witness.

Mission Focus Calendar

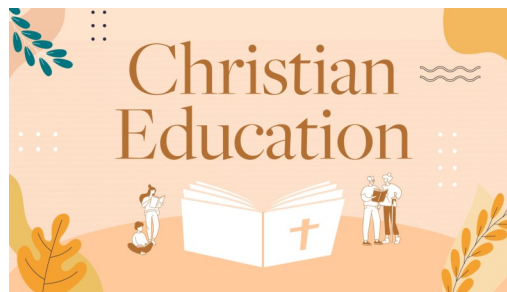


- * **August** **Operation Backpack/School Supplies**
- * **September** **Peace and Global Witness Special Offering**
- * **October** **No projects scheduled**
- * **November** **Alternative Christmas Charity Bazaar**
- * **December** **Christmas Joy Special Offering (during Advent)**
Mitten Tree (youth group project)

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
|  | Labor Day 1 Church office closed 7:00 pm Women's AA Mtg | 2 8:00 pm Chrisian Education Mtg. | 3 7:00 pm Worship Committee 7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee 7:30 pm Men's AA Mtg. | 4 | 5 7:00 am Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) | 6 7:00 pm Altered Attitudes Mtg. |
| | Communion Food Sunday 7 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour | 8 7:00 pm Deacons Mtg. 7:00 pm Women's AA Mtg. | 9 10:00 am Expressions of Faith 4:00 pm HR Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Finance Committee | 10 7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee 7:30 pm Men's AA Mtg. | 11 7:00 am Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00 am Senior Men's Group Mtg. | 13 7:00 pm Altered Attitudes Mtg. |
| | 14 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Session Mtg. 11:30 am Coffee Hour 7:00 pm Youth Fellowship | 15 7:00 pm Women's AA Mtg | 16 9:30 am Preschool Committee | 17 7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee 7:30 pm Men's AA Mtg. | 18 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle | 19 7:00 am Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) |
| | 21 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 4:00 pm Andrew Sords Concert | 22 7:00 pm Women's AA Mtg | 23 9:30 am Expressions of Faith | 24 7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee 7:30 pm Men's AA Mtg. | 25 7:00 am Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00 am Senior Men's Group Mtg. | 27 7:00 pm Altered Attitudes Mtg. |
| | 28 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour | 29 7:00 pm Women's AA Mtg | 30 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Christian Education Facilitator, Brenda Peterson

bpeterson@riverpres.org



Greetings!

Here is what will be happening Christian Education with the following groups.

Sunday School: I know everyone is excited to get back to scheduled routines. Your patience is greatly appreciated as we begin our Fall season. Sunday School will begin on **Sunday, September 14, 2025.**

Children will begin with us in worship and then join their Sunday school teacher and assistant after the Passing of the Peace.

A reminder that Ellen Schickel is stepping down from teaching after many years of planning and teaching. Melanie Fredrickson will continue to be one of our teachers. Please consider volunteering for one Sunday a month or every other month whether it be teaching (lessons are planned for you) or being an assistant in the classroom. We are required to have two persons in the room to follow our protocol.

They children are delightful and enjoy meeting more people in their church family.

LOOKING FOR YOUR CALLING... Could it be that you are being called to become a Sunday School teacher for our children 4 years old -5th grade. We have been blessed for many years with Ellen Schickel leading this area. Ellen is dedicated and creative in her teachings. It is now time for Ellen to join Phil in church, travel to be with children, and fun trips. Please see Emily Zinda or Brenda Peterson.

Youth Fellowship:

Brenda Peterson and David Hensel lead this dynamic group. This group is for our Junior and Senior High students. Grades 6-12. Your friends are welcome to join us anytime. The more we have the greater service we can be.

Our first meeting is September 14. We meet in the youth room from 6-7:30 PM

We meet the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Sunday of the month.

We are looking for to connecting again with everyone.

Adult Education:

Anyone is welcome here. We cover different Bible studies, review books, hear presentations from guest presenters and conversation is always engaging. Our doors are open any Sunday when you would like to come in and join us.

We meet 9:00-10:00 AM Sunday mornings before service. Coffee and tea are available.

Our first Bible study will be presented by Mary Holtz. Habits of Happiness by Rick Warren. The book of Phillipians is the focus. We all learn and grow together. Looking forward to having you join us.

If you have any questions, please connect with me, Brenda Peterson. bpeterson@riverpres.org

Thank you for all your support, volunteering and participating. That is what make these groups possible.

Step out, step up and enjoy new beginnings to all this Fall season.

Brenda

Fall Health Tips to Start Using ASAP from your Parish Counselor

- **Do smart swaps on comfort foods** — There's nothing like a savory, rich soup on a crisp fall day. Instead of making a calorie rich clam chowder with cream, consider opting for a veggie soup filled with fiber-rich vegetables like spinach.
- **Consume immunity-boosting foods** — As the weather gets colder and flu season starts, it's important for your immune system to be in tip-top shape. Eating healthy foods with vitamin C (like limes, oranges, and clementines) are key to fighting off infections. Garlic, ginger, spinach, and almonds are also big winners when it comes to [boosting your health](#) and immunity.
- **Dine with your family** — Fall is a perfect time to slow down. It's also a great time to regroup as a family and reconnect over dinner. Families who dine together tend to eat more nutritious meals. It also strengthens family relationships and can even help fast eaters slow down and appreciate food more.
- **Get your flu shot** — Want to know how to stay healthy during [flu season](#)? Get the once-a-year flu vaccine. The vaccine can reduce flu illnesses, missed work, and doctor's office visits. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends getting the vaccine before October's end.

****Please have all articles submitted for the PULSE newsletter before the 24th of the month. Thank you!**

Preschool:

We welcome back students on Monday, September 8th.

We are excited to start a new school year.

For enrollment information or a tour please call Kathleen Winters.

440-895-KIDS (5437) (Preschool office)



**School has resumed watch for Buses,
Bikes and Walkers!**

SEPTEMBER 2025 LIBRARY LINGO

Mary Schulz, Librarian

DISPLAYS:

New books



LABOR DAY



NEW ITEMS FOR CHILDREN: **NONFICTION PICTURE BOOKS**

Noah's Ark

j222.11 PIN

Beautifully illustrated by 4-time Caldecott Honor recipient Jerry Pinkney, this book retells the story of the great flood and how Noah and his family faithfully responded to God's call to save life on earth.

The House on the Rock

j226.209

A retelling of the Parable told by Jesus about the wise and foolish builders.

Thanks Be to God: Prayers from Around the World

j242.8 THA

Prayers of praise and thanksgiving from around the world have been collected in this handsome book. They were selected for the clarity, simplicity, and beauty of their language as well as for what they say.

Marguerite de Angeli's Book of Favorite Hymns

j783.9 DEA

The author's knowledge of the Biblical setting is evident in this book of hymns, combined with the gentle pictures of children, animals, flowers, sunsets – all of nature's beauties.

Now I Can Read Bible Stories series:

Noah's Story

j222.11 BAC

David and Goliath

j222.43 BAC

Daniel and the Lion's Den

j224.5 PIP

BOARD BOOKS

Pop-Up Book series:

The Creation Story

BOARD CRE

Joseph and the Dreams

BOARD JOS

The Story of Moses

BOARD STO

HAPPY READING AND VIEWING!!

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

SESSION APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Class of 2026

Dan McKenzie
Greg Ahren
Sara Gresh
Lance Wilson
Emily Zinda

Class of 2027

Barb Johnson
Lisa Mach
Holly Pattison
Gretchen Koch

Class of 2028

Annette Oberst
Marc Hustek
Sam Mattocks
Marion Good

SESSION APPOINTMENTS

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| CLERK OF SESSION | Dan McKenzie |
| CLERK PRO TEM | Barb Johnson |
| DEACON REP TO SESSION | Anne Busher |
| PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN | Sara Gresh |
| PRESCHOOL REP | Brenda Peterson |
| PRESBYTERY REP | Gretchen Koch |
| PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION | Marc Hustek |

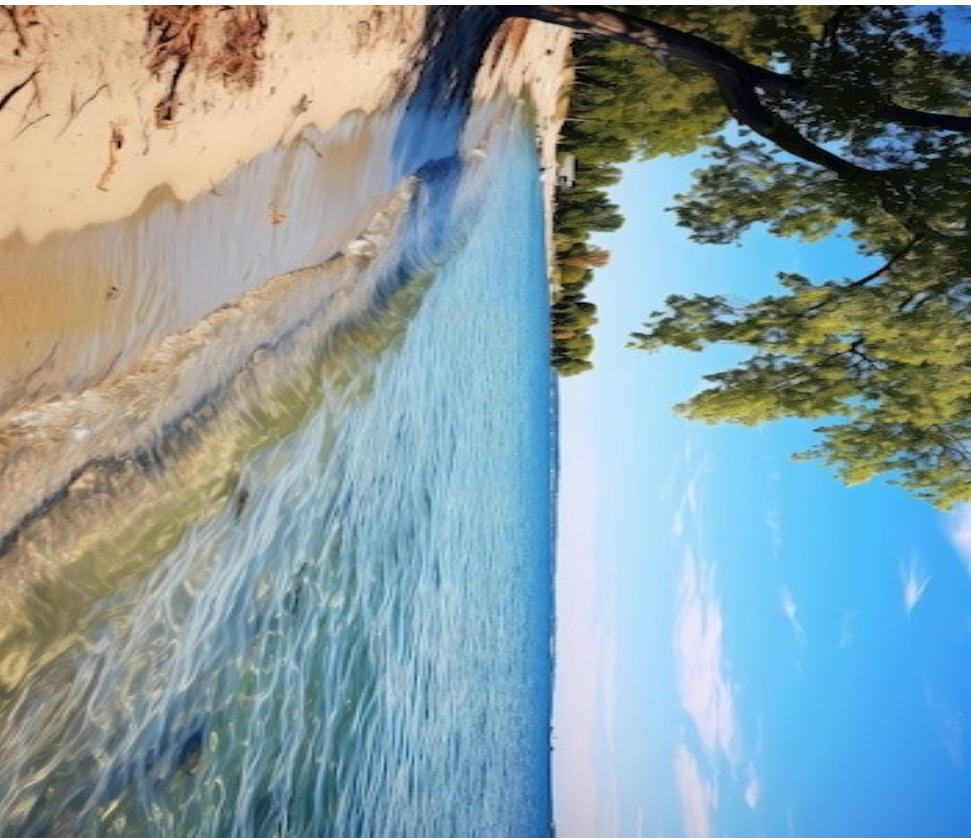
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| MISSION & EVANGELISM | Barb Johnson |
| COMMUNICATIONS/IT | Greg Ahren |
| PROPERTY, FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP | Marc Hustek |
| CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | Emily Zinda |
| WORSHIP | Annette Oberst |
| HUMAN RESOURCES | Lance Wilson |

“The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of

Rocky River Presbyterian Church



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