



The Pulse

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

“December is the month of tarnished dreams.” These are the words of a newspaper writer some years ago as he reflected on this particular month of the year. He writes, **“The year, brightly begun in hope in January, comes straggling to this last month with many of these hopes and dreams dashed. January comes limping and beaten to December.”**

While I do not share this writer’s sentiment as a continuing theme each year we turn the calendar page to December, I think we would all be inclined to agree that as we reflect on the preceding months of the calendar, there have been disappointments. Some have known sadness and loss. Others have experienced debilitating illness or personal tragedies. When we enter the month of December, the leaves have fallen from the trees, the flowers have faded, the sun sets earlier, and the winter chill begins to set in, and it seems to reinforce these experiences.

This is why we need the season of Advent, the season of hope and expectation. We welcome those words of the prophet Isaiah who cried out to a weary people, **“Comfort, O Comfort my people... speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid.”** (Isaiah 40:3). The people hearing these words for the first time were a downtrodden people, crushed by violent and cruel events. Their homeland had been taken from them. Their sacred city and their temple were laid to waste, and the land which God had promised to their ancestors was handed over to a foreign power. It was to such a people that the voice of the prophet spoke words of hope.

We need to hear these encouraging words of Advent, which literally means **“Coming to.”** God comes to us, that is, the light breaks through the darkness, the Word becomes flesh, and hope pierces despair. God in Christ doesn’t avoid our troubles or our plight. He descends right into the depths of them to redeem that which has been lost. No power on earth or in heaven can reverse that. It is to these truths we must hold fast. As God’s people must be, by word and deed, the *conveyor* of these convictions, speaking assurance and living in a way that demonstrates this hope.

Pastor Peter

CHRISTMAS EVE: The Christmas Eve Service will be a Service of Lessons and Carols and Candle Light. We will be hearing the Christmas Story through Scripture Readings and Christmas Carols and will conclude with a Service of Candle Light and the singing of Silent Night. The service begins at 5:00 pm.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1	Barbara Prudhoe
	Susan Grady
December 3	Jim Bennett
December 4	Karen Allport
December 6	Greg Ahren
December 7	Scott Krizman
December 8	Carol Bennett
December 9	Vic Erml
	Sue Chaney
December 10	Jeanne Frier
December 13	Clay Hoon
December 15	Paul Busby
	Sara Gresh
	Seth Purohit
	Nico Stavole
December 18	Christine Wilson
December 19	Holly Pattison
December 23	Bridget Hustek
	Cecelia Roche
December 25	Joey Furry
December 27	Brian Beer
December 29	Will St. Pierre
December 31	John Magnus
	Halle Grey



Immediately following worship on December 7th we need All Hands on Deck!

This year we will “Deck the Halls”.

We join together to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

We can use help from all ages, so please plan to stay however long you can that day.



****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!

PRESCHOOL

RRPP would like to invite RRPC to our Christmas programs in the church, they will last about 20 mins.

December 17th - 11:30 a.m.

December 18th – 12:00 p.m.

December 19th – 11:00 a.m.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

(Happening jointly with the "Deck the Halls" event)

Fellowship Hall on December 7th. We will have two exchanges; Filling boxes for the home bound (20 boxes this year) AND Members of the congregation.

Baggies and cookie packers will be available before worship on December 7th

Christmas Flowers

At Christmas time, we like to make a special dedication in honor or memory of loved ones.

We print these remembrances in the Christmas Sunday bulletin.

The deadline for Christmas dedications is Dec. 14th 2025.

Flowers will be provided at no charge this season. Please consider making a donation to Christmas Joy our special offering,

COMMITMENT SUNDAY FOLLOW-UP: Thank you to all who submitted their 2026 pledge forms to the church. As of this date we received **59** pledge forms with the total amount pledged of **\$231,820.00**. We encourage you to turn in your form if you have not yet done so, either by mail or bringing it to church in person during office hours or Sunday worship.

2026 Offering Envelopes


As we approach the new year, it is customary for us to prepare a packet of offering envelopes for each church member (individual or family unit). We realize, however, that many of you do not use the offering envelopes and/or use a limited number each year and still have an ample supply. Given that, **we ask that any members that would like to receive a packet of offering envelopes to please contact the church office to “opt in” to receiving a mailed packet of envelopes.** If you don’t want to receive any envelopes, there is nothing further that you need to do. You may have also noticed the option to not receive offering envelopes on the 2026 Stewardship Pledge Form (opt out) – thank you to those that marked this - we are tracking these responses as well.

Any outstanding pledges or offerings intended for 2025 must be received by the church office no later than December 30 because the final count will be completed the morning of December 31st. Any offerings received after the final count is completed will be reported for 2026.

Worship with us Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00pm Women's AA	2	3 7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee 7:00pm Worship Comm. 7:30pm Men's AA Mtg.	4	5 7:00am Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	6 7:00pm Altered Attitudes AA Group
7 Food Sunday / Communion Sunday 9:00am Adult Ed 10:30am Worship	8 6:00pm Women's AA	9 9:30am Preschool Board Mtg. 10:00pm Expressions of Faith 4:30pm Hr Committee.	10 7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee 7:30pm Men's AA Mtg.	11	12 7:00am Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9:00am Senior Men's Bible Study	13 7:00pm Altered Attitudes AA Group
14 9:00am Adult Ed 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Youth Fellowship	15 6:00pm Women's AA 7:00pm Session Mtg.	16	18 7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee 7:30pm Men's AA Mtg.	18 7:00pm Priscilla Circle	19 7:00am Friday morning Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	20 7:00pm Altered Attitudes AA Group
21 9:00am Adult Ed 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Community Band Concert	22 6:00pm Women's AA	23 10:00pm Expressions of Faith	24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30pm Men's AA Mtg.			27 7:00pm Altered Attitudes AA Group
28 9:00am Adult Ed 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Youth Fellowship	29 6:00pm Women's AA	30	31 7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee 7:30pm Men's AA Mtg.			

SAVE THE DATE!

Immediately following the worship service on December 28th we will **“Undeck”** the Halls. Many hands make light work, so plan to stay a little while and carry a few decorations back to Fellowship Hall on your way to Coffee Hour.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

We will be promoting the Christmas Joy Special Offering during Advent. This offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions for the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as educational scholarships for students attending Presbyterian affiliated colleges and seminaries. Envelopes for this offering are available on the table in the narthex. You may also designate a contribution to this offering on your regular offering envelope.



Jesus,
the Light of the World,
brings hope.

Together,
we can bring hope
to others by receiving
the Christmas Joy
Offering.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP. PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

A Blessing for those who aren't feeling much Christmas Spirit

Bless you who feel grumpy, you who are blah,

May you be right where you are.

Bless you who are weary, you who are flailing,

May you find rest.

Bless you who are burdened by grief,

you whose heart is so heavy.

May you not be rushed from your feelings, but may memories

make you smile, too, and may laughter surprise you.

Bless you who can't quite muster any pre-Christmas cheer.

May you plant seeds of goodness for seasons

to come.

Bless you who bristle at mandatory merriment.

May you sense the solidarity and the hospitality

Of the ancient story, which made room for fear,

Confusion and bewilderment.

Bless you who sit in the darkness.

May you find friendship there.

Jeff Chu



Brenda Peterson / Parish Advisor

Christian Education

bpterson@riverpres.org

EXPLORE, DISCOVER & LEARN with us in our Adult Education time –

9:00-10:00 AM Sundays in the West Room, prior to our worship service.

Coffee and tea are available.

Throughout Advent we will be following Adam Hamilton,

Not A Silent Night. We look forward to having you join us.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - This group of youth have energy, curiosity, and enjoy helping others. They have made Christmas cards for the Christmas bags the deacons will be delivery to our church members who are unable to worship with us in person. Homemade cards, what a gift!

They have also set up their annual “Mitten Tree”. They are asking if you could please decorate the tree with donations of new warm winter accessories: scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, and socks for children and adults. Last year we received approximately 600 items. Some went to North church and the others to City Mission. Everyone was thrilled with the donations. Thank you. Let’s see how many people we can help stay warm this year.



SUNDAY SCHOOL – This young group of children love their Sunday school time. They enjoy their lessons, being creative with their artwork and their special guest they've had...Jill Hayman! She is getting us ready for Christmas with her gift of guitar playing and singing. Truly a very fun time. Thank you, Jill. The children have colored wooden ornaments to go in the Christmas bags for those at home.

They will have a small Christmas story for you during worship on Sunday, December 14. We hope to see you there.

We pray that you will volunteer one day to come and be a part of this time with them in Sunday school.

You just might find yourself having a great time.



Thank you to all that shopped the Alternative Charity Christmas Bazaar.

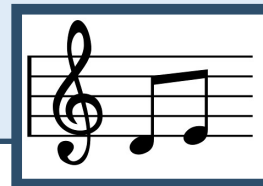
Remember you can stop in office or call Colleen at 440-333-4888 and shop

until December 24th, after the

Christmas Eve service.



Mark your calendars ! The Rocky River Community Band to perform in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 21 from 7:00-9:00 pm. Concert is free and open to all.

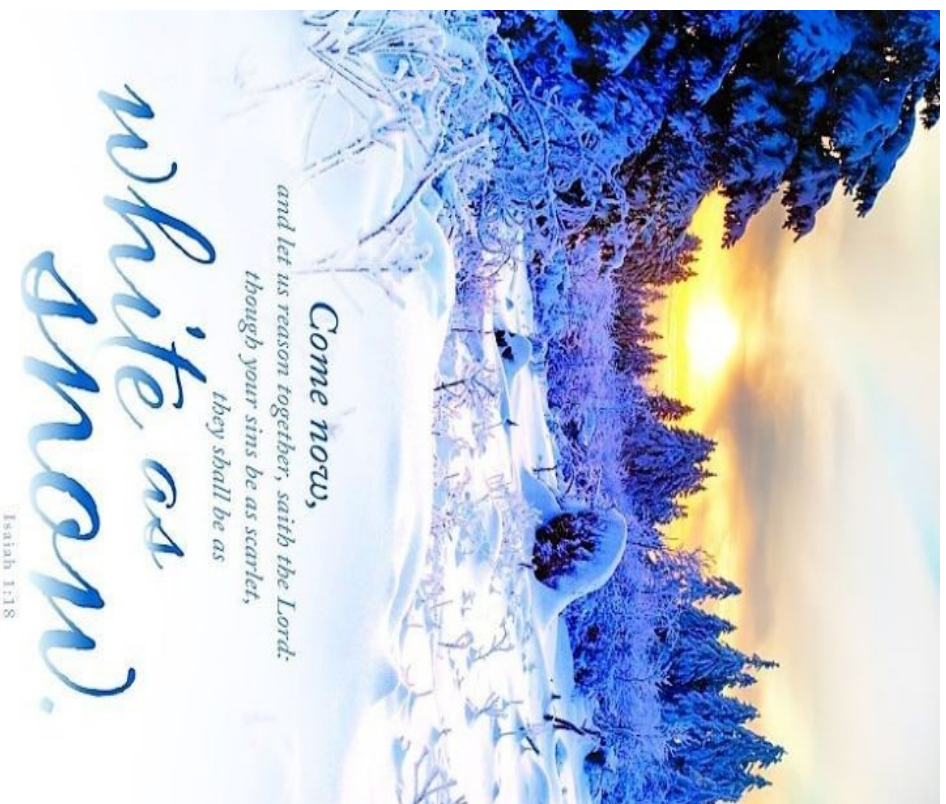


“The Pulse”

the monthly newsletter of

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

December 2025



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