

Rock Lake Presbyterian Church  
Celebrating 76 years of “Shining Christ’s Light”

January 4, 2026  
Email: [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)  
website: [www.rlpc.org](http://www.rlpc.org)



## Welcome to Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

Here are a few tips to help you participate:

“\*” Invites all who are able to stand.

**Bold type invites reading or singing by the congregation.**

*Italic type invites silent reading by the congregation.*

Large print hymnals are available from the usher.

Please return hymnals after the service.

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**  
*January 4, 2026*

**Gathering**

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE "We Three Kings" Arr. Lani Smith

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

DISTRIBUTION OF STAR WORDS Jackie Thompson

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come!  
**We are called out of our darkness into light.**  
Lift up your eyes and look around.  
**We rejoice in the gift of light.**  
Come, let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

\*OPENING HYMN #147 "The First Noel" Stanzas 1, 3, 4, 5

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...that the good news of the birth of light and love may transform our lives. **Amen.**

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD #466 "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.**  
**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness.**  
**We are bombarded by news of war and poverty, famine and lawlessness.**  
**Hateful words and acts of violence against our neighbors have become the norm.**  
**Help us be people who shine the light of your righteousness, peace and joy into the dark**  
**places of our lives and our world. Guide us with your star of wonder and turn our aimless**  
**wanderings into journeys of purpose.**

*Silence of personal confession. God's people say **Amen.***

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The grace of God comes to us. The stars by which God would lead us still shine.  
The mysteries of God are yet revealed. We are forgiven. We are accepted.  
We are empowered to minister. Let the light of God shine in you. **Thanks be to God.**

## SUNG RESPONSE #147

“The First Noel” Stanza 6

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell...**

# *Listening to the Word*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds as we hear your word read and preached. May this good news transform us and guide us, as we seek to follow the babe born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 60:1-6

60 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

## NEW TESTAMENT

John 1:1-9, 10-18

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Word and the Light”

Sallie Daughtery

## ***Responding to God***

\*HYMN #150

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

OFFERING OF FOOD for Heart and Hand

...We pray in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

JOYS & CONCERNS

*If you would like to share a joy or concern, we would like to hear it. In order to hear it, please raise your hand and a microphone will be brought to you.*

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN #500

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Come to the table of hope, joy, love and peace for all is now ready.

Communion

## Prayer after Communion

**God of shepherds and kings, you gather us by the light of the star of promise. You lead us not only to hope for the future, but to trust in your presence and renewal of life in every time and place. Guide us by the light of that same star. Lead us to the manglers of this world, where uncertainty is met with the renewal of life and the transformation of this world is most deeply felt in love, one with another. Be with us on this most wondrous time of year, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## *Going Forth to Serve*

\*HYMN #744

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

\*BENEDICTION

Arise, and go forth to shine for all the world to see. Follow the star that will guide you on your journey—this week, this year. May the blessing of the God of light rest upon you. **Amen.**

\*DEPARTING SONG #765

"May the God of Hope Go with Us"

**May the God of hope go with us everyday, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Alvin Schutmaat, 1984. Public Domain

*Greet one another in peace as you depart*

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## **WE WELCOME SALLIE DAUGHERTY TO OUR PULPIT TODAY**

Sallie Daugherty is a native West Virginian who grew up in Charleston and has been a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church, Charleston where she is an Elder, former Clerk of Session, has been a choir member and children's Sunday school teacher and she is currently serving as a Deacon. The Presbytery of West Virginia approved Sallie as an authorized lay preacher at its November 20, 2020 meeting. Since then, Sallie has answered God's call to travel around West Virginia to fill the pulpit wherever she is asked. Upon the retirement of Pastor Cherrie Sizemore, Sallie became the Commissioned Moderator of Elk Hills Presbyterian Church. She is the daughter of Jarve Currence and the late George A. Daugherty and is married to Byron Goodew. Sallie and Byron make their home in South Charleston, West Virginia.

## **2026 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

As of this writing (December 31, 2025), with 18 families responding, the 2026 total commitment is \$107,480.

. Of these families, 13 have increased their commitments from 2025!

Thank you to all members and friends who have returned commitments for 2026!

If you have not yet responded, won't you please take a few moments to prayerfully consider how you can help Rock Lake Church *Shine Christ's Light* by supporting our ministries!

Returning your commitment card will reduce the number of follow-up contacts which the Stewardship Task Force must make.

We need to hear from all our members and friends so we can plan for 2026. If you need a commitment card, please call Ken Schmidt (304-768-8565 or 304-881-2408).

We invite you to join us in worship each Sunday in the Sanctuary. If you cannot attend in person, subscribe to Rock Lake Presbyterian Church on YouTube.

Worship each Sunday is at 10:00 am ET. If you need a printed bulletin, call the church office at 304-768-4141 between 9:30 and 11:30 am ET, Monday through Friday.

***And may God bless you this Christmastide!***

Ken Schmidt, chair, Stewardship Task Force

# Church Notes

## WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist: John Solberg  
Preacher: Sallie Daugherty  
Music Director: Marilyn Padon  
Organist: Pam Ferrell

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be celebrated today.

**FOOD OFFERING SUNDAY** is also today. Don't forget that each Communion Sunday is "Food Offering" Sunday. You may leave your offering in the red wagon in the Narthex. All the collected food will go to Heart & Hand.

**DON'T FORGET** after worship today, we will put the church Advent and Christmastide decorations away. Thank you for your support!!



**RLPC HANDWORK FOR MISSION** will resume their weekly meeting on Thursday, January 8.

**THE SESSION HAS CALLED** the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 25, 2026 during worship in the sanctuary. Ed Thompson will moderate. The meeting's purpose is to:

- Receive the annual reports of church committees and organizations, and answer any questions about the reports.
- Review and answer questions on the 2025 Year End Financial Report; and discuss the 2026 church budget.
- Hear and act upon the report from the Congregation's Nominating Committee.
- Hear and act upon a proposed amendment to the Rock Lake Presbyterian Church Incorporated Bylaws.

# ***Prayer List***

*To add/remove/correct names on the prayer list,  
please call the church office (768-4141) or email [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)*

**Prayers of Joy** – Joyful thanks to Patricia Jarvis for her ministry among us for more than 3 years!

**Prayers for Concerns** – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Roberta Alsop	Emily Holton	Don Shroder
Merrily Bailey	Ravi Isaiah	Bill Wagner
Larry Graham	Cheryl Laws	Brandon Ward*
Mary Graham	Hollie McCraw	
	Rick McGuire	

We pray for peace in the world. We pray for our world leaders to do what is right and just. We pray for all the people in the world who are affected by war: The children, the common person, the armies, the leaders. Grant us courage and grace during the coming year.

- Praying for peace in the Ukraine/Russia conflict and the Israel/Hamas conflict and all conflict around the globe. Grant us peace!
- Climate change as evidenced by more severe and deadly storms, fires, floods, and prolonged heat waves locally, nationally, and globally. These events are causing large numbers of injuries and deaths of people, disruptions of food supplies, and many animal & plant species to greatly diminish and even go extinct

## **Prayers for our Military**

Brett Baker	Evan Chaney
Jeff Barker	Nigel Jeffries
Brent Bishop	

All who are serving, who have been injured and the families who have lost someone in combat; those who live and serve on the Korean Peninsula and other nations in that region of the world; our troops facing terrorist attacks.

**Prayers for those in Senior Residential Centers** - Jackie Pauley, Valley Center

**Prayers for those at Home** –Joel Callison, Bonnie Cheely, Anita Wehrmann

**Prayer List for Churches:** Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwellton; Hughes River Presbyterian Church, Cairo; Kangaita Church; Gaaki Parish