

Rock Lake Presbyterian Church
Celebrating 76 years of "Shining Christ's Light"

**"THE
LAST
WILL BE
FIRST,
AND THE
FIRST
LAST."**

MATTHEW 20:16, ESV



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.

September 20, 2026
Email: rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com
website: www.rlpc.org

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 20, 2026

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Trumpet Tune"

Brian Glyncannon

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Inspired by Psalm 145:1-5

We are here

in the name of Jesus Christ,

to worship the God who gave us life and who sustains our every breath,

and to praise the Spirit who enlivens our hearts and enlightens our minds.

Great is our God and deserving of our greatest praise.

God is awesome beyond all our imagining.

Each generation shall pass on the good news to the rest,

and shall publicly celebrate God's saving actions.

*OPENING HYMN #634

"To God Be the Glory"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...In Jesus Christ we pray. **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

God...you call us...

and sometimes...

we duck under the table...

hoping you didn't notice us when you walked into the room.

You call us...

and sometimes...

we grab a stapler and a stack of papers...

trying to look too busy to be bothered at the moment.

You call us...

and sometimes we just say, "No!"

We know that we aren't expected to do everything...

but we often forget that you call us to be ourselves in the places where our very

self is what is most needed.
So give us the grace to say “Yes” to your call...even now...as we offer our silent confessions.

*Silence for personal confession. God’s people say **Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **Thanks be to God!**

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT

Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. ⁴ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to the manager, “Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with

the last and then going to the first.”⁹ “When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner.¹² Saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.”¹³ But he replied to one of them, “ Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

SERMON

“Losing Sight of Grace”

Cherrie Sizemore, ALP

Responding to God

*HYMN #435

“There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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.

Going Forth to Serve

*HYMN #726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

*BENEDICTION

*DEPARTING SONG #765

"May the God of Hope Go with Us"

**May the God of hope go with us every day, 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.**

Greet one another in peace as you depart

Call to Worship written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page. <http://bruceprewer.com>
Prayer of Confession written by Rev. Scott Cervas, and posted on the LiturgyLink website.
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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Jackie Thompson
Preacher: Cherrie Sizemore, ALP
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

WE WELCOME BACK CHERRIE SIZEMORE AS OUR PREACHER TODAY

Cherrie recently retired from Elk Hills Presbyterian Church where she served for 12 years as their Commissioned Pastor. Cherrie previously served as an Authorized Lay Preacher (ALP) beginning in 2001. She has one son, Aaron, who lives in Pennsylvania with his wife Olesea and two grandchildren, Luna and Wyatt. She is also a member of the Commission on Pastoral Ministry (formerly Committee on Ministry) of the Presbytery of West Virginia.

Prayer List

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

Prayers of Joy

All the preachers who have served in our pulpit since January. And the generosity of this part of Christ's Body.

Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Patricia Ansley & Family	Ravi Isaiah	Don Shroder
Merrily Bailey	Kirk King	Mike & Susan Spurgeon
Barker Family	Doug Lathom	Ed Thompson
Shayne Compton	Cheryl Laws	Bill Wagner
Pam Gano	Hollie McCraw	Gary Withrow
Larry Graham	Rick McGuire	
Emily Holton	Karen Robinson	

- Praying for peace in the US/Iran conflict, Ukraine/Russia conflict, and the Israel/Hamas conflict and all conflicts around the globe. Grant us peace!
- 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.
- 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: Kanawha United Presbyterian Church, Charleston; Smithers Presbyterian Church; Gathuthi Church; Thegenge Parish

FALL GETAWAY RETREAT

October 2 - 4 @ Bluestone

Retreat Cost = \$100 Youth = \$60 (ages 4 - 11)

Children FREE (ages 3 & under)

This is an Open Weekend
 **All are Welcome!**

There'll be plenty of good food and fellowship... plus

- + trail hike or craft you can do at your leisure +
- + opportunities to hike and enjoy the fall foliage around Bluestone +
- + Dutch Oven Dinner on Saturday Night +
- + plenty of time and space to just simply be +

Visit our web page to retrieve registration forms
as well as general information and details:

bluestonecamp.org/fall-getaway

Contact mark@bluestonecamp.org if you have questions.

This retreat is sponsored and hosted by Friends of Bluestone, Inc.

Registration Deadline is September 25

Fees include two nights lodging, three meals Saturday
and one meal on Sunday.