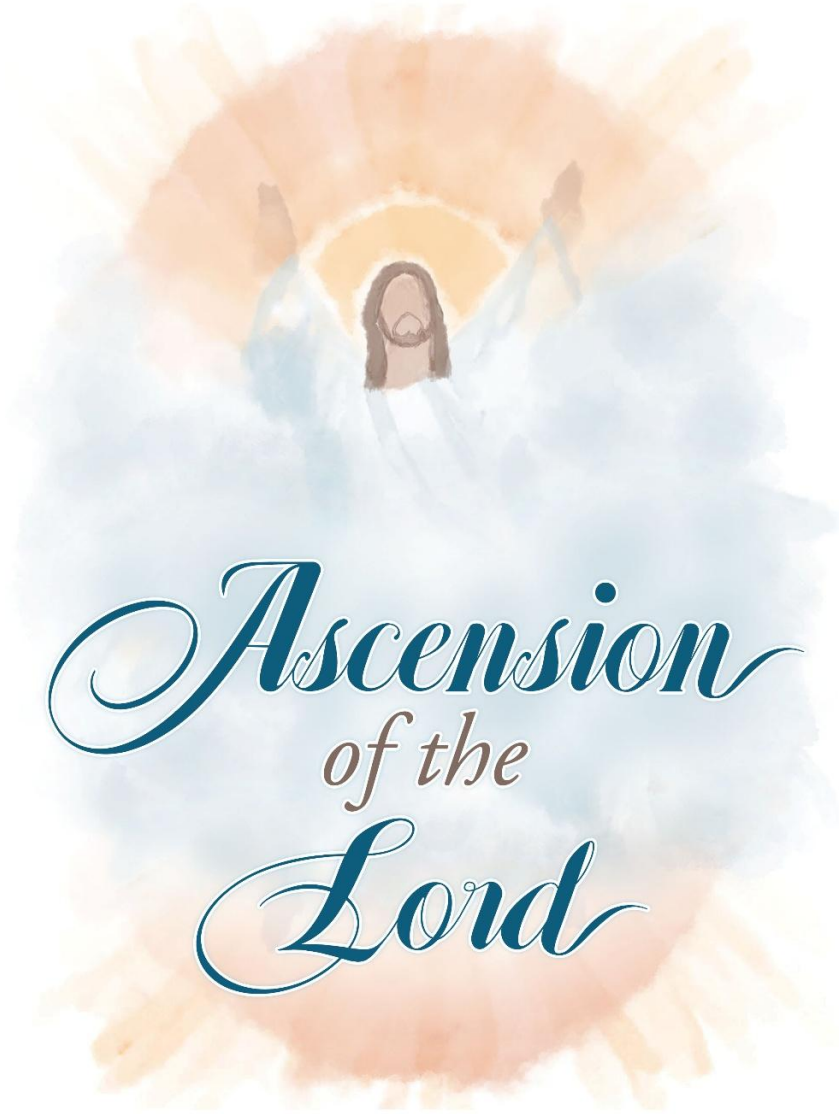


Rock Lake Presbyterian Church
Celebrating 76 years of "Shining Christ's Light"



May 17, 2026
Email: rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com
website: 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

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 17, 2026

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"

Arr. John Carter

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jennifer Waggener
Faith in Action of the Greater Kanawha Valley

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Acts 1:6-11)*

Why are we looking up to heaven?

Christ has come; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Why are we looking ahead to the future?

The Holy Spirit is among us now.

In our baptism, we have already died and risen with Christ.

Why are we afraid of death and dying?

God's love casts out our fear.

Why are we afraid to follow Jesus?

In Christ, we have the promise of new life now, eternal life to come.

**In Christ, we join our hearts to worship God, who has prepared for us
to enter the reign of God.**

OPENING HYMN #403

"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We often do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(From PCUSA website. www.pcusa.org)

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

People of God, hear this good news. God's covenant with us is true. God is faithful even when we fail. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us the gift of faith and makes us righteous. Believe in the good news that you are set free to live as children of God. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT

Daniel 7:9-14

⁹ As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹¹ I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³ As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴ To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 1:1-11

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responding to God

*HYMN #305

“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy”

*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 #796

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

*BENEDICTION

*DEPARTING SONG #600

“Amen”

Greet one another in peace as you depart

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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Taylor Bailey
Preacher: Cherrie Sizemore, ALP
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

WE WELCOME CHERRIE SIZEMORE TO OUR PULPIT 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION this week comes from Jennifer Waggener, the Executive Director of Faith in Action of the Greater Kanawha Valley. Faith in Action of the Greater Kanawha Valley is a volunteer organization providing free services to older adults in Kanawha and Putnam counties. Volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping assistance, friendly check-in phone calls, and minor home repairs with an eye toward safety. Volunteers appreciate the flexibility they have in scheduling and the variety of meaningful ways to engage. Seniors appreciate the reliable and friendly personal attention they receive. Together, we're changing lives, neighbor to neighbor. To learn more, visit faithinactionkv.com.

MAY POTLUCK will be celebrated today. We invite everyone to the potluck after the worship service. Even if you cannot bring any food to the potluck, we invite you to bring your most important ingredient – YOU!!

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

Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Roberta Alsop	Emily Holton	Don Shroder
Merrily Bailey	Ravi Isaiah	Mike & Susan Spurgeon
Barker Family	Cheryl Laws	Bill Wagner
Shayne Compton	Hollie McCraw	Ward Family
Larry Graham	Rick McGuire	Gary Withrow

- 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: Bates Memorial Presbyterian Church, Huntington; Zion Presbyterian Church, Helvetia; Kiagonde Church; Kagumo Parish