

# Rock "905"

The monthly newsletter of  
Rock Lake Presbyterian Church  
905 Village Drive, South Charleston, WV 25309



*"...on this rock I will build my church..."*

**December 2024**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Once again God has allowed us to experience the holy season of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate our Lord Jesus' birthday. And we have the privilege of doing it as the church family.

I love the seasonal images and stories that have been a part of my life since before I can even remember: the shepherds and wisemen, the angel choirs, the precious baby in the manger. You love too, don't you?

But there is more. And especially at this troubled and chaotic time in our world, we remember also Jesus' blueprint for how to follow him. You recall how he said it's summarized in loving God and loving your neighbor.

But he gets more specific in Matthew 25.

I have a dear friend of long standing who is a person of deep faith. He is senior warden at his Episcopal church, and we sometimes talk about issue pertaining to our discipleship. Recently I said to him, "Well, we are getting ready to say happy birthday once again to a brown skinned, middle eastern, undocumented immigrant."

He looked blank for a moment, and said, "Who is that?"

Honestly, it just made me laugh! But it's no laughing matter really. In Matthew 25, Jesus says, among other instructions, to welcome the stranger. Maybe part of our Advent preparation is to continue to find ways to do that, in honor of our Lord's birthday.

We think of this season as a time to exchange gifts, in honor of the greatest gift of all. As I grow older, I find that some of my most precious gifts do not come wrapped with ribbons. And that includes you, dear friends.

Your companionship on life's journey is such a gift. Your love and support strengthen me each day. Your faithfulness in following Jesus inspires me. I thank God for the privilege of being your pastor.

Now may we each have a hold Advent as we prepare to once again welcome our Savior. May our hearts become a manger as we continue to find way to become closer to Him and each other.

Love and Blessings to each one,

*Patricia*

## Oakwood Terrace Christmas Project 2024



As of Sunday, December 1, there were 5 children, 9- and 10-year-olds, that do not have a sponsor. Please consider sponsoring one child by purchasing gift(s). The recommended budget is \$30. Use the link below to select a child.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1exH4Z\\_2V7cZ7oB7E6hCpIkfluVLq15t/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100833369056130361860&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1exH4Z_2V7cZ7oB7E6hCpIkfluVLq15t/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100833369056130361860&rtpof=true&sd=true)

The gift-wrapping activity for the Rock Lake gifts will be Sunday, December 8 after the Service in our choir room. Preprinted tags are currently available in our choir room to identify the child.

Wrapped gifts are due to the First Presbyterian Church of Charleston on Friday, December 13 between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm. The Mission committee volunteers will be responsible for the transport of the gifts to FPC.

Final assembly of all gifts from all four churches will start at the First Presbyterian Church of Charleston on Saturday, December 14. Rock Lake will provide two volunteers for this activity.

Rock Lake delivery teams will pick up apartment packages at FPC on Saturday, December 21 from 10:00 am until Noon.

The delivery teams will meet at the Fruth Pharmacy parking lot close to Oakwood Terrace at 1:45 pm on Sunday, December 22. Delivery to the Oakwood Terrace residents will start at 2:00 pm.

Thanks,

Ron

*Thanks to everyone who decorated the sanctuary the Sunday  
Before Thanksgiving.*

*May this be a time of joy and healing for everyone.*





# Blue Christmas

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***December 18, Wednesday***

***Noon***

***Rock Lake Presbyterian Church***

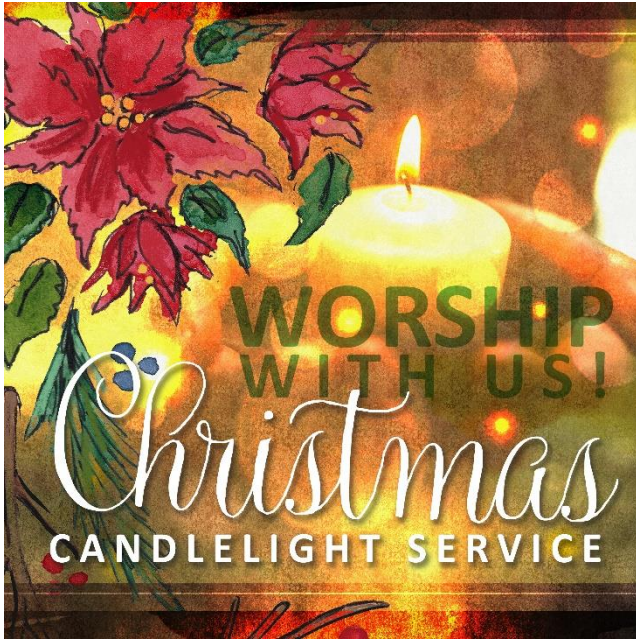
***905 Village Drive***

***South Charleston***

***For many people, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards. You may be facing a holiday after the death of a loved one or after a divorce. Perhaps you have been unable to have a child or have suffered through an emotional trauma or illness. Or perhaps you feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations.***

***This service is for you!***





## ROCK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

RLPC will have our traditional Christmas Candlelight service Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm.

Bring family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.



### *The Shepherd's Run*

The shepherd's job is to care for and protect his flock. We want to honor those who work all year, but especially on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, leaving their families to care for and protect us.

On December 22, Sunday morning we are asking that you bring one dozen cookies to the service to be dedicated and prepared following worship to be delivered to two fire stations in South Charleston, the South Charleston police station, Thomas Hospital, and Women's and Children's Hospital in Charleston.

Special coverings will be provided. A card will be enclosed stating: *With great thankfulness and blessings to you as you serve our community on this Christmas Eve! From the congregation of Rock Lake Presbyterian Church, 905 Village Drive, South Charleston. Merry Christmas!*

We will need volunteers to deliver the plates.



This month, in addition to praying for our church and congregation, please pray for these churches and their ministry that may all we do be to the Glory of God!

**December 1**

Riverlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans  
Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston  
Kigogoini Church  
Wandumbi Parish

**December 8**

Summersville Presbyterian Church  
First Presbyterian Church, Nitro  
First Presbyterian Church, Williamstown  
Muthuaini Church  
Wandumbi Parish

**December 15**

Highlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans

First Presbyterian Church, Whitesville  
Philip Nganatha Memorial Church  
Wandumbi Parish

**December 22**

First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield  
Mingo Presbyterian Church  
Wandumbi Special School Church  
Wandumbi Parish

**December 29**

Bridgeport Presbyterian Church  
Staff of the Presbytery of West Virginia  
Gatumbiro Church  
Wandumbi Parish



Our deepest sympathy to the family of Sarah Elizabeth Spradling McGuire, 76, of Cross Lanes, WV, as she passed away on November 09, 2024, at CAMC Memorial Hospital.

Sarah was a long-time member of Rock Lake Presbyterian Church in South Charleston. She is survived by her loving husband, Richard McGuire (Charleston, WV); her brother, Tim Spradling (Greensboro, NC); her daughter, Emily McGuire Casto (Charleston, WV), and son, Matthew McGuire (Chicago, IL).

To read her obituary, please go to:

<https://snodgrassfuneral.com/sarah-elizabeth-spradling-mcguire/>



1	Judy Powers	18	Trenton Straight
2	Judy Hardin	22	David Bradley
5	Kelly Straight	21	Don Straight
6	Kim LaCount	22	David Bradley
7	Shayn Davis	26	Billy Estill
9	Jeff Ray	26	Chris Rogillio
13	Eric Hamilton	27	Connie Dent
14	Amber Grigsby	27	Riley Thornhill
17	Angie Bradley	31	Dara Ray



5	Jim & Connie Musgrave	17	Carl & Jean Smith
11	Tyler & Erica Yongue		

### ***Nurturing Faith Ideas for December 2024***

**December 1: First Sunday of Advent: Read Luke 21:25-36** As we enter this Advent Season, our Scripture passage speaks of signs of the coming of the Son of Man in a cloud with power and glory. How do you visualize this scene depicted in the Scripture passage? Draw a picture with your family to depict His coming.

**December 8: Second Sunday of Advent: Read Luke 3:1-6** As John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, so must we prepare ourselves for Jesus. This is a time of hope and preparation. During Advent, reflect on what preparations you are making in your life and in your heart for the coming of Jesus. The way must be prepared in your heart for Jesus' coming; only then will you see the true salvation of God.

**December 15: Third Sunday of Advent: Read Isaiah 12:2-6** December is a wonderful time of year, but it is also a very busy time with shopping to do, presents to wrap, trees to decorate, and more. During all of this, we must remember, first and foremost, that Jesus, the Son of God, is coming soon to bring joy and salvation into this world!!! Salvation is the gift for all of us!!! So, despite all the other distractions of this season, remember to put the coming birth of our Savior at the top of your priority list.

**December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent: Read Luke 1:39-45** When Mary greets Elizabeth, her

unborn child recognizes that Mary is pregnant with Jesus and leaps for joy in her womb. Do you know Jesus? Do you recognize when Jesus enters your presence and, if so, do you leap for joy? Jesus was sent because God loves each of us and God's mission is to bring hope and salvation to a troubled world. Take some time and reflect on our world and how Jesus gives you hope even during our bleakest moments.

**December 29: First Sunday of Christmas: Read Colossians 3:12-17** Christmas is here. Christ has come!!! Now we must take the time to think about what that means: to love one another; to forgive; to be compassionate, kind, and faithful, in short, to live our lives following the example Jesus set to the best of our abilities. So, this Christmas, put away old grudges, forgive those who have wronged you, be compassionate and kind to all, especially those less fortunate, and remember to always give thanks to God through Jesus for all these gifts this Christmas!

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Bridgeview Food Ministry



The Bridgeview Food Ministry are packing lunches again on the last Sunday of each month after worship service. We are asking for volunteers to meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Food items can be dropped off at the church during office hours (9 until noon Monday through Friday).

Below is a list of food needed for the program:

- Mac & Cheese (microwavable and single serving)
- Pudding Cups
- Juice Boxes
- Individual cereal packages
- Snack Bags (pretzels, cheezits, goldfish, gummies, chips, cookies (individual packages)
- Chocolate milk
- Ravioli (or other Chef Boyardee Pastas, microwavable, single serving)
- Applesauce or Fruit Cups
- Pop Tarts

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Through the Kroger Community Rewards Program, Kroger will donate to RLPC 5% of all grocery/pharmacy purchases YOU make just by using your Kroger Plus Card. Please sign up for this FREE profitable program for RLPC. You only have to open an account and register your Kroger Plus Card online at: [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com).

OR

You can simply telephone Kroger Community Rewards at 1-800-576-4377. They will assist you with registering your Kroger Plus Card. You will need to have handy either your Kroger Plus Card number or your alternate ID (your telephone number).

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## CENTS-ABILITY OFFERING



From the PCUSA website:

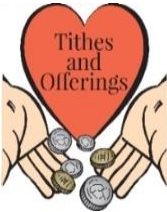
“Cents-Ability is one way that families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Every member is invited to contribute a few cents at every meal. Funds are then used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program.” September 29th Centsability offering totaled \$129.50. Thank you for your generosity.

**The next offering will be collected Sunday, December 29, 2024.** So, start to collect your 5 cents per meal each day. Proceeds will go to Heart & Hand. Please remember people who are less fortunate by donating to this, and all Cents-Ability offerings.



October Income \$ 9,194.60

October Expense \$ 16, 975.06



We understand that there are some who are uncomfortable attending in-person worship and hope that you are able to join the service on YouTube.

We appreciate your continued gifts to the church. There are several ways that you may make a donation. By logging onto the church website at [www.rlpc.org](http://www.rlpc.org) you can give through PayPal. Also, outside the choir room is a mailbox where you can drop your offering. Or you can send a check by mail to the church's address: 905 Village Drive, South Charleston, WV 25309. Please contact Mary Wagner for further information. 304-552-1627.



## **Session Notes**

### **November 2024 Session Digest**

**WORSHIP (W):** On November 3, about 60 in-person and home communicants celebrated the communion sacrament. The next communion celebration will be on December 1. **If you are joining worship at home that day, please remember to prepare your elements in advance.**

Advent devotionals have been ordered. Advent decorating will be done after worship December 24. A committee motion to have a 'Blue Christmas' service on December 18 at noon was approved.

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE (A&F):** The balance sheet has about \$72,200 in the general account. The budget vs. actual has a \$8,200 deficit for October, YTD, resulting from a \$5,000 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary expenditure, and the final 2024 quarterly insurance premium of \$3,246.

The Stewardship Task Force reported that about \$25,000 has already been committed for 2025. Commitment Sunday is November 24.

The Nominating Committee have contacted two potential session nominees, and are waiting on responses.

**CHRISTIAN NURTURE (CN):**

**MISSION & SERVICE (M&S):** Oakwood Terrace Christmas Project - We have 23 children for whom to provide Christmas gifts. There is an online sign-up sheet, showing the key dates, and the age and gender of each child, at this link:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1exH4Z\\_2V7cZ7oB7E6hCpIkfluuVLq15t/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100833369056130361860&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1exH4Z_2V7cZ7oB7E6hCpIkfluuVLq15t/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100833369056130361860&rtpof=true&sd=true).

There are 5 children yet unchosen. If you can help, please use the link above to review the sheet.

We need a Santa volunteer this year, as our traditional Santa is unable to do it.

Other - The materials for the Christmas Joy offering have arrived.

**PROPERTY (P):** The new LED sign is not yet communicating wirelessly with the office workstation. We are working with the vendor to get the link established.

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE (CC):** The next second Sunday potluck will be December 8 after worship. See you there! AND after that, mosey on down to the choir room, and help wrap Christmas gifts for the Oakwood Terrace youngsters.

**OTHER(O):** a. All the insurance proceeds from the April RLCLC flood have been paid to Pollen8 and Rainbow Restoration. A separate insurance payment covering repair to the RLCLC automatic car gate has been paid. b. The Presbytery Treasurer’s 2025 \$2,605.80 Presbytery commitment request was discussed; session approved \$2606. The clerk will notify the Presbytery Treasurer. c. The clerk sent an email to Genesis Valley Center (GVC) suggesting a date and time for a tour of RLPC’s facility. GVC has not responded to that email, so the clerk considers this matter closed. d. The session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for January 26 near the close of worship.

With Christ’s Peace,  
Ken

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The Presbyterian Christmas Joy offering will take place during the month of December. Giving envelopes are in the pews. The Joy Offering has two focus areas, supporting our past, present and future leaders and preparing the way for future leaders. More information will be available in the Minutes for Mission and the Bulletins.

## 2025 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of this writing (December 2, 2024), with 15 families  
responding, the 2025 total commitment is \$73,572.

Of these families, 7 have increased their commitments from 2024!

Thank you to all members and friends who have returned  
commitments for 2025.

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 2025. If you need a commitment card, please call Ken Schmidt  
(304-768-8565 or 304-881-2408).

Commitment cards are also available on the Sanctuary offering tables.

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 Advent season!***

Ken Schmidt, Chair, Stewardship Task Force

# Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

## December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship  <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)	<b>3</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 9:00 am Church Office Open	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission(P)	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom	<b>7</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 
<b>8</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship  <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)	<b>10</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 9:00 am Church Office Open 9:30 am Carbine Oldtimers	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open  All Decked Out	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission(P)	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom  <i>The Christmas Season</i>	<b>14</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work  COOKIES
<b>15</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship  <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>16</b> Church Office Closed 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)	<b>17</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:30 pm Session Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open Noon – Blue Christmas Service  Blue Christmas <i>A Service of Remembrance &amp; Hope</i>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission (P)	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom  HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS	<b>21</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work  First Day of Winter
<b>22</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship  <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P) 	<b>24</b> Church Office Closed  Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25</b> Church Office Closed  Merry Christmas	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission (P)	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom	<b>28</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 
<b>29</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P) 	<b>31</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 9:00 am Church Office Open  New Year's Eve				





*Rock Lake Presbyterian Church  
905 Village Drive  
South Charleston, WV 25309*

«AddressBlock»

**Church Staff**

<b>Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis</b>	<b>Pastor</b>
<b>Sandy McNeely</b>	<b>Church Secretary</b>
<b>Mary Wagner</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Marilyn Padon</b>	<b>Music Director</b>
<b>Pam Ferrell</b>	<b>Organist/Accompanist</b>

**ROCK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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304-768-4141  
EMAIL: [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)  
WEBSITE: [www.rlpcc.org](http://www.rlpcc.org)**

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Rock Lake Presbyterian Church**

**The Session**

**Class of 2024**

Mary Wagner	304-552-1627
Ken Schmidt	304-768-8565

**Class of 2025**

David Broyles	304-545-8821
Ron Rogillio	304-541-1243

**Class of 2026**

John Solberg	304-415-1704
DeeDee Means	304-744-0887

**Committee Chairs**

<i>Christian Nurture</i>	<i>DeeDee Means</i>
<i>Congregational Care</i>	<i>Ken Schmidt</i>
<i>Administration/Finance</i>	<i>David Broyles</i>
<i>Property</i>	<i>John Solberg</i>
<i>Worship</i>	<i>Mary Wagner</i>
<i>Mission &amp; Service</i>	<i>Ron Rogillio</i>