

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

September 13, 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

September 13, 2026

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Holy, Holy, Holy!"

Arr. Jeff Bennett

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

Bless God's holy name.

God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

Bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

Let us worship and praise God's holy name.

*OPENING HYMN #611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...that we may proclaim to all the earth the glory of your name. **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

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

James 5:15-16

...redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness. **Thanks be to God!**

**O my soul, bless your Redeemer; all within me bless God's name;
bless the Savior, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.
God forgives all your transgressions, all diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.**

**Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin;
like the pity of a father has the Lord's compassion been.
As it was without beginning, so it lasts without an end;
to their children's children ever shall God's righteousness extend.**

From The Book of Psalms, 1871. Public Domain

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE

Romans 14:1-12

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. **2** Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. **3** Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. **4** Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. **5** Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. **6** Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. **7** For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. **8** If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. **10** Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. **11** For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." **12** So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. **23** "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. **24** When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, **25** and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. **26** So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' **27** And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. **28** But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' **29** Then his fellow slave

fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Keeping Score"

Brandi Hicks, ALP

Responding to God

*HYMN #444

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

Soloist sings stanza 1.

All sing remaining hymn.

*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 #543

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep 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

Parts of the worship liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution by the *Presbyterian Outlook*.
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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Ken Schmidt
Preacher: Brandi Hicks, ALP
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

WE WELCOME BACK BRANDI HICK TO OUR PULPIT.

Brandi Hicks is a single mom of two beautiful kids—Alexis (10) and Lincoln (8). She grew up going to Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, which was a rock in her life and faith. She currently works full-time for the State and has been an Authorize Lay Preacher (ALP) for about two years. She likes all types of crafting, watching her kids do their activities, and reading.

SEPTEMBER 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

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: First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood; Mount Hope Presbyterian 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.