

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



July 19, 2026
Email: rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com
website: www.rlpcc.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

July 19, 2026

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Arr. Charles Callahan

"...wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown..."

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

What mysteries there are in God's world!

We, so sophisticated, stand in awe at the wonders of the natural world.

We look at the tiniest seeds and wonder what will happen.

From that small seed will grow a large shrub.

Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

God will use our gifts in miraculous ways.

We praise the God of small seeds and mighty power.

Written by Nancy C. Townley, on the *Worship Connection* page of the *Ministry Matters* website.

<http://www.ministrymatters.com>

*OPENING HYMN #65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...shining like the sun in God's heavenly home. **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

Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be. When we deprive others of the same opportunity,

forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,

forgive us.

When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are,

forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,

forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there,
forgive us.

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

You know what we are going to say even before we speak.

So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected, the lonely and the outcast, and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Divine Gardener, you tend us in steadfast love, unending mercies, and eternal faithfulness. In Christ, this faithful love is planted in our hearts. Gathered as your community of believers, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, we are called to produce forgiveness for one another as we are forgiven. **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Tune: AZMON

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**

**He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.**

**To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.**

Charles Wesley, 1739. Public Domain

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 28:10-19

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and

this is the gate of heaven.” ¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ” ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

SERMON

“The Weeds and the Wheat within Us”

Cherrie Sizemore, ALP

Responding to God

*HYMN #305

“Come, Sing, O Church, in Joy”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus

**from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

From A Brief Statement of Faith, paragraphs 1 and 2.

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"
Soloist sings stanza 1. All sing remaining stanzas.*

*BENEDICTION

*DEPARTING SONG #745

"Now Go in Joy"

Greet one another in peace as you depart

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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: David Broyles
Preacher: Cherrie Sizemore, ALP
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

WE WELCOME CHERRIE SIZEMORE BACK 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.

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

Patricia Ansley & Family	Emily Holton	Karen Robinson*
Merrily Bailey	Ravi Isaiah	Don Shroder
Barker Family	Doug Lathom	Mike & Susan Spurgeon
Bob Binning	Cheryl Laws	Bill Wagner
Shayne Compton	Hollie McCraw	Gary Withrow
Larry Graham	Rick McGuire	

-We pray for all of the victims of the Earthquake in Venezuela and the rescue teams.
- 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, St. Albans; Spencer Presbyterian Church; Kiandu Church; Riamukurwe Parish