# Rock "905"



The monthly newsletter of "...on this rock I will build my church..." Rock Lake Presbyterian Church 905 Village Drive, South Charleston, WV 25309

May 2025



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

We are in the holy season of Eastertide, when we celebrate with joy the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, and what that means to us as his followers.

And yet, it seems as if we are tempted to allow our celebration is be diluted with the darkness that is in

the world around us, and sometimes in our lives as well. We watch folks chasing pleasures that will not satisfy, running in competition for rewards that fade, and laboring to collect great piles of things that will not fulfill their lives. Maybe this can sometimes describe us too.

But Jesus is calling us to be light in this dark world!

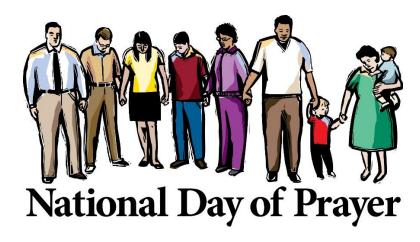
There is a story about a boy who visited a cathedral for the first time. "Who are those people in the windows there?" he asked. "They are the saints," his mother told him. "Oh, I see," he replied. "Saints are people the light shines through."

We are God's saints in a dark world. We shine because the light of Christ shines through us and reaches those lost in the gloom of this struggling world. We stand in the light of Christ, and as we let his light shine through us, we can reach God's children around us, and offer them life in the Savior, who died to reconcile us with God, and rose to give us new life.

As we continue through these weeks of Eastertide, may we allow the Holy Spirit to set us on fire so we can shine with the light of Christ.

Love and every blessing,

Patricia



The National Day of Prayer will be observed in our area at the Mound in South Charleston at noon on May 1.

Pastors from several different churches will be offering prayer on subjects assigned to them.

Patricia will be representing Rock Lake Presbyterian Church and will be praying for business and industry.

Come and join sisters and brothers from churches in the area, and across the nation as we pray for our country and our world.

There will be chairs set up at the Mound for your use during this ecumenical service which will last about a half hour.

See you there??



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!

#### May 4

South Park Presbyterian Church, Charleston Winfield Presbyterian Church Kagumo Parish

#### **May 11**

Community Presbyterian Church, Arthurdale Milton Presbyterian Church Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church Githiru Church Kagumo Parish

#### **May 18**

Bates Memorial Presbyterian Church, Huntington Zion Presbyterian Church, Helvetia Kiagonde Church Kagumo Parish

#### **May 25**

Church of Our Saviour, Clarksburg Clothier Presbyterian Church Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, Huntington Marua Church Kagumo Parish





Our deepest sympathy to the family of Betty N. Oakes, 91, of South Charleston, who passed away Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at Hubbard Hospice House after a short illness. She was preceded in death by her husband and soulmate John Oakes.

Betty was a long-time member of Rock Lake Presbyterian Church in South

#### Charleston.

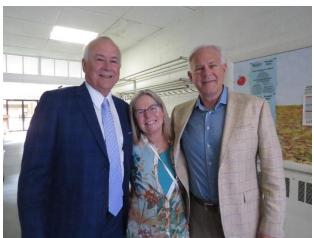
She is survived by two daughters, Angela Combs of Blacksburg, VA and Deanna McClung (Jay) of Wilmington, NC: son Frank Oakes of South Charleston: grandchildren Andrea, Hannah, Madison, Noah and Annie Kay: and great grandchildren, Landon, Riley, Levi, Finley, Leo, and Avilene. She is also survived by sisters Agnes Murphy and Cheryl Crouse.

To read her obituary, please go to: <a href="https://snodgrassfuneral.com/betty-n-oakes/">https://snodgrassfuneral.com/betty-n-oakes/</a>

## Easter Sunday at Rock Lake Presbyterian Church....













## Palm Sunday at Rock Lake Presbyterian Church...







## Women's Circle Clean-up Project at RLPC...











A special "Thank You" to Scott Hamilton for all the beautiful pictures.

#### Nurturing Faith Ideas 2025, based on the Revised Common Lectionary

#### May 3: Third Sunday of Easter Read John 21:1-19

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked him if he loved him not once but three times. We can feel equally hurt when our faith and/or love is questioned. However, a life of faith and following Jesus isn't a one-time commitment but a lifetime of showing up and doing as Jesus asks us. What will you do this week to feed Jesus' sheep?

#### May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter Read Psalm 23

The psalmist lifts up God's care for us. God provides what we need, guides us in God's ways and provides rest for us. God is with us in the midst of our struggles, walking through the darkest, saddest, scariest places of our lives with us, comforting us. What is a dark place you've experienced recently? Picture God in that place with you, walking beside you and comforting you.

#### May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter Read Psalm 148

The psalmist calls on all creation to praise the Lord! How do you praise God? What are five things for which you would praise God? Share your thoughts with a friend or family member.

#### May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter Read John 5:1-9

The man by the pool thought he knew what his problem was and how it needed to be fixed. Jesus offered the man a different perspective and a different solution. This week think of a problem you are facing that you can't solve and ask God to open your eyes to new possibilities.



## Thank You

Thank you to Rock Lake Presbyterian
Church for the beautiful roses that I
received on Administrative Professionals

Day - April 23, 2025.

What a wonderful surprise. I am truly blessed to have an amazing group of individuals to know and work with in God's name – **Sandy** 

McNeely



12 Mary Wagner

14 Myles Broyles

24 Carl Smith

27 Dani Crouch

27 Sandi Ray

30 Emma Kuhn



6 Chris & Beth Barnes

10 James & Amber Grigsby



#### **2025 PEARL INGHRAM APPLICATIONS**

Completed Pearl Inghram applications must be in the church office by 1 PM, May 1, 2025. Applicants will be notified of the Scholarship Committee's decision by email on or before May 21.

A \$1,000 check will be mailed directly to the applicant awarded the scholarship no later than June 15.

APPLICATION FORMS can be requested by calling the church office at 304 768-4141 weekday mornings or by emailing <a href="mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com">rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com</a>



THE NEXT WOMEN'S CIRCLE MEETING will be in the Parlor on the  $4^{th}$  Tuesday of May – May  $27^{th}$  at 7:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome!!

## **Prayer List Updates**

To help Sandy manage the church prayer list, we want you to know about a change we will be making beginning June 1.

At the end of each month, the prayer list will be 'pruned'. Names on the list at the end of each month will be removed, unless the originator asks Sandy to carryover the name on the list for another month. The carryover request must be made within the last week of a month in an email titled "Prayer Request" or call to the church. Any name not having a carryover request will be removed from the new month's list.

For example, if you add a person's name to the list in May, and want that name left on the list for June, you must call or email the church to ask Sandy to keep that name on the list sometime during the last week of May. If, in June, you want the name to remain on the prayer list through July, you must make another carryover request in the last week of June. It will be your responsibility to renew the carryover each month.

The only exception to this policy will be 'occasion of death' carryovers, which will be left on the list for two successive Sundays, and then removed.

As we noted at the beginning of this article, the first prayer list 'pruning' will be on June 1. We will have reminders in each May bulletin.

Peace & Grace,

John Haynes, Congregational Care Chair Ken Schmidt, Session Clerk



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.

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).

# **SPRING GETAWAY RETREAT**

MAY 2 - 4 @Bluestone

Adults \$85 (ages 12 & older)

Youth \$50 (ages 4-11) Children FREE

Registration deadline is April 30.

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

- † trail hike or craft you can do at your leisure †
  - † study track w/weekend chaplain TBA †
    - † games, campfires, devotions †
- † plenty of time and space to just simply be †

# Join us for a fun and relaxing low key weekend!

Get Registration and Medical Release Forms online at

bluestonecamp.org/spring-getaway

Alternatively, please copy the form on the back of this flyer!

## PCUSA PENTECOST OFFERING

The PCUSA Pentecost offering will conclude on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

This is one of the four major offerings sponsored by PCUSA.



### **Bridgeview Food Ministry**



The Bridgeview Food Ministry is temporarily on hold until August (due to summer).

We will keep you updated in the bulletin and newsletter with further information.

#### **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."

**The next offering will be collected Sunday, June 29, 2025.** 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.



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 <a href="https://www.rlpc.org">www.rlpc.org</a> 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.

## **April Session Digest**

**WORSHIP (W):** On April 6, an estimated 52 home and 26 in-person communicants celebrated communion. The next communion will be on May 4. **If you are joining worship at home that day, please remember to prepare your elements in advance.** 

Preparations are underway for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Pentecost.

We hope you will make in-person worship a priority at the start of each week.

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE (A&F):** The April balance sheet has about \$72,470 in the general account. The \$7,000 City National Bank account is not yet showing on the balance sheet. The treasurer will need help after tax season to get that account open in Quick books, which is the balance sheet source. In the budget vs. actual, the March MTD month shows a \$3,676 positive balance, bringing the March YTD balance to \$1,299.

**CHRISTIAN NURTURE (CN):** We prepared for childcare during the Easter service. The Women's Circle is planning a Mother's Day project to donate baby care items such as diapers, wipes, etc. on that day.

**MISSION & SERVICE (M&S):** The modified Pearl S. Inghram Policy and Application form proposed changes were approved.

**PROPERTY (P):** The transitional weather has required close monitoring of our HVAC system. Huffman Landscaping will return after Easter to evaluate the current landscaping needs.

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE (CC):** About 30 people attended the April potluck. The next potluck will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, May 18 (it was moved since May 11 is Mother's Day). See you at the potluck!

The committee, session clerk, and church secretary have developed a new 'Church Notes' prayer list procedure. See the article "Prayer List Updates" elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

**OTHER(O):** Patricia will be on vacation in June for about 10 days. During her absence, Ed Thompson has agreed to lead worship.

With Christ's Peace, Ken

#### Thanks to those who submitted Easter Memories. They are included here for all to read.

#### Rock Lake Fresbyterian Church 2025 Easter Memories



#### **Ed Bailey**

The things I remember the most about Easter at RLPC is the Easter egg hunt, the smile on the kids' faces, the shrill squeals of the kids running to get eggs, and then the candy eaten by all. I especially remember some of the pranks played by "WAG" such as the anticipation of their parents/mothers for the hunt and then the horror on their mom's faces when told there might be eggs in the creek. Kids were trying to get eggs that were on the Cross, kids trying to get eggs in the trees, and Dee Dee climbing up in the tree to get them. (OK, maybe I had a hand in some of them.)

But above all the Joy and memories had by all.



#### **Shayn Davis**

Easter is my favorite holiday. The arrival of spring, pastels and floral print, rebirth and the ultimate miracle of the Resurrection. I have many wonderful memories, but the ones that stand out most strongly are from a small church where we would gather to celebrate my Great Grandmother Roxanne Greathouse's mid-April birthday, which often occurred during the week of Easter. After she passed away, we continued to have family reunions on her birthday and to celebrate Easter together. The feasts prepared by good old country women, egg hunts among the blooming dogwoods, mountain music and a sense of togetherness with many people no longer with us on Earth.

Great Grandma Roxy, my grandma and grandpa, aunts and uncles, and my father have all returned home to Our Lord. I am reminded of how The Stanley Brothers sang "I Long to See the Old Folks", how I imagine pulling up that long dirt road and seeing them gathered on the porch, waving and smiling. But because of Christ's sacrifice for all mankind, I will see them again one day.

That's why Easter is my favorite holiday, not merely for the celebration, the colors, or the precious memories, but because of the covenant between God and Man that binds the past and the future together. And I am so grateful for my church family at RLPC for enriching my spiritual life and making the present feel worth celebrating, too. The photo is one of my Dad's old decorations from before I was even born, a vintage Easter Bunny. I truly treasure it both as a reminder of the Easters I spent with him and his side of the family as a boy, and as a way to spread a little extra good cheer in the neighborhood today. I hope everyone has a soul-nourishing Lent and a Blessed Easter Sunday.



#### Scott and Susan Hamilton

We are often in Wisconsin near Easter time to celebrate several family birthdays. On Easter. April 1, 2018, we celebrated Susan's father's 90th birthday and her uncle's 80th birthday. My sister-in-law turned 50 that month but couldn't attend that day.



#### **Scott and Susan Hamilton**

In 2021, during the Covid pandemic, Amanda Hamilton, Judy Hardin and Margie Gumowski (I to r) came in on the Saturday before Easter to decorate the cross for the Easter worship service.



#### Margie Gumowski

It's 2004, my daughter is almost 4 years old. I always knew that it was my responsibility to raise my child in church to teach her about God's love. However, I hadn't started yet. I had strayed from God and gotten comfort-able not going to church. I have always loved Easter and what it means. So, Layne didn't know about that; but just loved the Easter bunny and the treats he always brought her (I have to admit I loved that part too and the cute decorations as well. I was driving home from running my errands out at South Ridge. I came upon the stop sign at the church intersection and almost wrecked my car at the edge of the road on the church side was the most beautiful cross I'd ever seen. This was Monday after Easter. I knew God was sending me a message. It was time that I stepped up and did what I knew I was supposed to do.so happy with the bonus family God hit me over the head for us to join.

Thank you, Rock Lake, for your beautiful sign of God's love for all to see. Well, it took me seven months to fulfill that promise. I'm happy to say that Layne and I are so happy with the bonus family God hit me over the head for us to join. Thank you, Rock Lake, for your beautiful sign of God's love for all to see.



#### **Patricia Jarvis**

Years ago, when I served as the United Methodist District Superintendent in the Northern Panhandle, there were 99 congregations under my care. Some were in the towns and cities, but more were small rural churches tucked among the hills and hollers. One Easter Sunday I was invited to be the sunrise service preacher at one of these. The custom was for the little congregations to forego regular

Sunday worship, but instead to meet for sunrise worship on Easter Sunday morning. Then the church would gather to share breakfast together, before adjourning to spend the rest of Easter with family and neighbors, for Easter celebration! Egg hunts, Easter feasts and memories would be made, but not before the resurrection of the Lord had been properly celebrated. For me to get to the country church for my preaching assignment, required me to leave my home in Wheeling by no later than 4:30 AM. The towns were dark at this time. The larger churches I passed were dark. But as I left the main highway for the small county roads, the hillsides began to come alive with light from the little churches dotting the landscape. The faithful were already at church, getting ready for sunrise, and the Son Rise!

There was something so moving about these little beacons of light, pushing back against the darkness of the chilly spring morning. It made me think of how the light shines, the Kingdom will come, and the darkness has never been able to



extinguish it.

**Dee Dee Means**Avery Lee and Lauren Taylor
following the Flowering of the Cross service.



#### **Judy Powers**

When I was very young, going to Sunrise Service with my dad, just the two of us, and often going out for breakfast, such a fond memory.



#### **Linda Reehling**

Growing up in western New York state, our family didn't have a lot of money. My mother and father both worked physical jobs and long hours. But every Easter, no matter what, I had new patent leather shoes, a new dress, white gloves, and an Easter Bonnet. Hardly anyone dresses like that anymore



#### **Ron Rogillio**

Many years ago, the Oakwood Terrace Task Force routinely hid Easter Eggs at Oakwood Terrace on the Saturday morning before Easter. Chris usually organized the RLPC Youth Group to hide the eggs. The day arrived for the Youth Group to hide eggs. It had been a very warm week, but it turned very cold the night before. By the time the RLPC Youth met at the

Church, it started snowing heavily. The Youth Group members thought that the egg hunt would be cancelled. Chris refused to cancel. She said too many small kids at Oakwood Terrace were depending on us. The Youth Group arrived at Oakwood Terrace with winter wear and gloves and hid 750 eggs in the snow. Because the ground was still warm, the snow melted with the help of the sun. The Oakwood Terrace kids had a successful egg hunt. The Youth Group learned a valuable lesson. If you are committed to a task, you must do everything to meet your commitment.

#### **Ed Thompson**

I'm not sure if my home church regularly did Easter Sunrise services or not. If they did, we never went to them, which seems pretty unusual since it seems that we typically went to whatever special services were offered. As far as I can remember we only went to one Easter Sunrise service while I was growing up. It must have been in my sophomore or junior year in high school. The service was held outside and afterward we walked back to the church for breakfast. It was that meal that made the service so memorable. They served fish. (My memory is that they were more like fish sticks rather than finely prepared fish filets.) In a lot of ways, the menu makes sense. In John 21 Jesus feeds the disciples fish for breakfast after they had spent the night fishing. So, there's biblical precedent for this kind of meal. However, I have never heard of any other church ever serving fish for breakfast after their Easter Sunrise service. During my ministry I served two churches, and each one held an Easter Sunrise service every year I was there. I think I suggested that we serve fish for breakfast after the Sunrise service probably 25 times over the years. Although each congregation generally humored me and went along with my sometimes-quirky ideas, they drew the line at having fish for breakfast. So, it only happened to me once, but it is my favorite Easter memory.

#### **Jackie Thompson**

When I was a youth in the 1960s, I belonged to the Lakeshore Presbyterian Church in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. My church was part of the United Presbyterian Church denomination, where the rule at the time was that children could not take communion until they became members. I participated in Communicants class (the term for confirmation class back then) during my junior year of high school. The

class began in the fall, and on Palm Sunday, we stood before the congregation to officially become members of the Presbyterian Church. Our first communion was on Maundy Thursday, and I believe we took it as a class. Since that first experience, the Maundy Thursday service has held a special place in my heart. I try never to miss it, and sometimes Ed and I have had to search for a church offering that service. For me, Maundy Thursday is the most meaningful service during Holy Week and undoubtedly one of my most cherished Easter memories.

#### **Mary Wagner**



Although there are many wonderful memories of Easter throughout my 83 years, my most memorable is my baptism. I was 12 years old at the time and had grown up in the care of Thurmond Union Church which was under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church at the time. The

pastor preached on Friday night (we were one of three churches that he served) and the lay people organized and ran the Sunday morning Sunday school with opening and classes. Remember that I was 12. The pastor came on Easter Sunday morning and was baptizing four of us.

My mother insisted that I wear a hat of all things (remember this was 1953). So, when Reverend Brittenhart cupped the water and was going to put it over my head, he had a funny look on his face and proceeded to place his hand on my forehead with the water dripping down full force on my face. Imagine my embarrassment, and his. However, the baptism took. But I usually have a smile on my face at baptisms as I remember that sunny morning and my face full of water.

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## **Rock Lake Presbyterian Church**

# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission(P) National Day of Prayer	9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom Friendship	3 8:30 am Manna Meal Work
4 10:00 am RLPC Worship	5 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)	6 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 9:00 am Church Office Open	7 9:00 am Church Office Open 7:00 pm Lenten Book Study	8 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission(P)	9 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom	10 8:30 am Manna Meal Work
11 10:00 am RLPC Worship  HAPPY Day	129:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)	13 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 9:00 am Church Office Open 9:30 am Carbide Oldtimers	14 9:00 am Church Office Open	15 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission (P)	16 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom	17 8:30 am Manna Meal Work
18 10:00 am RLPC Worship  Potluck  LUNCHEON	19:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)	20 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:30 pm Session Meeting	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open	22 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission (P)	23 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom	24 8:30 am Manna Meal Work
25 10:00 am RLPC Worship	26 Church Office Closed 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)	<b>27</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work 9:00 am Church Office Open	28 9:00 am Church Office Open	9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission (P)  Ascension	30 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom	31 8:30 am Manna Meal Work



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

«AddressBlock»

#### **Church Staff**

Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis Pastor

Sandy McNeely Church Secretary
Mary Wagner Treasurer
Marilyn Padon Music Director

Pam Ferrell Organist/Accompanist

ROCK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 VILLAGE DRIVE

**SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV 25309** 

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**Rock Lake Presbyterian Church** 

The Session							
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						
Class of 2027							
John Haynes	304-610-9040						
Ken Schmidt	304-768-8565						
Committee Chairs							
Christian Nurture	DeeDee Means						
Congregational Care	John Haynes						
Administration/Finance	David Broyles						
Property	John Solberg						
Worship	Ken Schmidt						
Mission & Service	Ron Rogillio						