

Rock Lake Presbyterian Church  
Celebrating 75 years of "Shining Christ's Light"



# Reformation Sunday

## 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.

October 26, 2025  
Email: [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)  
website: [www.rlpc.org](http://www.rlpc.org)

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**REFORMATION SUNDAY**  
*October 26, 2025*

***Gathering***

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"A Mighty Fortress"

Martin Luther  
Setting by Johann Christoph Bach

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Throughout the decades and centuries, the Church has been led by truth-tellers and justice-seekers.

**They heard the challenge. They accepted the costs.**

We gather to remember their perseverance and sacrifice.

**We gather to praise God for their faithfulness in the face of challenging times.**

They sought to follow God in shaping worship and doctrine.

**As we, too, seek to follow Jesus' law of love and devotion.**

Let us worship God.

\*OPENING HYMN

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Tune: REGENT SQUARE

**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;  
come, with all your loving kindness, hear your people as we pray,  
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.**

**Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,  
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:  
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!**

7<sup>th</sup> century Latin; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851. Public Domain

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Prayer of Benedict

c. 480-547. Founder of the Benedictine Order,  
Father of Western Christian Monasticism

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, intelligence to understand you, patience to wait for you, eyes to see you, a heart to meditate on you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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

Prayer of Ambrose  
c. 330-397. Bishop of Milan

**O Lord, who is all merciful:**

**Take away my sins from me, and enkindle within me the fire of your Holy Spirit.**

**Take away this heart of stone from me, and give me a heart of flesh and blood,  
a heart to love and adore you, a heart which may delight in you, love you and please you,  
for Christ's sake.**

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

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Prayer of John Wesley  
*The Sunday Service of the Methodists in North America*

O Lord, we beseech thee, absolve thy people from their offences; that through thy bountiful goodness, we may be delivered from the bonds of those sins, which by our frailty we have committed. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Savior.  
**Amen.**

## SUNG RESPONSE #581

"Glory Be to the Father"

## ***Listening to the Word***

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prayer of Origen  
c. 185-254. Theologian, Exegete, Teacher

Lord God, let us keep your Scriptures in mind and meditate on them day and night, persevering in prayer, always on watch. We beg you, Lord, to give us real knowledge of what we read and to show us not only how to understand it but how to put it into practice and to obtain spiritual grace enlightened by the law of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose power and glory will endure throughout all ages. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

I Peter 2:1-10

**2** Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. **2** Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—  
**3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. **4** Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and **5** like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." **7** This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," **8** and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order

that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Living Stones"

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis

## ***Responding to God***

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #481

"I Believe in God the Father"

Martin Luther and John Calvin, along with other contemporary reformers, sang the Apostles' Creed in their services. We do not have their original texts or tunes, but this modern setting is sung to one of Calvin's psalm tunes.

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 #361

"O Christ, the Great Foundation"

\*BENEDICTION

This Biblical benediction was used in several reformers' services through the centuries, including this version used by John Knox, 1556.

The Lord bless you and save you, the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be merciful unto you. The Lord turn his countenance towards you, and grant you his peace.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. **Amen.**

*Greet one another in peace as you depart*

\*POSTLUDE

"A Mighty Fortress"

Martin Luther

This rhythmic setting is the original, as Martin Luther wrote it

---

This service is recorded and broadcast under CCLI license #1738155 and OneLicense #A-734832. All rights reserved.

---

## Church Notes

### WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist: Jackie Thompson  
Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis  
Music Director: Marilyn Padon  
Organist: Pam Ferrell

**POSTCARDS TO OTHER CHURCHES** - On the table in the narthex are postcards to be sent to other West Virginia Presbyterian churches this week. Please take time to add your signature to let them know that we are thinking of them and have them in our prayers.

**THE BRIDGEVIEW FOOD MINISTRY** will be packing lunches this Sunday, after worship service. Join us in the Fellowship Hall!



**CALLING ALL WOMEN**  
**WOMEN'S CIRCLE OUTING**  
**Capitol Clay Arts Co.**  
**512 D Street, South Charleston**  
**Tuesday, October 28 at 6:00 pm**  
**Tickets are \$30 each**

**Please RSVP – text or call DeeDee Means at 304-744-0887 before Tuesday.**



### PET SUPPLIES NEEDED

The RLPC Women's Circle is sponsoring a pet supplies drive for the Kanawha County Animal Shelters during the month of October.

There will be a box in the Narthex where you can drop off any of the following items, which would be welcome:

Wet and/or Dry Dog and Kitty Food (Purina preferred)  
Blankets, sheets, towels (no pillows)  
Toys and Greenies



# ***Prayer List***

*To add/remove/correct names on the prayer list,  
please call the church office (768-4141) or email [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)*

## **Prayers of Joy**

### **Prayers for Concerns** – Our friends and neighbors and their families

|              |               |                |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Ed Bailey    | Cheryl Laws   | Susan Spurgeon |
| Larry Graham | Hollie McCraw | Bill Wagner    |
| Mary Graham  | Rick McGuire  | Mike Whitten   |
| Emily Holton | Don Shroder   |                |
| Ravi Isaiah  | Mike Spurgeon |                |

- 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 weeks.
- Praying for peace in the Ukraine/Russia conflict and the hostages and their families.
- 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** - Betty Berry, Edgewood Summit; Jackie Pauley, Valley Center

**Prayers for those at Home** –Donie Argento, Joel Callison, Bonnie Cheely, Anita Wehrmann

**Prayer List for Churches:** First Presbyterian Church, Buckhannon; Sugar Grove Presbyterian Church, Morgantown; Mathakwaini Church (Mah-THAH-kwab-ENN'nay); Thegenge Parish (They-GEN-gay)

**E**CCLESIA REFORMATA, SEMPER REFORMANDA, *Reformed, Always Reforming* is the motto of the Presbyterian Church, and we can trace the reformations brought by fathers of the faith (yes, men) through the centuries. Here is a little history about the fathers of the faith who appear in today's worship.

APOSTLES' CREED was written c.180AD and was added to over the centuries to address certain theological questions. The form that we have today was finalized by the 8<sup>th</sup> century. It is well documented that several of the worship liturgies through the centuries included singing the creed, perhaps intoned on a single note, like a chant.

**ORIGEN**  
c.185-253AD      Also known as Origen Adamatius of Alexandria, he was one of the earliest leaders, predating the legalization of Christianity and the compilation of the Bible. He studied, wrote about and taught about the Jewish scriptures and the memoirs of Jesus that were circulated among the early Christians. He is recognized as the first major Christian theologian. He was an early proponent of the doctrine of the Trinity, although he asserted that the Father was superior to the Son, and the Son was superior to the Spirit. His teachings were later deemed heretical and banned. He lived during the time of persecution of Christians (since Christianity was still illegal) and was imprisoned in 250 and severely tortured for two years. He died of his injuries soon after.

**AMBROSE**  
Born c.339AD in Trier, Gaul (now Germany), he was educated in Rome where he studied law, literature and rhetoric. He moved to Milan, and while serving as governor there, he was unexpectedly elected as Bishop of Milan by popular acclamation, despite being an unbaptized layman at the time. He was baptized shortly after accepting the position. Ambrose's legacy includes his development of church-state relations, where he asserted the church's authority over secular rulers. He is also remembered as the teacher who converted and baptized St. Augustine of Hippa.

**BENEDICT**  
c.480-547AD      Benedict founded the Order of Saint Benedict (*Ordo Sancti Benedicti*), a monastic order, in Subiaco, Italy. It was one of dozens of Benedictine houses now established in many countries. The houses are autonomous, governed by an abbot or abbess. The usual rule is six hours of prayer (observed by Offices of the Day), five hours of manual labor, and four hours of scripture study.

**MARTIN LUTHER**  
1483-1546      Luther was born in Eisleben, Saxony (now Germany). As a university student, he was drawn to theology and philosophy and later became a monk of the Augustinian order. The teachings of the Catholic Church troubled him, and he came to reject several practices, including the practice of indulgences and papal authority. Luther taught that salvation was not earned by human efforts or granted by the Catholic Church, but was obtained solely by faith in God's grace and belief in Jesus Christ. Because of these and other teachings, he was excommunicated, charged as a heretic, and narrowly escaped being burned at the stake. In spite of continually hiding from his prosecutors, he accomplished many reforms, including translating the Latin Bible into German so all could read it; the Mass conducted in the vernacular language so all could understand and participate; his hymns introduced congregational singing; and his marriage set a model for clergy to marry.

- JOHN CALVIN Calvin was born Jehan Cauvin in Noyon, a town in the Kingdom of France.  
1509-1564 He originally trained as a lawyer. He broke from the Catholic Church around 1530. When violence broke out against Protestants in France, he fled to Switzerland where he led congregations of French refugees. His ideas were often controversial and he was often challenged by civic authorities. He moved from Geneva to Strasbourg, back to Geneva, often battling civic and theological constraints. Through it all he developed new forms of church government and liturgy, and wrote and rewrote his *Institutes* books. Calvin is considered the father of Presbyterianism.
- JOHN KNOX Knox was born sometime between 1505-1515 in Haddington, near East Lothian, Scotland. He was ordained a Catholic priest in Edinburgh in 1538, but influenced by early reformers, he converted to the Protestant faith. Caught up in political and ecclesiastical events, he was taken prisoner by French forces, then exiled to England on his release in 1549. While in exile, he was licensed to work for the Church of England. When Queen Mary re-established Catholicism, he fled to Geneva, Switzerland where he met John Calvin, with whom he gained knowledge and experience in Reformed theology. By his own account, the two years he spent in Geneva were happy times. On his return to Scotland, he led the Protestant Reformation in Scotland, replacing Anglicanism with Presbyterianism.
- JOHN WESLEY Born in Epworth, England, he was the 15<sup>th</sup> of 19 children born to Samuel and Susanna Wesley. A cleric, theologian and evangelist, he was a principal leader of the Methodist movement within the Church of England. He was sent to colonial Savannah (Georgia) to evangelize, and on the voyage, the ship encountered a terrible storm that broke the mast of the ship. Aboard the ship were Moravians who calmly sang hymns and prayed through the storm. The experience deeply affected Wesley and influenced his theology. Under Wesley's direction, Methodists became leaders in many social issues, including the abolition of slavery and support for women preachers.
- A FINAL NOTE The Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, or Vatican II, was convened by Pope John XXIII in 1962 because he believed the Catholic Church needed "updating" in these modern times. The Council achieved, seemingly overnight and without bloodshed, what the reformers tried to achieve over 17 centuries, often at the expense of their lives. Among the many reforms were the primacy of scripture; use of the vernacular language so all people could understand and participate; introduction of congregational hymn singing; recognition that all baptized Christians, whether Catholic or not, could achieve salvation, to name just a few. These changes also affected Protestant denominations who now embraced Catholic practices that they once discarded: observance of the seasons of the church year, including the seasonal colors; use of the lectionary; acceptance of clergy wearing ecclesiastical vestments instead of academic robes, to name a few.

*Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*