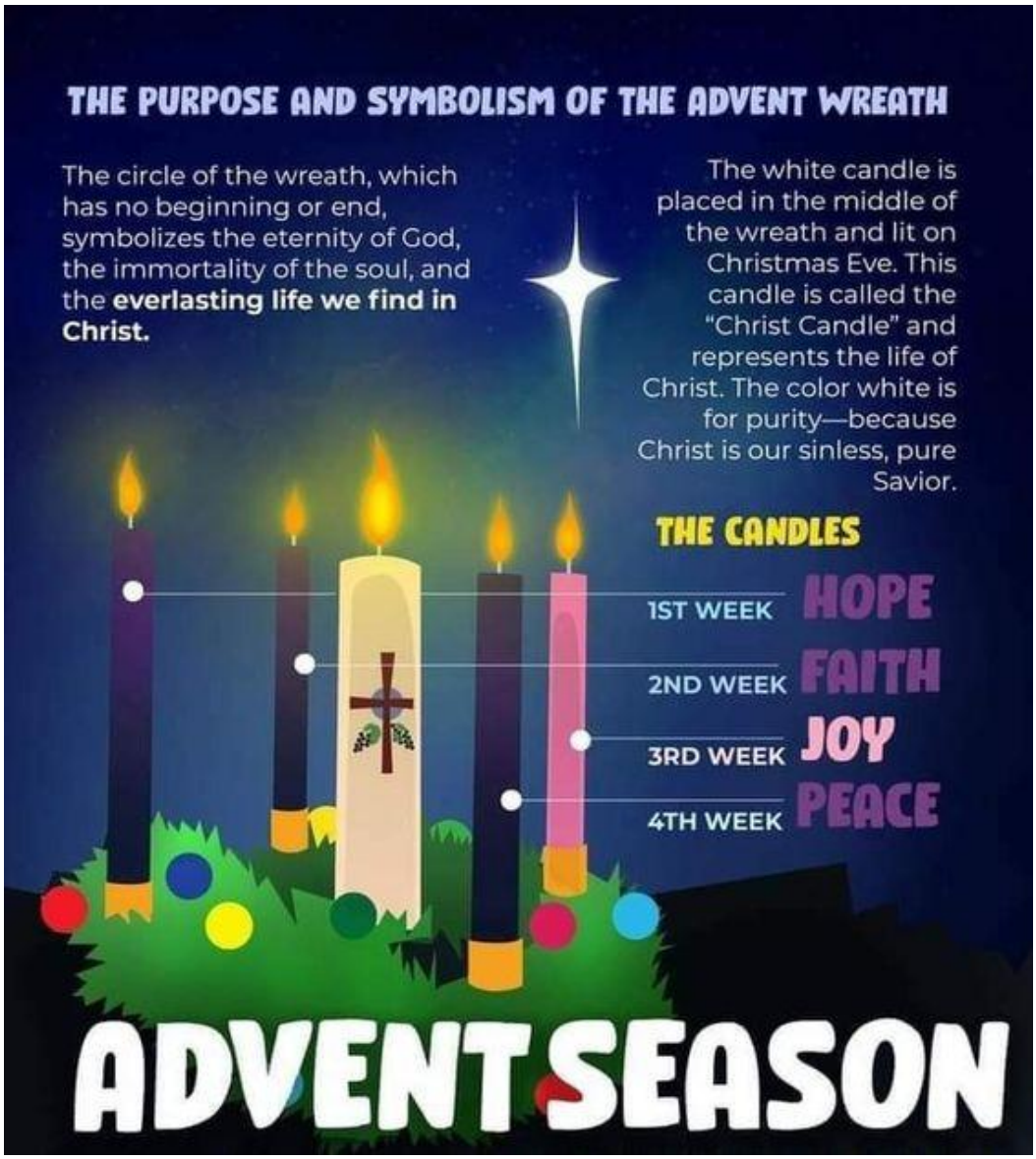
Rock Lake Presbyterian Church
Celebrating 77 years of "Shining Christ's Light"




***First Sunday of Advent***

***November 29, 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***
***First Sunday of Advent***
***November 29, 2026***

# Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Arr. Robert Lau

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*GATHERING SONG Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;**
**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**We'll give him all the glory; we'll give him all the glory;**
**we'll give him all the glory, Christ the Lord!**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!
**Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.**
Be alert! Keep awake! The time is drawing near.
We light this candle in the HOPE of Jesus coming to be among us again.
*Soloist sings:* Come, come Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel.
*All sing:* **Come, come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel.**
**Come, come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel.**
Let us worship the Holy One who has come to us and will come again.

*OPENING HYMN #82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

…because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. **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, we confess that we become distracted, even weary in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules, we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world.**

*Please take a moment for silent confession of our distractedness.*

**Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to the surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace.**

*Please take a moment for silent prayer for forgiveness.*

**We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and lifted up to new. life. Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE Tune: ST. LOUIS

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;**
**cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.**
**We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;**
**O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

# Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

…through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake
at your presence— 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make
your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked
at your presence. 4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any
God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. 5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid
yourself we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous
deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden
your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O Lord, you are our
Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be
exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all
your people.

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

**24** "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give
its light, **25** and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be
shaken. **26** "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
**27** Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends
of the earth to the ends of heaven. **28** "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch
becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you
see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. **30** Truly I tell you,
this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. **31** Heaven and earth
will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **32** "But about that day or hour no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Beware, keep alert, for you do
not know when the time will come. **34** It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home
and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the
watch. **35** Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come,
in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, **36** or else he may find you asleep when
he comes suddenly. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

SERMON "Beginning to Watch Anew" Randy Fife, ALP

# *Responding to God*

*HYMN "O Day of God, Draw Nigh" Tune: TERRA BEATA

**O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power;**
**come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.**
**Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,**
**the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,**
**and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.**
**Bring to our world of strife thy sovereign word of peace,**
**that war may haunt the earth no more, and desolation cease.**

**O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power;**
**come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.**
**O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth;**
**let there be light again, and set thy judgments on the earth.**

R.B.Y. Scott, 1937. Public Domain

*ADVENT LITANY

As Sarah waited…Ninety years for a son to fulfill God's promise.
**We wait in hope for what has been spoken to us.**
As Moses waited…40 years in the desert, being prepared by God to lead his people.

**We wait for emptiness and humility; for bravado to wither.**
As Israel waited…40 years of wandering, hungry, depressed, thirsting, unsure.
**We wait for the right time to act.**
As the Prophets waited…1000 years of promises that God would raise up a Saviour.
**We wait for the signs that God has not forgotten.**
As Mary waited…9 months of her 14 years for the child of God.
**We feel the birth-pains, yet fear for the child.**
As John the Baptist waited…scanning the crowds for the one whose sandals he would not be worthy to untie.
**We long for an experience of the Divine.**
As Jesus waited…30 years of creeping time. 40 days in the desert of temptation. 3 years of misunderstanding. 3 days in the depths of hell.
**So we wait for God's time. Preparing the way.**
**Our turn to toil on leveling mountains and straightening paths.**
**Our turn to watch the horizon.**
**Our turn to pass on the hope that He who promised is faithful and will come back.**

CENTSABILITY OFFERING

…and bless those who work to eradicate hunger. **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 #79 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"
*Repeat refrain after soloist*
*Stanza one: soloist sings; all sing refrain*
*Stanzas 2 & 3: All sing*

*BENEDICTION

*DEPARTING SONG Tune: GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*Greet one another in peace as you depart*

Much of today's confessional liturgy was taken or adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.*
The Advent Litany was taken from –reworship, "Waiting," J. Baker
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# Church Notes

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Liturgist: | David Broyles |
| Preacher: | Randy Fife, ALP |
| Music Director: | Marilyn Padon |
| Organist: | Pam Ferrell |

**WE WELCOME BACK Authorized Lay Preacher Randy Fife to our pulpit today.**

**POSTCARDS TO OTHER CHURCHES** are on the table in the narthex. These postcards will 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.

**OAKWOOD TERRACE CHRISTMAS PROJECT**
The current plan for the Oakwood Terrace Christmas project is for Delivery of the gifts on Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 pm. Volunteers are needed for this activity since we will be visiting each apartment to have Santa deliver the gifts and talk to the children.

Preliminary gift lists have been developed. These numbers will change slightly as Oakwood Terrace refines the numbers due to changes in occupancy. Currently, Rock Lake is assigned the following children. Persons may adopt any part of these groups.

Age 8 0 girls and 9 boys (4 boys have been adopted)
Age 9 5 girls and 6 boys
Age 10 4 girls and 7 boys

Volunteers are needed to purchase and wrap these gifts. All gift costs can be reimbursed through the Oakwood Terrace account at First Presbyterian. If there is enough interest, a wrapping party could be scheduled for Sunday, December 4, after Church.

Wrapped gifts should be placed in the front of the choir room by Thursday evening, December 10. The gifts will be transported to First Presbyterian on Friday afternoon, December 11 by Ron Rogillio.

From 9:00 am to about 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 12 at First Presbyterian, the gifts will be sorted and bagged for each apartment. A few volunteers are needed at this time, but not necessarily for the entire duration.

Loading of gifts into vehicles will occur at 9:30 am on Saturday, December 19. Two vehicles are needed. Please contact Ron Rogillio at ron@rogillio.net to volunteer or ask questions.

# 2027 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of this writing (November 24, 2026), with 10 families responding, the 2027 total commitment is $66,990.
Of these families, 6 have increased their commitments from 2026!

Thank you to all members and friends who have returned commitments for 2027!

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 2027.
If you need a commitment card, please call Ken Schmidt
(304-768-8565 or 304-881-2408).

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 in this Advent Season!***

Ken Schmidt, chair, Stewardship Task Force

# 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
Barker Family
Shayne Compton
Jeff George
Larry Graham
Emily Holton
Ravi Isaiah
Kirk King
Doug Lathom
Cheryl Laws
Hollie McCraw
Rick McGuire
Marcia Obukowicz
Karen Robinson
Don Shroder
Mike & Susan Spurgeon
Ed Thompson
Bill Wagner
Gary Withrow

- 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
Jeff Barker
Brent Bishop
Evan Chaney
Nigel Jeffries

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