

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

"Which of the two
did the will of
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



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.

September 27, 2026
Email: rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com
website: www.rlpc.org

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 27, 2026

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"O Lord, My God"

Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Ron Rogillio

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship and praise our God,
and to learn more about the wonders of our God.

How great and wonderful is our Compassionate God.

We come, with ears and hearts open to God,
ready to discover more of God's mysteries and miracles.

How generous and caring is our Unchanging God.

We gather to share together in our common history,
and to experience the enrichment which that brings us.

**All praise and honor to God for past and present blessings,
and for God's merciful love and grace.**

*OPENING HYMN #625

"O Lord, My God"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

**We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory,
but people find only hardened hearts.**

**We would like to be transformed people,
but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you.**

**We long to stand with those who are in need,
but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid in judgment.**

Forgive us, God who came down to us.

Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost.

**Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting.
Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus
Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that kingdom of grace and hope.**

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news: in Christ, God's plan for salvation was accomplished.
You are forgiven; you are made new.

**We will complete God's joy by sharing compassion, forgiveness,
hope with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE #606

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, by your Holy Spirit, tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to
obey Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 78:1-4,12-16

¹Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ²I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³things that we have heard and know, that our ancestors have told us. ⁴We will not hide them from their children, we will tell to the coming generation, the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ¹²In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels. In the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zo'an. ¹³He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. ¹⁴In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light. ¹⁵He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. ¹⁶He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet" ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly

I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.
³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

SERMON

“On Changing Our Minds”

Randy Fife, ALP

Responding to God

*HYMN #695

“Change My Heart, O God”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Excerpted from *A Brief Statement 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.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 #538

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”
All sing refrain.
Soloist sings stanza 2; all sing refrain

*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

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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Jackie Thompson
Preacher: Randy Fife, ALP
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

WE WELCOME BACK RANDY FIFE TO OUR PULPIT TODAY.

Randy completed the Presbytery's Authorized Lay Preacher/Commissioned Pastor program in 2024 and has preached in several different churches of the Presbytery. He is an elder, served as Clerk of Session, and over the years has served the Presbytery as Moderator, Commissioner to the General Assembly, Chair of the Committee on Ministry and Chair of the Leadership Team. Randy retired from the practice of law after 37 years. He is married and has two adult children.

We will be packing lunches for **BRIDGEVIEW SCHOOL MINISTRY** after service this Sunday, September 27. Donations needed at this time are Ravioli and Oatmeal.

POSTCARDS TO OTHER CHURCHES are on the table in the narthex. They 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.

FOURTH QUARTER 2026 'THESE DAYS' devotionals are available on the shelf in the Narthex.

Next Sunday, October 4, we will be celebrating **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**. For those who will not be able to attend in-person worship, please take time during the coming week to prepare for the Sacrament.

Also, next Sunday, October 4, is **FOOD OFFERING SUNDAY**. Don't forget that each Communion Sunday is "Food Offering" Sunday. You may leave your offering in the red wagon in the Narthex. All the collected food will go to Heart and Hand.

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: Spring Valley Presbyterian Church, Huntington; Upper Glade Presbyterian Church;Hubuini 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.