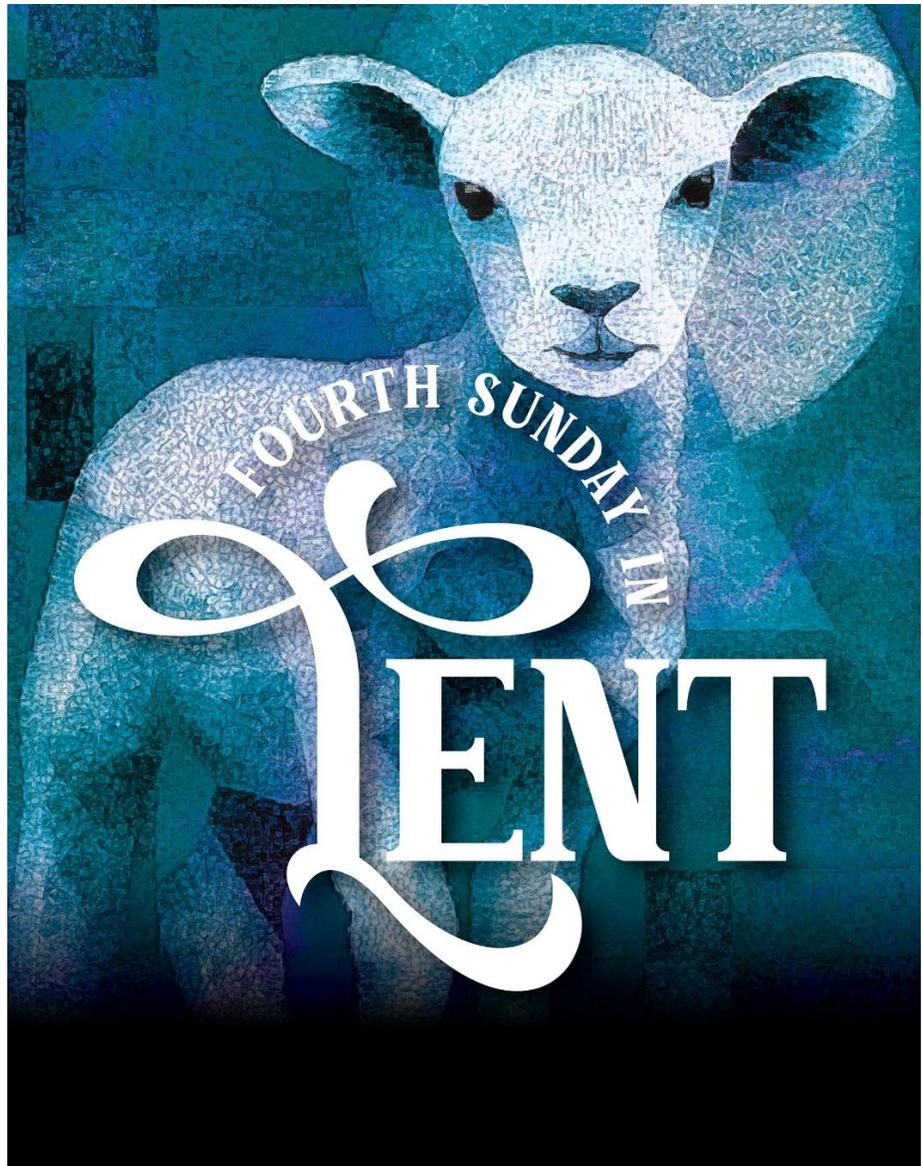


Rock Lake Presbyterian Church
Celebrating 76 years of "Shining Christ's Light"



March 15, 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
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 15, 2026

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

Arr. David Paxton

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Ephesians 5:20

Give thanks to God!

We thank God for joy, for laughter, for abundant blessings of every kind.

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

We thank God, when we can and as we can, for struggles, for solitude, for fears.

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God that in Christ, our joys as well as our pain, our losses as well as our laughter, are in God's heart and hands.

*Written by Thom Shuman and posted on *Lectionary Liturgies*. Used by permission*

*OPENING HYMN #159

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...that others may see you too and believe. **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

Holy Jesus, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness.

Being so sure that we "see," we miss the truths you would teach us.

With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness.

Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, our own failures and our own faults.

Make our "shadow side" known to us and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace.

For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can truly worship you.

Lift all that is on your heart and mind to God in silent prayer.

God's people say **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

If we are in Christ, we are new people; the past is finished and done. Everything has been made fresh and new. Friends, believe in the Good News of the Gospel! In Jesus Christ we have been Forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE #649

“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

John Newton, 1772. Public Domain

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT

I Samuel 16:1-13

16 The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” **2** Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” **3** Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” **4** Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” **5** He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. **6** When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” **7** But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” **8** Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” **9** Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” **10** Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” **11** Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” **12** He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” **13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

GOSPEL

John 9:35-41

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” **36** He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” **37** Jesus

said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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

SERMON

"The Sight We Need"

Cherrie Sizemore, ALP

Responding to God

*HYMN #451

"Open My Eyes"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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 #543

"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

Repeat refrain (last line) after soloist.

Stanzas 1 & 2: soloist on verses; all sing refrain

Stanzas 3, 4, 5: All sing

EXTINGUISHING OF LENTEN CANDLE

*BENEDICTION

*DEPARTING SONG #826 "Lift High the Cross" (*Refrain only*)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Greet one another in peace as you depart

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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist: Taylor Bailey
Preacher: Cherrie Sizemore
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

WE WELCOME CHERRIE SIZEMORE 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.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS are available in the Narthex.

EASTER TULIPS - Tulips have been made available for your purchase in memory of or in honor of an individual or family on Easter Sunday. The deadline for ordering is March 29.

Forms for the order are in the bulletin, newsletter and on the shelf in the narthex for your convenience.

Any tulips not picked up by the donor on Easter Sunday will be planted in the church garden.



UPCOMING CHOIR PRACTICE

Let's get ready to sing for Easter!

Rehearsal:

Thursday: March 19, 7:00 pm

Thursday: March 26, 7:00 pm

Thursday: April 2, 7:00 pm

See you there!



Presbytery of West Virginia's
Festival of Faith

“TELL ME A STORY”

Saturday, March 21, 2026
First Presbyterian Church, Charleston
9:00 am – 3:45 pm

Keynote : The Widow's Mite and the Widower's Might:
Seeing Scripture in Ordinary Actions

Presenter: Bil Lepp



**Festival of Faith
Workshops**

- ❖ Using Storytelling to Spread the Word
- ❖ Finding God at the End of Your Pen: Journaling as Spiritual Practice
- ❖ How Storytelling Can Help Seniors Heal
- ❖ Presenting to the People: Effective Communication Matters
- ❖ Redefining Opportunity: What One Writer Learned from Immigration Description
- ❖ My Story: A Journey of Recovery, Redemption, and Faith
- ❖ Hope for Our Emerging Presbytery
- ❖ Treasurer and Finance Committee Chat
- ❖ Scrapbooking for FUN!
- ❖ Story Talk: Children's Books for Celebrating Family Stories
- ❖ Singing the Stories of the Christian Faith
- ❖ Telling the Biblical Story through the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
- ❖ Growing Up Black in Appalachia
- ❖ A Budget that Tells a Story: Stewarding Resources for God's Mission Description

A time to grow in faith and knowledge, gain insights and skills to take back to your congregation, and to connect with colleagues in ministry.

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

Roberta Alsop	Ravi Isaiah	Mike & Susan Spurgeon
Merrily Bailey	Cheryl Laws	Bill Wagner
Shayne Compton	Hollie McCraw	Brandon Ward
Larry Graham	Rick McGuire	Gary Withrow
Scott Hamilton	Olga Schmidt*	
Emily Holton	Don Shroder	

- Prayers for our troops and for all who are involved in the Middle East Conflict; hoping that it ends soon.
- 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.
- Praying for peace in the Ukraine/Russia conflict and the Israel/Hamas conflict and all conflict around the globe. Grant us peace!
- 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: Bramwell Presbyterian Church; Gilbert Presbyterian Church; Kariguini Church; Giakanja Parish



This year we will provide tulips for purchase in memory or in honor of someone to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Please use the order form below to place your order by Sunday, March 29.

Please send your payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate using a pew envelope designated as "Easter Flowers". Checks should be made payable to RLPC.

Be sure to complete the order form below, including how many pots you want and if they are in memory or in honor of someone. (Additional forms will also be available in the narthex.)

A list of those giving and for whom the flowers are given will be included in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. Please take your flowers home on Easter morning or they will be planted in the church garden.



Order form

_____ 6" Potted Tulips without a bow \$16.50 each

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Your name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____