

Rock Lake Presbyterian Church  
Celebrating 72 years of “Shining Christ’s Light”



*The Parable of the Sower*

***Due to recent CDC Guidelines,  
we strongly urge you to wear a mask  
whether or not you have been vaccinated.***

Welcome to Rock Lake Presbyterian Church.  
We are happy to have you worship with us.

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 hymns are available. See usher for information.

October 17, 2021  
Email: [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)  
website: [www.rlpcc.org](http://www.rlpcc.org)

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**Twenty First Sunday After Pentecost**  
**October 17, 2021**

**Gathering**

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP  
WELCOME  
THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE: "Come, Thou Fount" Arr. Harold DeCou

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have been called together to face God's new way of living.  
**Sometimes we'd rather remember how things used to be.**

But this is a new day. This is a day to put aside fear and to take courage.  
**We will look to the new day ahead of us and take courage in God's loving call.**

**Let us worship God together!**

\*OPENING HYMN #475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God, we gather in your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with you, and eager to hear your Word. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.**

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION:

**Merciful and mighty God, you plant your seed in all kinds of soil. You speak, hoping that the whole world will listen and heed what you say. We struggle to follow your word. We fail to live up to your example. We like to pick and choose the recipients of your grace and our kindness. We show love to people who seem most deserving and often leave the rest behind. Strengthen us to turn away from our self-centered tendencies and forgive us for these and all our sins.**

*(A moment of personal reflection)*  
And all of God's people said, **Amen**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE Hymn

Tune: REGENT SQUARE

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to Father, Spirit, Son!

# ***Listening to the Word***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*sung*)

Hymn #171

“A Sower Came from Ancient Hills”

*Soloist sings verse 1; All sing verse 4*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:26-31

NRSV

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

Mark 4:1-9

NRSV

<sup>4</sup> Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup> He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>3</sup> “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup> Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” <sup>9</sup> And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“God’s Word in Good Soil”

Sharon Gearing

## ***Responding to God***

\*HYMN

“Christ Taught Us of a Farmer”

Tune: AURELIA

Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seed.  
A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds.  
But others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.  
O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.

You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.  
Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.  
By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.  
The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow, too.

We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways,  
For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise.  
For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.  
The seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.

In times of joy we praise you, in struggling times we search,  
And always we are learning to be your faithful church.  
Your Spirit gives us vision, and hearts and lives made new.  
Your harvest is for sharing; sent out, we work for you.

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\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

**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

PASTORAL PRAYER/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***

\*Closing Hymn #804

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

\*WORDS OF DISMISSAL

**...Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE

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# ***Church Notes***

## **LITURGIST**

We welcome Taylor Bailey as Liturgist today.

## **USHER**

Thanks to Ron Rogillio for being Usher this week.

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM THE CONGREGATION**

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.

## **LITURGISTS NEEDED**

Now that we have returned to in-person worship, we need to re-populate our liturgist rotation list. If you are able to serve in worship this way, we have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.

## **BRIDGEVIEW FOOD PROGRAM**

The Bridgeview Food program has started back up. We are in need of a coordinator and volunteers who are able to help put together the food bags. Food items can be dropped off at the church during office hours (9-noon Monday through Friday).

## **RLPC'S RETURN TO IN PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES**

***Due to recent CDC Guidelines, we strongly urge you to wear a mask whether or not you have been vaccinated.***

We plan to continue streaming our worship through YouTube and Facebook for those unable to attend in person.

**DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?** If you need a ride to church, please call Ken Schmidt at 304-768-8565 (home), or 304-881-2408 (cell). Both numbers can record a message.

**CAN YOU PROVIDE RIDES TO CHURCH?** If you can provide rides to church, please call Ken Schmidt at 304-768-8565 (home), or 304-881-2408 (cell). Both numbers can record a message.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

A restroom is located in the parlor across from the sanctuary. It is handicap accessible. Additional restrooms are located downstairs and near the nursery.

A water fountain is available downstairs or cups of water are available in the parlor.

A note from your Nominating Committee...

We still seek two nominees for the 2024 session class, and a nominee for the 2023 session class.

Is the Holy Spirit's still, small voice calling you to get involved? Have you served on session in the PAST, but haven't recently? Or have you never served on session, but are being called now?

If the Lord is calling you to action, BE **BOLD!** Call one of the nominating committee members listed below for information.

If you have a person in mind who would be I-D-E-A-L, won't you share that name with us?

And please pray for those we have contacted, and for us as we seek to discern God's will for this part of Christ's body.

Your nominating committee,

Hilda Alsop 304-768-8496

Ron Rogillio 304-541-1243

Barb Clark 304-206-2131

Ken Schmidt 304-881-2408



## Bluestone Camp Fundraiser

It's been another hard year for camps all across the country, and Bluestone Camp & Retreat is no exception. The Friends of Bluestone is working hard to create income to maintain the camp this year, and you can help! They have joined efforts with SaveAround Coupon Books for a win-win

fundraiser -- you pay \$25 for a coupon book (good now through the end of 2022) and half goes to Bluestone. After you use 4-5 coupons, you've paid yourself back that \$25 investment, and from there on it's pure savings -- and you have the pleasure of knowing you also provided needed capital for Bluestone! What's not to love about that?

Best of all, individual books are available for Charleston and Huntington (including the areas between) and another 86 cities in 30 states. These books make great gifts for out-of-town friends, family, and, of course, Bluestone fans and supporters who no longer live close by. SaveAround Coupon Books have 260 valuable coupons for local businesses, including restaurants, services, retail, entertainment, recreation, and an additional 60+ coupons for national chains, all worth thousands of dollars in savings. Included in the cost is a downloadable app for smartphones, so you can redeem coupons with your phone rather than carry the book with you. In keeping with COVID concerns, restaurants are honoring coupons for take-out and curbside pickup as well as dine-in where that's available. Preview the Charleston, Huntington, or any other city books at [www.SAPayNow.com/212394](http://www.SAPayNow.com/212394)

Simply visit the link, select a state and a city, and preview the savings. Buying the books is easy: just fill in the requested information, including the seller or Scott Hamilton, [wshamilton@yahoo.com](mailto:wshamilton@yahoo.com) Want more than one? If for the same location, select number from the dropdown box. If for a different city, select "Add another book". They will all be sent to the same address. Choose "Ship book(s) - FREE SHIPPING" and you'll receive them sooner.

Ordering for out-of-town friends or relatives? Just fill in each of their addresses in additional orders. It's all contactless -- a simple process during the COVID pandemic. Would you like to be a hands-on seller? Please contact Scott Hamilton at [wshamilton@yahoo.com](mailto:wshamilton@yahoo.com) or 304 553-8296 C. He will get a Charleston book with an order form to you to record your sales. For every five books you sell, you'll get a free book for your family.

Sales run through the end of November. We encourage you to share this information with families, friends, and neighbors using social media, email, or in person (socially distanced). If they're not comfortable ordering online, just record their purchases on the order form and collect payment from them before placing the order. If they order online, Scott will update you about your sales.

We hope you'll help Bluestone with this fundraising effort by being an official seller to our congregation plus friends and coworkers. If selling isn't your choice, we think buying a book for yourself and/or others as gifts is an awesome way to support this crucial and beloved camp during this challenging year!

## ***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**

Stephani Andrews	Jordan Hamill	Abby Poling
Merrily Bailey	Adilynn Hardin	Joy Ratcliff
Day and Gene Bishop	Tre' Hardin	Chris Rogillio
Arica Blessing	Brad Harkins	Ruggie Rutledge
Jennifer Fisher Braden	Juanita Hefner	Kevin Shaffer
Keyleigh Carruthers	Amy Jo Hickey	Michelle Smith
Erin "Nikki" Childers	Carol Hill	Susan Spurgeon
Barbara Clark	Joe Layne	Ike Taylor
Amiel Cooper	Betty Oakes	Lauren Thomas
Tory Fenniger	Marcia Obukowicz	Ellie Grace Washington
Bogan "Danny" Gumowski	Jackie Pauley	Johnny Witt

#### **Prayers for our Military**

Brett Baker	Brent Bishop	Evan Chaney
Jeff Barker	Steve Cash	

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** - Cliff Asbury, Kanawha Place; Reva Asbury, Kanawha City; Betty Berry, Edgewood Summit

**Prayers for those at home** - Jeanette Bates, Bonnie Cheely, Anita Wehrmann

**Prayer List for Churches:** Philippi Presbyterian Church; Pineville Presbyterian Church; Mathakwaini Church (Mah-THAH-kwab-ENN'nay); Thegenge Parish (They-GEN'gay)

\*Added to Prayer List this week