

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

"Follow me,
and I will
make you fish
for people."

Matthew 4:19, NRSV



January 25, 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

January 25, 2026

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

Scottish Traditional
Arr. William McNair

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus calls us
to praise and prayer,
to song and silence;
Jesus calls us to worship.
Jesus calls us to
hearing and healing,
to service and solidarity;
Jesus calls us to love.
Jesus calls us
to advocacy and action,
to protest and provision;
Jesus calls us to justice.
Let us heed the call of Christ.
Let us worship together with joy.

Written by Joanna Harader and posted on *Spacious Faith*. <https://spaciousfaith.com>

*OPENING HYMN #720

"Jesus Calls Us"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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

God, our Light and Salvation,
forgive us for those moments when we have walked in darkness,
stumbling in the wilderness of quarrels, division, and bickering.
You have called us to follow you and to fish for people,
but too often we think that *our* way is the *only* way to do your will.
Forgive us, Lord, for the brokenness that we bring upon ourselves.

Silence for personal confession

God, the Stronghold of our Life,
**Hear our cry as we come to you for unity.
Send your Spirit to gather us as you desire us.
Remind us that unity does not mean uniformity.
Teach us that the “same mind” you call us to have is not ours,
but the mind of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Written by Stephen Fearing and posted on Wild and Precious Life

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

...By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE #591

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!” *Refrain only*

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM

Psalm 27:1,4-9

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? ⁴One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. ⁵For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. ⁶Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord. ⁷Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. ⁸My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, Lord, I will seek. ⁹Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.

*HYMN

“God Is My Strong Salvation” Psalm 27

Tune: MERLE’S TUNE

**God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear!
In peril and temptation my light, my help, is near.
Though hosts encamp around me, firm to the fight I stand;
what terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?**

**Place on the Lord reliance; my soul, with courage wait;
God’s truth be thine affiance, when faint and desolate.
God’s might thy heart shall strengthen; God’s love thy joy increase;
mercy thy days shall lengthen; the Lord will give thee peace.**

James Montgomery, 1822. Public Domain

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of

Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Reflections on the Scriptures”

Randy Fife, ALP

Responding to God

*HYMN #726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

*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 #170

“You Walk along Our Shoreline”

*BENEDICTION

*DEPARTING SONG #765

"May the God of Hope Go with Us"

**May the God of hope go with us everyday, 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.**

Alvin Schutmaat, 1984. Public Domain

Greet one another in peace

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -There will be a short break before the meeting to let the AV team switch from broadcast to Zoom. Ed Thompson, Moderator.

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Church Notes

Liturgist: Margie Gumowski
Preacher: Randy Fife
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

WE WELCOME RANDY FIFE TO OUR PULPIT TODAY

Randy completed the Presbytery's Authorized Lay Preacher/Commissioned Pastor program in 2024 and has preached in nine different churches of the Presbytery. He is an elder and current Clerk of Session of Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charleston, 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.

POSTCARDS TO OTHER CHURCHES are 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 next Sunday, February 1, after worship service.

THE SESSION HAS CALLED the Annual Congregational Meeting for today after worship in the sanctuary. Ed Thompson will moderate. The meeting's purpose is to:

- Receive the annual reports of church committees and organizations, and answer any questions about the reports.
 - Review and answer questions on the 2025 Year End Financial Report; and discuss the 2026 church budget.
 - Hear and act upon the report from the Congregation's Nominating Committee.
 - Hear and act upon a proposed amendment to the Rock Lake Presbyterian Church Incorporated Bylaws. **The clerk withdraws this item pending further consultation.**
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2026 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of this writing (January 23, 2025), with 21 families responding, the 2026 total commitment is \$112,080.

Of these families, 13 have increased their commitments from 2025!

Thank you to all members and friends who have returned commitments for 2026!

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!

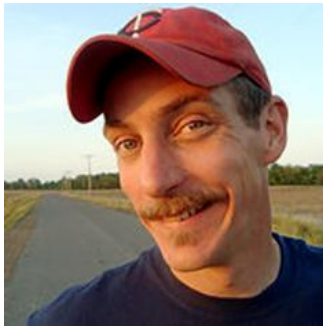
Returning your commitment card will reduce the number of follow-up contacts which the Stewardship Task Force must make.

We need to hear from all our members and friends so we can plan for 2026. 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 2026!

Ken Schmidt, chair, Stewardship Task Force



“Tell Me a Story,” Saturday, March 21, 2026

In this email, you will find information on the [Presbytery of West Virginia's Festival of Faith](#), including a [flyer](#) to post where those in your church might see it; a [bulletin insert](#); [registration information and form](#); [Workshop Descriptions](#); and a [Lunch Order Form](#). Please share these by email and in print with those in your congregation.

Festival of Faith, a day of learning through keynote and workshops, fellowship, worship, will occur this year on Saturday, March 21, at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, from 9:30 am – 3:45 pm.

Bil Lepp, storyteller, artist, and recording artist, will be our Keynote Presenter. The title of his keynote will be: The Widow's Mite and the Widower's Might: Seeing Scripture in

Ordinary Actions. He will also be leading a workshop titled: “Using Storytelling to Spread the Word.”

Other workshops on a variety of topics will also be offered. Descriptions can be found [here](#). [Information](#) and [registration forms](#) are available using the links in this email and also on the [Presbytery of West Virginia's website](#). The early registration deadline, with a lower cost, is Monday, March 2. The deadline for [ordering lunch](#) or indicating the need for childcare is also Monday, March 3.

If you have questions about this event, or need additional information, please contact Kari Preslar, Chair of the Festival of Faith Planning Team, [by email](#) or 304-541-7222.

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	Bill Wagner
Merrily Bailey	Cheryl Laws	Brandon Ward
Larry Graham	Hollie McCraw	
Mary Graham	Rick McGuire	Sympathy for the Family and
Emily Holton	Don Shroder	Friends of Charles Turley*

- Praying for all the brothers and sisters in Minnesota and all other states whose lives are being challenged by ICE.
- 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: Parsons Presbyterian Church; Summerlee Presbyterian Church; Gaaki Parish