

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



# SALT & LIGHT

February 8, 2026  
Email: [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)  
website: [www.rlpco.org](http://www.rlpco.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**

**February 8, 2026**

**Gathering**

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Holy Manna"

Arr. John Carter

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, those who greatly delight in his commandments.**

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.**

We who gather are broken yet holy; sinners at heart, yet fully redeemed. We are God's very own, called together here this day.

**Let us sing. Let us pray. Let us join together in worship. Praise the Lord!**

HYMN #35

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (*in unison*)

**Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. 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

**Gracious God, we confess that it is harder to do than we expected, this life of faith. You call us to be salt of the earth and to live lives of justice, righteousness, and love. But our lives become busy. Following what others do is just easier. And sometimes the cost for doing what is right seems too high.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Startle our senses and disrupt our routines. Renew in us the passion for doing what is right in your eyes, and inspire us to be sources of your light in the world. May we, like the prophets and the saints, act by faith no matter how high the cost.**

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

# *Listening to the Word*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Hymn #451 "Open My Eyes"

## PSALM Psalm 112:1-10

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments.  
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.  
3 Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. 4 They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. 5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. 6 For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. 7 They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord. 8 Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. 9 They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor. 10 The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

## GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. <sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

## SERMON

## “Who You Are in the World”

Brandi Hicks, ALP

# *Responding to God*

\*HYMN

## “O Word of God Incarnate”

## TUNE: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

The church from you, dear Savior, received this gift divine;  
and still that light is lighted on all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,  
amid the rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.

O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold  
to bear before the nations your true light, as of old;  
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this our path to trace,  
till, cloud and storms thus ended, we see you face to face.

William Walsham How, 1867. Public Domain

#### \*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

“This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*DEPARTING SONG

“This Little Light of Mine” *Reprise*

*Greet one another in peace.*

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## Church Notes

Liturgist: Ken Schmidt  
 Preacher: Brandi Hicks  
 Music Director: Marilyn Padon  
 Organist: Pam Ferrell

### **WE WELCOME BRANDI HICKS TO OUR PULPIT TODAY**

Brandi Hicks is a single mom of two beautiful kids—Alexis (10) and Lincoln (8). She grew up going to Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, which was a rock in her life and faith. She currently works full-time for the State and has been an Authorize Lay Preacher (ALP) for about two years. She likes all types of crafting, watching her kids do their activities, and reading.

**WE WELCOME KATHRYN WILLOUGHBY WEED** as Moderator. Kathy is a retired hospital chaplain and is currently serving Presbytery as Associate for Elder Ministries. As Moderator for Rock Lake, Kathy will moderate Session and congregational meetings, and will occasionally lead worship. You can read her full biography in the February newsletter.

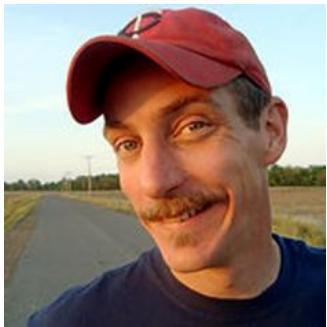
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will occur today, with Kathy Weed moderating. The meeting's purpose is to:

- 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.**

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – February 8** We are asking the congregation to donate cans of soup that we can take to our local Heart and Hand Food Pantry. Checks are also welcome.

**FEBRUARY 8 POTLUCK** is re-scheduled to February 15.

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### “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](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)*

## Prayers of Joy

### Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Roberta Alsop	Emily Holton	Don Shroder
Merrily Bailey	Ravi Isaiah	Mike & Susan Spurgeon
Larry Graham	Cheryl Laws	Bill Wagner
Mary Graham	Hollie McCraw	Brandon Ward
	Rick McGuire	

- 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:** Big Spring Presbyterian Church, Slatyfork; First Unit Presbyterian Church, Ravenswood; Kesler Memorial Presbyterian Church, Hico; Mutathini Church; Gaaki Parish