

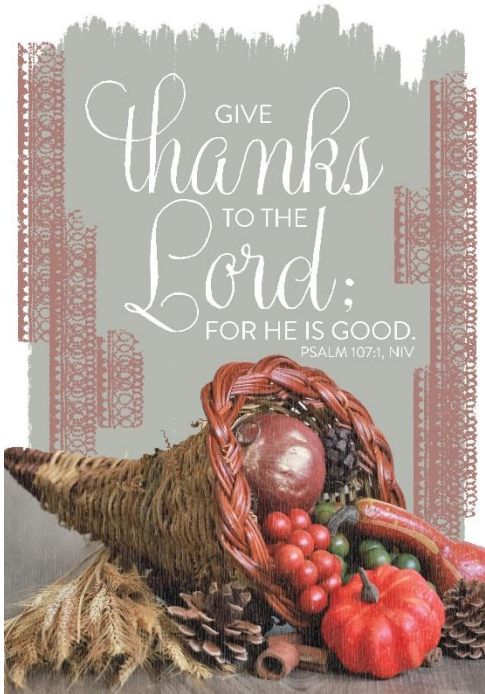
Rock "905"

The monthly newsletter of
Rock Lake Presbyterian Church
905 Village Drive, South Charleston, WV 25309



"...on this rock I will build my church..."

November 2025



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As the year begins to wind down, November invites us to pause and give thanks.

Most of us have some kind of relationship with growing things. It may be a beloved house plant, or an outdoor garden patch, large or small.

In the garden, this is the season when we gather the last of the harvest, reflect on what has grown, and prepare the soil for rest.

Gratitude, like a garden, must be cultivated. We don't always feel thankful automatically. Sometimes it takes intention to notice the blessings around us. But when we practice gratitude, it grows in our hearts, just like flowers spreading across a garden bed.

Psalms 107:1 reminds us "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever."

Even when our harvest looks smaller than we hoped, there is still goodness to be found – in friendships, in the beauty of creation, in the gift of another season. Gratitude doesn't deny hardships. It simply chooses to see the light shining in the midst of them.

So this November, let us:

*Gather and give thanks for the blessings we've been given, both big and small.

*Share encouragement like seeds, sowing joy into the lives of others.

*And rest in the enduring love of God, which never fails.

Just as a grateful gardener sees beauty even in bare branches and quiet soil, may we see God's goodness in every season.

Love and every blessing!

Patricia



This month, in addition to praying for our church and congregation, please pray for these churches and their ministry that may all we do be to the Glory of God!

November 2

First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar
First Presbyterian Church, Williamson
Ndugamano Church
Thegeenge Parish

November 9

Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston
Church of the Covenant, Grafton
Wand Church
Wandumbi Parish

November 16

First Presbyterian Church, Hinton
Kuhn Memorial Presbyterian Church, Barboursville
Githakwa Church

Wandumbi Parish

November 23

Belle Presbyterian Church
Marlinton Presbyterian Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Vienna
Kaglo-ini Church
Wandumbi Parish

November 30

Riverlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans
Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston
Kigogoini Church
Wandumbi Parish

JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY

THE WAY OF JESUS

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign will begin on November 2. The message that day, 'Journey to Generosity', will be based on Luke 19:1-10.

You may have already received a 'snailmail' letter about the campaign, or you will get it in the next few days. Please read it prayerfully.



If you do not get it, please call Ken Schmidt (304-881-2408) or the church office (304-768-4141).

The campaign will end on November 23, the last worship before Thanksgiving.

Please bring your commitment card to worship that Sunday.

If you cannot attend on November 23, please snailmail your commitment card before November 17, so it can be included in the commitment liturgy.

Peace and Grace to All,

The Stewardship Task Force



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Lord provided a beautiful day for the blessing of the animals. After a small worship service, each dog received a blessing, a treat and a ribbon for its collar. And the friend who brought them received a cookie made special by Patricia. Thanks to everyone who came to help set up, register, help Patricia and broke down the event. May God bless all creatures great and small!



PRAISE PRAYER

Years ago I had a friend who was going through a very difficult time in his life, and I greeted him with “Happy Thanksgiving.” He replied, “What do I have to be thankful for?”

That conversation got me thinking about how our easy platitudes of “count your blessings” and “there’s always something to be thankful for” must sound to those who are truly suffering—especially those today who are laid off, fired, family members abducted and vanished, whose businesses closed, those facing bleak economic futures.

After that conversation, I was inspired to write this poem. Great poetry it is not. But it is a sincere prayer.

It’s easy to praise, Lord, for bountiful harvests,
for food in abundance when we are well-fed.
It’s easy to praise you for family and homelife,
signs of a prosperous life well-led.

But what about those who have no abundance,
who live on the edge of existence and shame?
How can we praise you while others go hungry?
They, too, are your children. They, too, have a name.

And what about those whose health remains broken,
who live with infirmity day after day?
How can they praise you for wholeness and goodness
when wholeness and goodness have long gone away?

How can we praise you when we are grieving,
when those we have cherished have gone from our life?
How can we praise you when families are broken,
when homelife is full of contention and strife?

How can we praise you when we are grasping
more and more wealth, more status, more power?
How can we praise you while others are struggling
just to survive through this day, this hour?

We do not praise you because we are favored.
We cannot praise you because we feel blessed.
Even Jesus, himself, our example and teacher,
suffered rejection, loneliness, death.

It’s easy to praise, Lord, for bountiful harvests,
for food in abundance when we are well-fed.
Teach us to praise you more fully in weakness
by sharing our wealth and power, instead.

Teach us to praise you with lives that show mercy,
with hands that are open, with arms outspread,
upholding the grieving, feeding the hungry,
being poured out wine and broken bread.Anonymous



Governor Patrick Morrisey

Director Brett W. McMillion

October 1, 2025

Dear Church Participant:

Once again, the Mountaineer Food Bank, the Facing Hunger Foodbank and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) are asking for your help and the help of your church members to support a program that feeds many hungry West Virginians.

Members of the West Virginia Council of Churches and the WVDNR have united in a cooperative effort to ensure needy West Virginia families have access to high quality meat. For many West Virginia food banks, shelters, or needy families this is one of the most difficult foods to obtain. The Hunters Helping the Hungry Program does just that by providing nutritious, low fat, low cholesterol ground venison which can be prepared or used in many ways.

Hunters Helping the Hungry is a unique program involving the Wildlife Resources Section (WRS) of the WVDNR, hunters and generous donors, the Mountaineer Food Bank and Facing Hunger Foodbank. These two food banks are the only West Virginia certified members of Feeding America, a national network committed to feeding the hungry.

Since its inception in 1992, Hunters Helping the Hungry has provided 1,133,225 pounds of venison, for over 1,523,016 family-style meals at a total cost of \$1,737,737.00. Processing costs are \$3.00 per pound, with the average deer producing 35.5 pounds of ground venison.

The food banks are paid only pick-up and distribution costs. WRS manages, coordinates and publicizes the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program. However, it is not allowed to spend license fees on food processing and distribution costs.

This is where the West Virginia Council of Churches enters the scene. WRS requires financial assistance to manage a charitable program this large. Past donors to Hunters Helping the Hungry have included hunting and angling organizations, businesses, individuals and churches. However, as the donations of deer grow, so does the need for financial assistance.

When presented with the Hunters Helping the Hungry concept and need for assistance, the members of the West Virginia Council of Churches voted unanimously to support Hunters Helping the Hungry through the establishment of Share the Harvest Sunday.

Sunday, November 2nd, has been designated as the day in 2025 when each individual member of each participating church will be asked to donate one dollar, five dollars, or whatever they can afford to Hunters Helping the Hungry.

Your donation, be it large or small, whether direct or through your church, will help place a balanced, healthy meal before someone less fortunate. You can help us reach our goal of providing every possible pound of meat to needy West Virginians. Donations are tax-deductible.

Checks should be made payable to Hunters Helping the Hungry and mailed to: Hunters Helping

the Hungry
WV Division of Natural Resources
163 Wildlife Road French Creek,
WV 26218

If you have questions about your donation to Share the Harvest Sunday or general questions regarding Hunters Helping the Hungry, please contact Kimberly Linger, at (304) 924-6211, or e-mail at kimberly.s.linger@wv.gov.

Sincerely,



Brett W. McMillion Director

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### About Us

First Presbyterian Church has held Hope Village for 20 plus years. This is not a fund-raising venture for the Church, rather we seek out vendors who are lifting their artisans out of poverty, marginalization, and sex trafficking. We obtain beautiful, hand-crafted items on consignment, sell them and return the proceeds to the vendors. The vendors we use pay a living wage to the artisans, and support programs to educate and train others to engage in work that empowers them.

**OPENING HOURS:**

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Sunday Nov. 9                  | 12 - 3 |
| Wed- Sat. Nov. 12, 13, 14, 15  | 10 - 3 |
| Sunday Nov. 16                 | 12 - 3 |
| Wed - Sat. Nov. 19, 20, 21, 22 | 10 - 3 |
| Sunday Nov. 23                 | 12 - 3 |

Credit Cards, Checks and Cash are accepted.

First Presbyterian is a Matthew 25 church and endeavors to always keep this Gospel as our purpose:

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."  
Matthew 25: 35-36



### Contact Us

First Presbyterian Church  
16 Leon Sullivan Way  
Charleston, WV 25301  
(304) 343-8961





## HOPE VILLAGE

*A Fair Trade Boutique*

Shop with a purpose

[www.firstpresby.com/hopevillage](http://www.firstpresby.com/hopevillage)

## **The Worship Committee Needs Your Help!**

Please mark your calendar to help decorate the church for Advent  
after worship on November 23.

And mark your calendars for January 4 after Christmastide. That is the  
date we will put the Advent decorations away.

With your cooperation, we will have a great time working together  
on these projects for Advent!

Thank you for your generous support!

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### **Oakwood Terrace Christmas Project 2025**



#### **2025 Oakwood Terrace Christmas Program Important Dates**

**Assignment of age groups to churches to provide gifts for children 10 and under,  
5:00 pm, Friday, November 14 (possibly sooner)**

**Distribution of 2025 final list of numbers of children by age group to churches to  
provide gifts for children 10 and under, 5:00 pm, Monday, November 24.**

**Deliver wrapped gifts to First Presbyterian Church of Charleston, 6:00 pm, Friday,  
December 12.**

**Assemble gift packages at First Presby, 9:00 am, Saturday, December 13.**

**Pick up gift packages at First Presby, 10:00 am, Saturday, December 20.**

**Distribute gifts at Oakwood Terrace, 2:00 pm, Sunday, December 21.**

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|    |                 |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 5  | Susan Wilder    | 21 | David Barnes    |
| 6  | Erica Yongue    | 21 | Scott Hamilton  |
| 6  | Layne Gumowski  | 21 | Keith Knowles   |
| 10 | Jackie Thompson | 21 | Laine Wilder    |
| 12 | Tre Hardin      | 23 | Londyn Straight |
| 12 | James Straight  | 25 | Leon Means      |



|    |                        |    |                       |
|----|------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 8  | Brett & Emily Baker    | 24 | David & Nancy Broyles |
| 23 | Ryan & Miranda Broyles |    |                       |

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Nurturing Faith Ideas 2025, based on the Revised Common Lectionary

November 2: Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost *Read Psalm 119:137-144*

This longest psalm in the Bible is an acrostic poem about God's law. There are twenty-two sections in the psalm, and the lines in each section all begin with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order of the alphabet. Write your own acrostic psalm praising God this week, each line starting with a different letter of the English alphabet in order from A to Z.

November 9: Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost *Read Psalm 98*

The psalmist calls upon God's people to sing praises to God for God "has done marvelous things." Hymnals are filled with all sorts of song that praise God. What is your favorite hymn? Share it with someone else and tell them why it's your favorite.

November 16: Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost *Read Isaiah 65:17-25*

Here we have Isaiah's picture of the new heavens and earth that God is creating. It is a vision of shalom, or peace that ends with peace. What images in this passage speak to your hopes and dreams? How do we join God in working toward this vision of peace in our world today?

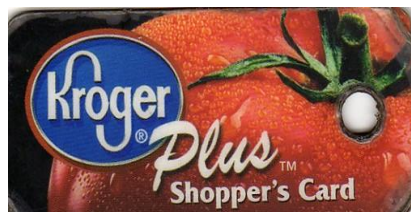
November 23: Christ the King/Reign of Christ *Read Luke 23:33-43*

Jesus was a king though he wasn't the kind of king that the people expected. He was the kind of king that died on a cross out of love, not a king who ruled a country and controlled people. On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, remember all of the things Jesus did and how he showed God's love. Give thanks to God for the gift of his son, Jesus, Christ the King.

November 30: First Sunday of Advent *Read Matthew 24:36-44*

In the season of Advent that leads up to Christmas, we look back to the past, to the birth of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem as we prepare to celebrate his birth again. We also, in this season, look forward, to the return of Christ on earth. This passage reminds us that we don't know when Christ will return but we should always be ready for him.

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Through the Kroger Community Rewards Program, Kroger will donate to RLPC 5% of all grocery/pharmacy purchases YOU make just by using your Kroger Plus Card. Please sign up for this FREE profitable program for RLPC. You only have to open an account and register your Kroger Plus Card online at: [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com).

OR

You can simply telephone Kroger Community Rewards at 1-800-576-4377. They will assist you with registering your Kroger Plus Card. You will need to have handy either your Kroger Plus Card number or your alternate ID (your telephone number). ***Contributions last quarter totaled \$91.88.***

***Thanks to all who donated.***

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Bridgeview Food Ministry

The Bridgeview Food Ministry are packing lunches again on the last Sunday of each month after worship service.

We are asking for volunteers to meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Food items can be dropped off at the church during office hours (9 until noon Monday through Friday).

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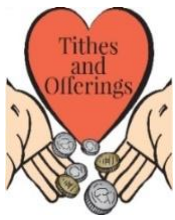
## CENTS-ABILITY OFFERING



From the PCUSA website:

"Cents-Ability is one way that families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Every member is invited to contribute a few cents at every meal. Funds are then used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program."

**The next offering will be collected Sunday November 30, 2025.** So, start to collect your 5 cents per meal each day. Proceeds will go to Heart & Hand. Please remember people who are less fortunate by donating to this, and all Cents-Ability offerings.



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We understand that there are some who are uncomfortable attending in-person worship and hope that you are able to join the service on YouTube.

We appreciate your continued gifts to the church. There are several ways that you may make a donation. By logging onto the church website at www.rlpc.org you can give through PayPal.

Also, outside the choir room is a mailbox where you can drop your offering. Or you can send a check by mail to the church's address: 905 Village Drive, South Charleston, WV 25309. Please contact Mary Wagner for further information. 304-552-1627.
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## October Session Digest



### Session Notes

**WORSHIP (W):** On October 5, the total estimated communicants were 53 (32 in-person & 21 estimated on-line). The next communion will be on November 2. **If you are joining worship from home that day, please remember to prepare your elements in advance.**

Session approved the first quarter 2026 pulpit supply. The list of preachers January through Easter will be published in the December newsletter. A 'preacher packet' is being assembled with important information which the preachers will need.

See '**The Worship Committee Needs Your Help!**' elsewhere in this newsletter for Advent decorating help.

The next committee meeting is November 17. We are working on Advent worship and the first quarter of 2026.

We hope you will make in-person worship a priority at the start of each week.

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE (A&F):** The budget vs, actual report shows the church had a positive balance of \$4,934 for September, and YTD through September a positive balance of \$13,808. On the balance sheet, the general account has \$78,800, and the CNB account (to repay the solar panel loan) \$4,597.

The stewardship task force reported that the 2025 stewardship campaign starts on November 2, with the message 'Journey to Generosity'. Commitment Sunday will be November 23. The nominating committee has filled the class of 2028 slate of two session nominees and one nominating committee nominee.

**CHRISTIAN NURTURE (CN):** A Women's Circle trip was made to the Capital City Clay on October 28.

Pet collections for the animal shelter continue through October.

The Circle will continue providing cookies for AA and NA monthly.

**MISSION & SERVICE (M&S):** The Christmas Joy offering is coming up. Look for information in Advent.

The Oakwood Terrace Christmas project planning is underway. Look for details in bulletins, email blasts, and newsletter!

The Mountaineer Food Bank is seeking donations to support harvested deer carcasses to grind into 1 or 2 pound ground meat packages. Look for more information in bulletins and/or newsletter.

**PROPERTY (P):** The boiler has been lit - a true sign that winter is approaching!

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE (CC):** The next second Sunday potluck will be November 9. Please bring dishes associated with Thanksgiving to that potluck. As always, remember, YOU are the most important ingredient!

**OTHER(O):** a. The session approved the proposed RLPC anti-racism and anti-harassment policies.

With Christ's Peace,  
Ken

# Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

## November 2025

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                    | Monday                                                             | Tuesday                                                                                                             | Wednesday                            | Thursday                                                                                                                | Friday                                                                                                                                                   | Saturday                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                                                                                     |                                      |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                          | <b>1</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work  |
| <b>2</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship<br>                                       | <b>3</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)  | <b>4</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work<br>9:00 am Church Office Open                                                      | <b>5</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open  | <b>6</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>1:00 pm Handwork for Mission(P)                                                  | <b>7</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom                                                                                     | <b>8</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work  |
| <b>9</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship<br>                                       | <b>10</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P) | <b>11</b> Church Office Closed<br> | <b>12</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open | <b>13</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>1:00 pm Handwork for Mission (P)                                                | <b>14</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom                                                                                    | <b>15</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work |
| <b>16</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship                                                                                                                           | <b>17</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P) | <b>18</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work<br>9:00 am Church Office Open<br>6:30 pm Session Meeting                          | <b>19</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open | <b>20</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>1:00 pm Handwork for Mission (P)                                                | <b>21</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom                                                                                    | <b>22</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work |
| <b>23</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship<br><b>30</b> 10:00 am RLPC Worship<br> | <b>24</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open<br>2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P) | <b>25</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work<br>9:00 am Church Office Open                                                     | <b>26</b> 9:00 am Church Office Open | <b>27</b> Church Office Closed<br> | <b>28</b> Church Office Closed<br>6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom<br> | <b>29</b> 8:30 am Manna Meal Work |



*Rock Lake Presbyterian Church  
905 Village Drive  
South Charleston, WV 25309*

«AddressBlock»

**Church Staff**

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis</b> | <b>Pastor</b>               |
| <b>Sandy McNeely</b>            | <b>Church Secretary</b>     |
| <b>Mary Wagner</b>              | <b>Treasurer</b>            |
| <b>Marilyn Padon</b>            | <b>Music Director</b>       |
| <b>Pam Ferrell</b>              | <b>Organist/Accompanist</b> |

**ROCK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
905 VILLAGE DRIVE  
SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV 25309  
304-768-4141  
EMAIL: [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)  
WEBSITE: [www.rlpc.org](http://www.rlpc.org)**

**Like us on Facebook  
Rock Lake Presbyterian Church**

**The Session**

**Class of 2025**

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| David Broyles | 304-545-8821 |
| Ron Rogillio  | 304-541-1243 |

**Class of 2026**

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| John Solberg | 304-415-1704 |
| DeeDee Means | 304-744-0887 |

**Class of 2027**

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| John Haynes | 304-610-9040 |
| Ken Schmidt | 304-768-8565 |

**Committee Chairs**

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Christian Nurture</i>      | <i>DeeDee Means</i>  |
| <i>Congregational Care</i>    | <i>John Haynes</i>   |
| <i>Administration/Finance</i> | <i>David Broyles</i> |
| <i>Property</i>               | <i>John Solberg</i>  |
| <i>Worship</i>                | <i>Ken Schmidt</i>   |
| <i>Mission &amp; Service</i>  | <i>Ron Rogillio</i>  |