

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..."

December 2025

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we once again enter into the season of Advent, in preparation for Christmas, my heart is filled with gratitude for each of you. This time of the year has a way of giving us a chance to show down, even if just for a moment, so we can remember the extraordinary gift God has given us: Emmanuel, God with us.

The miracle of Christmas is not confined to a stable and hope in swaddling clothes, or light breaking into the darkness. It continues today in every act of kindness offered, every burden shared, every person who opens their heart to Christ's love.

One of my great joys in these years I have been privileged to be your pastor has been in witnessing the way this church embodies that love. I see Christ in your generosity toward those in need, your care for one another, and the way you move over to include one more in our fellowship.

These quiet, faithful acts transform the world. They echo the angels' proclamation: "Good news of great joy to all peoples."

This season I invite you to pause amid the celebration and listen again for the good news. Let it speak peace to your anxieties, hope into your weariness, joy into your lives.

Let us choose joy and gratitude!

This Advent and Christmas season, may you be filled with wonder, and may your heart be renewed by the presence of the One who came to dwell among us, and to share our lives.

With Love and every blessing!

Patricia



A Prayer for Stillness and Peace in the Noise of Christmas

Holy God, there is so much to do as we wait for the birth of Christ.

There are so many demands for us to make everything perfect.

It is easy to get distracted by the noise and the long to-do list.

Help me listen for your quiet love. Help me breathe.

Help me trust that you will come again into this loud world with your peace. Help me believe in your grace as I let imperfection be enough.

Help me set the to-do list down and simply be. Let me be ready, with open hands and an open heart. Amen

...English by Rev. Dr. Abby Mohaupt



Our deepest sympathy to the family of Devonia "Donie" Argento, 87, who passed away Friday, November 21, 2025 at Magnolia Assisted Living.

Donie was a faithful member of Rock Lake Presbyterian Church for 60 years.

Donie was also an avid aviator, having a private pilot's license while owning and operating her own planes out of Mallery Airport in South Charleston. She had a passion for art and was an experienced painter.

Donie was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Benny Argento.



To read her obituary, please go to:

<https://snodgrassfuneral.com/dovonia-doni-argento/>



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!

December 7

Summersville Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church, Nitro
First Presbyterian Church, Williamstown
Muthuaini Church
Wandumbi Parish

December 14

Highlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans
First Presbyterian Church, Whitesville
Philip Nganatha Memorial Church
Wandumbi Parish

December 21

First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield
Mingo Presbyterian Church
Wandumbi Special School Church
Wandumbi Parish

December 28

Bridgeport Presbyterian Church
Staff of the Presbytery of West Virginia
Gatumbiro Church
Wandumbi Parish



Rock Lake Presbyterian Church has received letters and cards praying for our church and ministry from the following churches:

Bates Memorial Presbyterian Church
Belington Presbyterian Church
Fayetteville Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston

Glenville Presbyterian Church

Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church

Second Presbyterian Church, Huntington

Thanks to all the Presbyterian Churches in our Community!!

Pastor Appreciation Day – Sunday, October 12



....Thank you, Margie Gumowski, for the beautiful pictures.

Advent Happenings

Assorted Advent Devotionals are available on the Narthex table outside the main doors.

Prayer Bells will be distributed with bulletins each Sunday in Advent.

Write your prayer on the bell, and hang it on the cord on the side wall of the Sanctuary.

Look for special visitors as we proceed through Advent to our Messiah's birth!

Oakwood Terrace Christmas Project 2025



2025 Oakwood Terrace Christmas Program Important Dates in December

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.

The Worship Committee Needs Your Help!

Please 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!



Blue Christmas

December 18, Thursday

Noon

Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

905 Village Drive

South Charleston

*This service will be offered for those who grieve,
those who are anxious, and those who may just want a
quiet time of worship in this often too noisy season.*

Our own Ed Thompson will lead us.

Come and be part of a time apart.



The Shepherd's Run

The shepherd's calling is to care for and protect his flock. We want to honor those who work all year, but especially on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, leaving their families to care for and protect us.

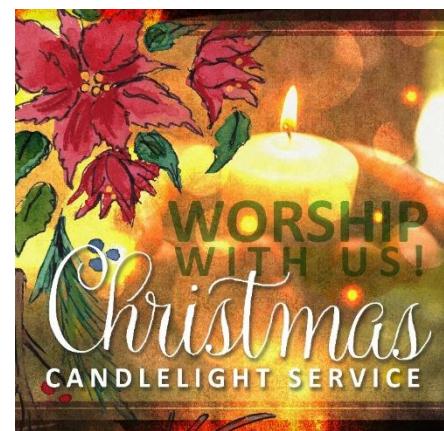
On Sunday morning December 21, we are asking that you bring one dozen cookies to the service to be dedicated and prepared following worship to be delivered to two fire stations in South Charleston, the South Charleston police station, Thomas Hospital, and Women's and Children's Hospital in Charleston.

Special coverings will be provided. A card will be enclosed stating: *With great thankfulness and blessings to you as you serve our community on this Christmas Eve! From your friends in Rock Lake Presbyterian Church, 905 Village Drive, South Charleston. Merry Christmas!*

We will need volunteers to deliver the cookies on Christmas Eve before or after our 7pm service.

ROCK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 'LESSONS AND CAROLS' SERVICE

**RLPC will have our traditional Christmas
Eve 'Lessons and Carols' service
Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm.
Bring your family and friends as we
celebrate the birth of our Lord!**





| | | | |
|----|----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Judy Powers | 18 | Trenton Straight |
| 2 | Judy Hardin | 19 | Sandy McNeely |
| 5 | Kelly Straight | 21 | Don Straight |
| 6 | Kim LaCount | 22 | David Bradley |
| 7 | Shayn Davis | 26 | Billy Estill |
| 9 | Jeff Ray | 26 | Chris Rogillio |
| 14 | Amber Grigsby | 27 | Connie Dent |
| 15 | Rick McGuire | 27 | Riley Thornhill |
| 17 | Angie Bradley | 31 | Dara Ray |



11 Tyler & Erica Yongue

17 Carl & Jean Smith

Nurturing Faith Ideas 2025, based on the Revised Common Lectionary

December 7: Second Sunday of Advent *Read Matthew 3:1-2*

As John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, so must we prepare ourselves for Jesus. This is a time of hope and preparation. During Advent, reflect on what preparations you are making in your life and in your heart for the coming of Jesus.

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent *Read Luke 1:46b-55*

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her that God had chosen her to be the mother of God's son, Gabriel also told Mary that her relative Elizabeth, who was up in years, was also pregnant. After Mary greeted Elizabeth, she sang praise to God for what God was doing in her and in the world. In her words she proclaimed that God was turning the world upside down. What do you see that God is doing in the world today that is changing the world? Share with a friend or family member.

December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent *Read Matthew 1:18-25*

Luke's gospel tells Mary's story; Matthew's gospel focused on Joseph. When Joseph found out that his fiancée, Mary, was pregnant and he wasn't the father, legally, he could have sent her away in humiliation and shame or even had her killed. As he considered his options, he had a visit by an angel who told him in a dream that Mary had been chosen to bear God's son. Trusting God, he went ahead with his marriage to Mary. What's a hard decision you've had to trust God as you've made it? What did you do?

December 28: First Sunday of Christmas *Read Matthew 2:13-15*

King Herod wanted to hear back from the magi after they'd found the child they sought. He said he wanted to worship him as they did. But he was lying; he really wanted to get rid of him. Jesus was warned in a dream to take his family and flee to Egypt to keep Jesus safe. Many others have also had to flee from their home because it was no longer safe there. Pray for those who look for a safe place to live and raise a family in our time.

ROCK LAKE COMMUNITY GARDEN



MANNA MEAL is now “Rock Lake Community Garden”, meeting on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The group is no longer part of the Manna Meal but is now independent of them. They dispense produce to multiple organizations which provide meals, food banks, etc. Their Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/people/Rock-Lake-Community-Garden/61578613784496/>



ROSEMARY

The rosemary plant became connected with the Virgin Mary, and folklore developed that it was Mary's favorite plant. Along with its popularity and connection to Mary was the belief that it could protect you from evil spirits. Perhaps this association is not far off as rosemary has antioxidant properties and can help boost the immune system, making us more able to fight off harmful substances in our bodies, perhaps an apt metaphor for also fortifying us to work to eliminate harmful things in our world.

It is also sometimes called the friendship plant and it was the most common garnish at Christmas meals in the Middle ages. It is also known as the remembrance herb, used at Christmas to remember the birth of Jesus.

In the late 1700's, a special Christmas Rosemary Service was started in Ripon Cathedral School where a red apple, with a sprig of Rosemary in the top of it, was sold by the school boys to the members of the congregation.

Throughout the week, take some time to enter into “quiet joy” and contemplate these questions in Prayer:

How can we personally tap into the strength of ever-present, God-given joy, especially in the midst of difficulty?

How are we contributing to the oppression of others?

What are we doing to bring healing in our community, to be an “antioxidant-rich” church?

What is our “Magnificat” – our song of prophetic joy?



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.

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).



Blessing of the Backpacks

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.

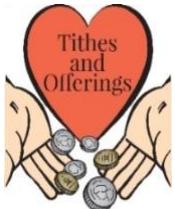
Food items can be dropped off at the church during office hours (9 until noon Monday through Friday).



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 March 29, 2026. 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.



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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Donors must deliver checks on or by midnight December 31, 2025 in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2025. Checks that are in the offering during the first worship service in 2026 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2025, even if the check was actually written in 2025. However, under the so-called "mailbox exception," checks that are mailed and postmarked in 2025 will be deductible in 2025 though they are not received by the church until 2026. You may give checks or cash directly to the treasurer, place it in the treasurer's box in the office or place in the church's mailbox (Village Drive side of the church). All boxes will be checked after midnight, December 31.



your elements in advance.

The list of preachers January through Easter is:

RLPC 2026 Worship Preachers

| Date | Preacher | Notes |
|-------------------|------------------|--|
| Sun, Jan 4, 2026 | Sallie Daugherty | COMMUNION Take down Advent decorations after worship. |
| Sun, Jan 11, 2026 | Brandi Hicks | Baptism of the Lord 2 nd Sunday potluck following worship |
| Sun, Jan 18, 2026 | Cherrie Sizemore | |
| Sun, Jan 25, 2026 | Randy Fife | Annual Congregational Meeting (Ed Thompson moderating) |
| Sun, Feb 1, 2026 | Sallie Daugherty | COMMUNION |
| Sun, Feb 8, 2026 | Brandi Hicks | Self Development of People, 2 nd Sunday potluck following worship |
| Sun, Feb 15, 2026 | Cherrie Sizemore | Transfiguration of the Lord |
| Wed, Feb 18, 2026 | Kathy Weed | ASH WEDNESDAY, noon. Imposition of ashes |
| Sun, Feb 22, 2026 | Randy Fife | |
| Sun, Mar 1, 2026 | Sallie Daugherty | COMMUNION |
| Sun, Mar 8, 2026 | Adam Greathouse | 2 nd Sunday potluck following worship |
| Sun, Mar 15, 2026 | Cherrie Sizemore | |
| Sun, Mar 22, 2026 | Randy Fife | |
| Sun, Mar 29, 2026 | Kathy Weed | PALM SUNDAY, Centsability Offering |
| Fri, Apr 3, 2026 | | GOOD FRIDAY (to be determined) |
| Sun, Apr 5, 2026 | Ed Thompson | EASTER, COMMUNION, One Great Hour of Sharing |

Please extend RLPC hospitality to these people who ministering to us in this time of transition!

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

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE (A&F): The October Budget vs. Actual, is about \$1,700 negative for the month; but YTD, RLPC is almost \$17,000 positive. On the Balance Sheet, the City National Bank account has about \$4,000, while the general account has about \$78,000.

The nominating committee has filled the class of 2028 slate of two session nominees and one nominating committee nominee.

CHRISTIAN NURTURE (CN):

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

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

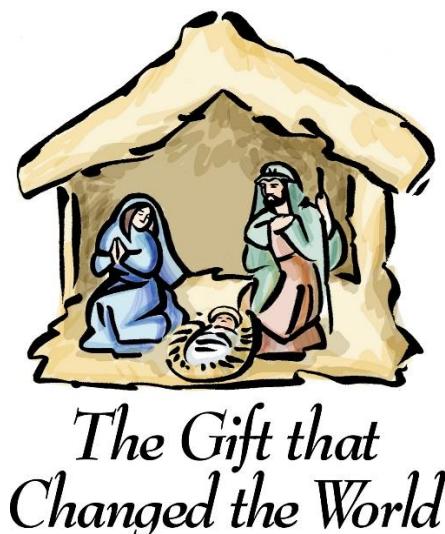
PROPERTY (P): Several repairs have been made, restoring heating to the sanctuary and office areas.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE (CC): The next second Sunday potluck will be December 14.

OTHER(O): a. In 2026, Taylor Bailey will replace Mary Wagner as Treasurer. Thank you, Mary, for your many years of dedication to this work! b. Pollen8 has asked RLPC to furnish a lease proposal for the next 5 years of ABHC operation. The Administration & Finance Committee has submitted that proposal, increasing the monthly lease payment from \$1,000 to about \$1,300.

With Christ's Peace,

Ken



2026 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of this writing (November 23, 2025), with 18 families responding, the 2026 total commitment is \$107,480.

. 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).

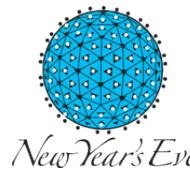
We invite you to join us in worship each Sunday in the Sanctuary. If you cannot attend in person, subscribe to Rock Lake Presbyterian Church on YouTube. Worship each Sunday is at 10:00 am ET. If you need a printed bulletin, call the church office at 304-768-4141 between 9:30 and 11:30 am ET, Monday through Friday.

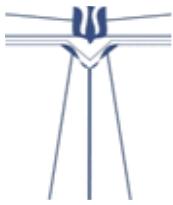
And may God bless you this Advent season!

Ken Schmidt, chair, Stewardship Task Force

Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

December 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| | 1 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P) | 2 8:30 RockLakeComm.Garden 9:00 am Church Office Open | 3 9:00 am Church Office Open | 4 9:00 am Church Office Open | 5 9:00 am Church Office Open | 6 8:30 RockLakeComm.Garden  COOKIES |
| 7 10:00 am RLPC Worship Second Sunday Of Advent | 8 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P) | 9 8:30 RockLakeComm.Garden 9:00 am Church Office Open 9:30 am Carbide Oldtimers | 10 9:00 am Church Office Open  | 11 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission(P) | 12 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom | 13 8:30 RockLakeComm.Garden  |
| 14 10:00 am RLPC Worship Third Sunday Of Advent | 15 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)  | 16 8:30 RockLakeComm.Garden 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:30 pm Session Meeting  | 17 9:00 am Church Office Open | 18 9:00 am Church Office Open 1:00 pm Handwork for Mission (P) 12:00-Blue Christmas Service at Church | 19 9:00 am Church Office Open 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom  | 20 8:30 RockLakeComm.Garden  HOME HOLIDAYS |
| 21 10:00 am RLPC Worship Fourth Sunday Of Advent Distribute Gifts at Oakwood Terrace Bring Cookies to Church | 22 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)  All Decked Out | 23 8:30 RockLakeComm.Garden 9:00 am Church Office Open  HAVE YOURSELF A Merry Little Christmas | 24 Church Office Closed 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service Shepherd's Run After worship | 25 Church Office Closed  | 26 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Foundation to Freedom | 27 8:30 RockLakeComm.Garden |
| 28 10:00 am RLPC Worship | 29 9:00 am Church Office Open 2:30 pm Amethyst Group (P)  | 30 8:30 RockLakeComm.Garden 9:00 am Church Office Open | 31 9:00 am Church Office Open  | | | |



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

«AddressBlock»

| <u>Church Staff</u> | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis | Pastor |
| Sandy McNeely | Church Secretary |
| Mary Wagner | Treasurer |
| Marilyn Padon | Music Director |
| Pam Ferrell | Organist/Accompanist |
| ROCK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 905 VILLAGE DRIVE SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV 25309 304-768-4141 EMAIL: rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com WEBSITE: www.rlpc.org | |
| Like us on Facebook Rock Lake Presbyterian Church | |

| <u>The Session</u> | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 |
| <u>Committee Chairs</u> | |
| <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 & Service</i> | <i>Ron Rogillio</i> |