

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



First
Sunday
in Lent

February 22, 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
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
February 22, 2026

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Arr. Larry Shackley

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit,
even into the uncomfortable places.**

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

**As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led,
even into the uncomfortable choices.**

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ,
rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

Written by Thom Shuman, posted on [Lectionary Liturgies](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/). <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

*OPENING HYMN #628

"Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...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 (*sung*) #425 "Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace"

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.
By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. ⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. ¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. ¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Reflection on the Scriptures"

Randy Fife, ALP

Responding to God

*HYMN

“Our Lord, You Were Sent”

Tune: ST. DENIO

**Our Lord, you were sent to a place wild and vast
to ponder your mission, to pray and to fast;
then hungry and weary, you faced night and day
the subtle temptations to turn from God’s way.**

**How could it be wrong to want bread on the shelf?
To seek, in one’s serving, to first serve one’s self?
But by God’s own word you remained ever sure:
it’s only in God that our lives are secure.**

**How could it be wrong to step out and to dare,
to prove with great drama the depths of God’s care?
But you knew God’s word, true since all time began:
it’s wrong to expect God to work by our plan.**

**How could it be wrong to just once bow the knee,
to shake hands with sin to achieve victory?
Yet you made it clear that no matter the cost:
your path was obedience, your way was the cross.**

**Our Lord, in your struggle you chose to obey;
God’s word filled your heart and you trusted God’s way.
Now risen, you save us from sins that destroy,
you give us your spirit, your peace and your joy.**

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

Page 34 in front section of hymnal

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

The Rev. Kathryn W. Weed, Moderator

Susan Hamilton and Ron Rogillio

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 #166

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

EXTINGUISHING OF LENTEN CANDLE

*BENEDICTION

*DEPARTING SONG #826

“Lift High the Cross” (*Refrain only*)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Greet one another in peace.

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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:	Susan Hamilton
Preacher:	Randy Fife, ALP
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.

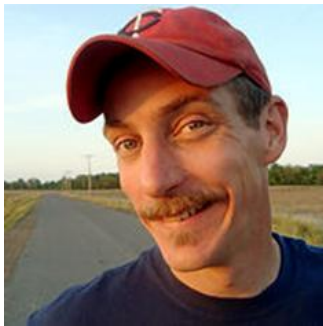
THANKS TO SUSAN HAMILTON for making the beautiful paraments that will be used during Lent. See the March newsletter for further information.

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.

RLPC WOMEN'S CIRCLE will not be meeting next Tuesday, February 24.

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday, March 1, 2026. For those who will not be able to attend in-person worship, please take time during the coming week to prepare for the Sacrament.

FOOD OFFERING SUNDAY is next Sunday. Don't forget that each Communion Sunday is "Food Offering" Sunday. You may leave your offering in the red wagon in the Narthex. All the collected food will go to Heart & Hand.



“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	Emily Holton	Mike & Susan Spurgeon
Merrily Bailey	Ravi Isaiah	Bill Wagner
Shayne Compton*	Cheryl Laws	Brandon Ward
Larry Graham	Hollie McCraw	Gary Withrow*
Mary Graham	Rick McGuire	
	Don Shroder	

- 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: First Presbyterian Church, Thomas; Keller Presbyterian Church, Pence Springs
Giaichamwenge Church; Giakanja Parish