



# RPC Connection

*Connecting in Christ to God, One Another, and the World. I John 4: 7-8*

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

As I write this I am preparing for the Ash Wednesday service with its emphasis on reflection, examination, and repentance. In tandem, I have been reading a book by Rabbi Harold Kushner that reminds me that we are not perfect; we allow sin to corrupt even our good intentions sometimes. According to the Rabbi, we allow that knowledge of imperfection (in us and others) to translate into feelings of resentment, fear, guilt, depression, and disappointment for our inability to measure up. There is good news, however. God is our creator and created us in God’s image, declaring us to be very good. And as such, we have the capacity to do great and wonderful things with God’s help and blessing. So even when I hear news of more self-centered behavior and more violence, God encourages me to remember that God is not finished and is not asleep. God continues to work, continues to redeem (make right) God’s creation even when I have difficulty seeing it or believing it. Ash Wednesday is a time to remember that we are not God, are not perfect, and are mortal. We will die one day. Sounds like a downer, doesn’t it? But in fact, I think it is a positive reminder of who we are—God’s children—created for purpose and ministry. It is also a positive reminder that we can trust the God who created us, who knows our flaws and loves us anyway. Life in God’s love and mercy is good.

I am encouraged by the energy and enthusiasm I am witnessing in the congregation. We see new faces nearly every Sunday and there has been an increase in the number of volunteers for various committees. Each of our working committees can still use help though. Our working committees include Finance, Evangelism, Fellowship, Faith Formation (formerly know as Christian Education), Worship, Corporate Administration (deals with personnel, policies and

procedures), and Mission. In addition, our Trustees and Deacons keep busy as well. If you would like more information about a particular committee, please ask me and I will be happy to fill you in! As Lent moves into spring and the Easter season, I pray you will find a spot in which you can share your gifts and talents to help us reach people in this community.

One more thing...I am happy to report that we have some folks working on a new pictorial directory. Many of you have been asking for one, and I pray that you will take advantage of the opportunity when it presents itself. Show up and have your picture taken so that our newest members can get to know you a little easier.

### “Lent”

by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take the time  
 to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,  
 a time to let the events  
 get up and walk around in us,  
 a time to intensify  
 our living unto Christ,  
 a time to hover over  
 the thoughts of our hearts,  
 a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem  
 or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,  
 a time to touch his robe  
 and feel the healing surge through us,  
 a time to ponder and a time to wonder . . .

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

See you in worship!

Sandy

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## CHURCH OFFICERS 2023

### Deacons

Jane Holmes, Co-Moderator  
Beverly Myrick, Co-Moderator  
Nancy Foresteire  
Thom Kermes  
Mike Lacey  
Sue Lawrence  
Susan Melcher  
Rosemary Messmore  
Pratt Moseley

### Session/Elders

Dr. Cheryl Carson, Worship  
Kristi Porter, Faith Formation  
Terrie Kroger, Corp. Admin.  
Becky Graziano, Finance  
Linda Britton, Mission  
Faye Bennett, Evangelism/  
Fellowship  
Hilah Mercer, RPS  
Steve Kopp, Clerk

### Trustees

Paul Wood, Chair  
Thad Martin  
Bill Mercer  
Phil Rose, Jr.  
Beth Strickland  
Corbin Kramer  
Susy Rush

### Pastor

Rev. Sandy Lacey



Thanks to all who submit items to keep our newsletter fresh and informative.

Special thanks to Pat Baggott, newsletter writing, proofreading, and editing; Linda Williams, newsletter distribution; Winnie Crawford, layout; and office staff, printing.

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles, pictures, community events, etc. *PLEASE submit articles as Word documents no later than the 20th of the month before the next quarterly newsletter to: [communications2@rockledgepres.com](mailto:communications2@rockledgepres.com)*

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

### **RPC Welcomes New Members!**

On Sunday, February 26, 2023, Session members received Charles and Carol Ellis as new church members at 9:30 a.m. in Calvin Hall. During the 11:00 a.m. worship service, Pastor Sandy formally commissioned the couple, introducing them to the congregation and officially welcoming them to the RPC family. The Ellis's come to us by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Danville, Virginia.



Charles is retired with work experience that includes finance, public relations, and music. On his resume you'll find the American National Bank and the Danville Symphony Orchestra. Having performed with bands in his early career, Charles is a conductor and musician whose primary instrument is the trumpet. His hobbies include woodworking and auto restoration. Carol is a retired librarian who, for many years, developed successful library programs in the city of Petersburg, Virginia, for the Hopewell Public Schools; in Danville, Virginia, for the Danville Public Schools; and for the Pittsylvania County Public Schools. Her primary interest is in roses.

In the coming days, please introduce yourselves and welcome our latest members to their new church home! If not in person, how about sending a card or an email? If you need an address or other contact information, please call the church office at 321-636-0811. The office manager can provide those details.

## ROCKLEDGE PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL

We have been so busy the last few months! We have added five new children between January and February. Three of the families are from Brazil. The children don't speak English, so we are all learning so much—for us the basics of Portuguese; for them, the basics of English. Young children pick up the language very quickly.

We have started registration for fall—right now only for those currently enrolled. On March 1, we open it to new families. So if you know of someone looking for a great preschool, have that person contact me via email at [rpsdirector@rockledgepres.com](mailto:rpsdirector@rockledgepres.com). We will also have a two-week summer camp during the weeks of July 10 and 17. We are not ready to register for that yet. More information to come.

If you know of anyone looking for a job teaching/working with young children, please send that person our way! This is a perfect job for a mom with children in school in that we follow the Brevard Public School Calendar. There are a lot of great incentives for new hires in childcare right now. The main one being that you are off during the summer!



We will be closed March 13-17 for Spring Break and March 20 for a teacher work day. All staff and children return March 21. We will also be off April 7 for Good Friday.

**Karen Rhein, Director RPS**

# HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Rockledge Presbyterian Church  
921 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge

### Palm Sunday & Communion April 2 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



Sanctuary at 8:30 & 11:00; Streaming 11:00\*;  
Nursery & WOW Children's Church at 11:00

Join us as we celebrate Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* will be dedicated during worship.

### Maundy Thursday April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

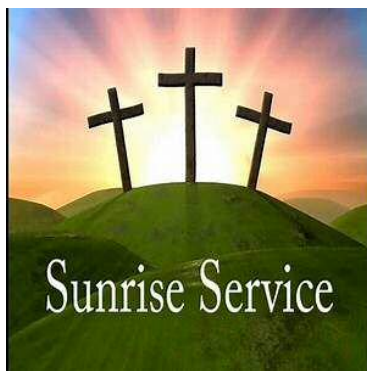


In the Sanctuary & Streaming\*  
Nursery Provided

Special music will highlight our celebration of the Last Supper. Communion will be followed by the traditional service of Tenebrae ("shadows"), during which the scriptural account of the disciples' betrayal and desertion of Jesus will be accompanied by the gradual darkening of the sanctuary, a powerfully moving meditation service.



### EASTER SUNDAY- APRIL 9



**7:00 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service** in the *Courtyard*. Please bring lawn chairs. Get the sense of the first Easter as the dawn breaks and we proclaim, "He is Risen." Special music will be provided.

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m. – Continental Breakfast** in Calvin Hall provided by the Presbyterian Men's group.

**11:00 a.m. – Traditional Easter Service** – In the Sanctuary & Streaming\*; Nursery & WOW Children's Church Provided. We gather to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. Join us as we joyfully proclaim, "Christ is Risen!"

*For More Information,*

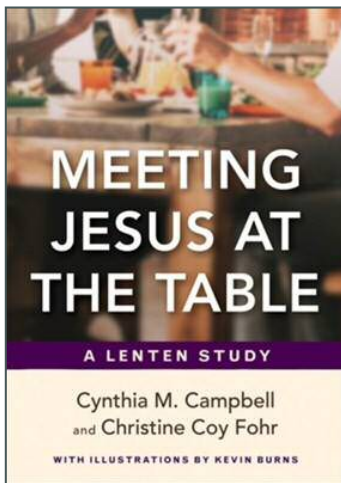
**Email:** [officemanager@rockledgepres.com](mailto:officemanager@rockledgepres.com) or **Call:** 321-636-0811

**\*STREAMING:** Facebook–Rockledge Presbyterian Church  
(<https://www.facebook.com/RockledgePresbyterian>)



## FAITH FORMATION: SPECIAL LENTEN STUDY

The Bible Boosters Sunday School Class will be engaging in a Lenten Study Sunday, February 26 - April 2. The Lenten study book is entitled *Meeting Jesus at the Table* and focuses on Bible passages related to meals with Jesus. Books are available in the church office reception area. The class is led by Cheryl Carson and meets in the church Library and via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Cheryl through the church office at 321-636-0811.



## COUNTERS NEEDED AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP



If you are looking for a way to serve the church and you have a talent for accurately counting money, you have the qualifications for a position at RPC in serious need of volunteers. Susan Ward, coordinator, describes the job as working with another person in counting morning offerings after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The task usually takes no more than thirty minutes and will not be required every Sunday. She will work with the person in setting up a reasonable Sunday schedule. If you are able to help, please call the church office manager at 321-636-0811 to receive Susan's contact information.

## DEACONS PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE AT RPC

I am certain you have seen us around. Name tags on—doing various things at the church. But, do you really know the responsibilities of Deacons at RPC? Different churches have different jobs for the Deacons. So I thought I would tell you a little about your Deacons here.

The Deacons are elected to a two-year term and can serve for six consecutive years. Our main purpose is to provide assistance to our church families in time of need and to keep in contact with our families throughout the year. Each church family is assigned a Deacon; hopefully you have had contact with yours and you know who to call when you need help, have questions, or just want to chat! Each new member will be assigned a Deacon who will contact the new family, welcome them to RPC, and offer friendship and assistance in any way needed.

The Deacons have an internal prayer chain where we confidentially pray for those who have asked for prayer and have given permission for the prayer to be shared among us. Another responsibility is to provide receptions for memorial services when needed. You may be asked to help out by providing cookies or sandwiches. The Deacons will take care of everything else. This year Jane Holmes is our co-moderator in charge of this function. All Deacons are asked to participate in the many jobs needed to provide this service.

Other duties include serving communion during worship and at home when requested by Pastor Sandy, greeting in the Narthex before Sunday services, and being responsible for the Sunday pulpit flowers, making sure they find a good home if the family providing the flowers does not wish to take them.

Our current Board of Deacons consists of nine people: Co-Moderators Beverly Myrick and Jane Holmes, Deacons Nancy Foresteire, Thom Kermes, Susan Melcher, Sue Lawrence, Mike Lacey, Rosemary Messmore, and Pratt Moseley.

Hopefully this will help you get to know us as we serve our God, our church, and our families.

Love and Blessings,  
Beverly Myrick, Co-Moderator

## RUTH CIRCLE REVIVES COFFEE HOUR

How many remember the "Coffee Hour" that the Fellowship Committee sponsored some years ago? For members and friends of the church who wanted more time on Sundays to socialize with one another, the Coffee Hour gave them that opportunity. Between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., Calvin Hall became the gathering place for people leaving 8:30 worship and those arriving before the 11:00 a.m. service. Over a cup of coffee and a sweet treat, people made new friends or caught up with old ones. Children coming from Sunday School were able to get a snack before worship. The Coffee Hour became a tradition enjoyed by many.

Responding to the need expressed by many of the congregation for a return of the Coffee Hour, Ruth Circle will be initiating "Coffee and Conversation," starting Sunday, March 5, from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., in Calvin Hall. The ladies of the circle will provide coffee and simple treats such as breakfast muffins, cookies, and/or coffee cake. They will handle set up and cleanup; however offers to help will not be turned down.

Why not join us on the 5th as we revive this time of great fellowship. With your help, Coffee and Conversation can once more become an RPC tradition!

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee scores a huge success with the Ash Wednesday Supper!

A final count showed that 74 people attended the Ash Wednesday Supper and Service on Wednesday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m., in Calvin Hall. Although the seating was tight, it gave attendees an opportunity to make new friends and to catch up with old ones as they ate a delicious meal organized and served by members of the Fellowship Committee. Following the meal, Pastor Sandy conducted a special Ash Wednesday service supported by instrumental music from Jim Bishop, Rob McBride at the keyboard, and R.P. Higgins on guitar. Pastor and Dr. Cheryl Carson assisted one another in the imposition of ashes on those who came to the front of Calvin Hall, followed by receiving communion before returning to their seats.

Faye Bennett, chair of the Fellowship Committee, extends a “thank you to all who made the meal and the service that followed a success. We appreciate all who jumped in to help clean up afterwards. It made our work much easier. We would also like to give a ‘shout out’ and thank you to the ‘crockpot brigade’ who so graciously brought eleven delicious soups and a variety of homemade desserts for us to enjoy! My committee—Penny Brangan, Linda Williams, Catherine Shelton, Rosemary Messmore, Liz Battista, Clair Quenzler, and Becky Hope—did an outstanding job of making sure things went smoothly. Kudos all around!”



*From left to right: Communion table with ashes; beautiful centerpieces; members of Fellowship Committee serving soup; a large crowd in attendance for physical and spiritual nourishment.*

## DONATIONS REQUESTED BY GREEN THUMBS

Many at RPC are unaware that the work of the Green Thumbs is supported **only** by donations from members and friends of the church. To those in the congregation who have supported the work of the Green Thumbs with regular donations since the group began its work in 2012, many thanks. Because of your generosity, the “Thumbs” have made significant changes in the landscape surrounding the church, resulting in many positive reactions from members, visitors, and Rockledge neighbors who have praised the church for the beauty of its grounds.

As the Green Thumbs move into the spring of 2023, they are facing increasing costs of everything associated with gardening but, unfortunately, decreasing funds in their church account. Donations have been fewer in the last few years. For the first time, there may not be enough money to carry the team through the year using practices necessary for good gardening. For instance, the time has come to plant spring flowers which will bring color to the beds around the entrances to the church and around beds in the east courtyard. The presence of these beautiful flowers will make our Easter Sunrise Service even more memorable for members and visitors. Along with the cost of these plantings, there will be the costs for continued maintenance of the landscape that will require weeding, mulching, fertilizing, and occasional fighting of pests and diseases that threaten our plants and shrubs.

**To ensure that we have sufficient funds for this year’s work, the Green Thumbs is asking members and friends of the church to consider a donation to the Green Thumbs.** That donation may be made by using any of the giving methods suggested by the church. If writing a check to mail to the church or place in the collection plate, remember to make it out to Rockledge Presbyterian Church, but record Green Thumbs on the memo line. **A member of the Thumbs will also be on hand to receive your donation in the Narthex after worship during the month of March. Anyone interested in joining the Green Thumbs will also have an opportunity to sign up.** We are always looking for people who love to garden and want to be a good steward of God’s creation. We promise work, but also a lot of fun!



## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee thanks you for your generosity in the following ministries:

- \$ for Blankets! The running total is \$590.
- Helping to fill the Rockledge High School Food Bank with “in lieu of flowers” donations of \$1,495 in December.
- Distributing food in Cocoa with Jennifer Forester. She reports that RPC members faithfully continue to help with the food giveaways at three local churches. Saturday, February 18, a total of 500 families were served. Frank Rogers-Witte shared, “I personally would like to have more of these experiences and would like to let others within our RPC community know how significant and rewarding this work and fellowship can be.” There are several ways to participate that don’t involve lifting boxes of food. Come and see how!
- Giving nonperishable foods to the Central Brevard Sharing Center on the first Sunday of each month and giving to the Children’s Hunger Project on the third Sunday of each month.
- Supporting the Scouts in their cookie sales in February! Leaders Catherine Shelton and Beth Strickland thank you!



*Bill Rose (right) helping distribute boxes of food*



*Catherine, Ashley, and Yesenia selling Girl Scout cookies after Sunday worship*

### Looking Ahead:

**Central Brevard Sharing Center Barbecue** to support backpack programs that provide food to many elementary school children over weekends and during holidays. April 1 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. BJ Smith reports: “Location is Burton Smith Park west on 520. It is still not too late to compete. Go to [sharingcenterbbqcontest.com](http://sharingcenterbbqcontest.com) for information. Hope to see everyone there!”

**One Great Hour of Sharing** to be collected in March during Lent. This offering supports the Presbyterian Hunger Project, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and self-development of people throughout the world.

In addition to Easter lily donations this year, our “**in lieu of flowers**” donations will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which assists the hungry, thirsty, and homeless throughout the world and especially in Turkey devastated by February earthquakes.

## MEN OF THE CHURCH

Moderator Alan Foster reports that at their last Saturday morning Men’s Breakfast on February 11, 2023, there were twenty (20) in attendance. The subject was the history of Model A Fords. Kris Heitzman was the speaker along with his car buddy, Mike Brady. Thanks guys! The highlight was going outside and looking at the real thing—two Model A collector cars.

The next Men’s Group Breakfast will be Saturday, March 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in Calvin Hall. The speaker will be Dwight Bell, Executive Director, Wings of Grace Ministries. He uses small aircraft flying out of Brevard airports to support his ministry of helping teens. Although the group is a men’s group, anyone interested in the speaker’s subject is welcome to attend.



*From left to right: Eddie Edwards flipping pancakes for breakfast; everyone enjoying breakfast and fellowship; everyone marveling over the two well-preserved and cared for classic cars.*

## NEW RPC PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

### Calling All Smiles

As Pastor Sandy indicated in her newsletter message, a team has been commissioned to produce a new pictorial telephone directory for the church. On behalf of our Evangelism/Membership committee and RPC Deacons, we welcome you to share your smiles to create a 2023 pictorial directory of our members and visitors (those planning to join RPC within the next six months).

Beginning **Sunday, March 5**, in Calvin Hall, photo shoots will be available 10:30 – 10:50 a.m. and again immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service. We will repeat this opportunity all Sundays in March. No reservations, first in – first out. Photo proofs will be emailed to you for selection and inclusion in the directory. If without email, you can visit the office on Wednesdays (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) to view and select your photo (please ask for Susan).

To protect your privacy, a consent/release form will be available to authorize use of your photo and contact information in the pictorial directory.

Sincere thanks are extended to Dr. Peter Messmore, photographer, and Cheryl Carson, backdrop equipment/subject matter expert, for their time and resources. Let's make them and the committees proud.

Please contact Susan Melcher, RPC office volunteer, for questions and suggestions. Call the church office at 321-636-0811 for her contact information.

## NEW BENCH

We have a new bench at the church. Located some feet away, it matches the bench that has long been located in the grass at the front of the church yard. Both benches have beautiful views of the river and provide walkers and runners shady places to sit and rest when passing the church. The bench is a gift from the estate of Dr. Don Bryan, beloved, long-term member of RPC, who recently passed away. A perfect remembrance for a man who loved God's creation and his church. Thanks also to the Trustees who worked with the Scouts to lay the concrete pad and install the bench. They did a great job.



## RPC AT CHRISTMAS

While this is the Spring issue of *RPC Connection*, we'd like to share some images of how beautiful our sanctuary was on Christmas Eve. Thanks to all who donated poinsettias and those who helped decorate. Love came down at Christmas, and proved itself at Easter.



*If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome—Anne Bradstreet*

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS MARCH—MAY 2023

Church-specific events in bold font

<b>Month</b>	<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Event</b>
March	Sun 5	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Sharing Center Donations Day; Communion
	Sat 11	9:00 a.m.	Calvin Hall	Men's Breakfast and Fellowship; Manse demo begins
	Sun 12			Daylight Saving Time Begins
	13—17			RPS Spring Break
	Fri 17			St Patrick's Day
	Mon 20			RPS Teacher Workday (student holiday) First Day of Spring
April	Sat 1			April Fool's Day
	Sun 2	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Palm Sunday and Communion
	Thur 6	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	Maundy Thursday
	Fri 7			Good Friday
	Sun 9	7:00 a.m. 8-9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Courtyard Calvin Hall Sanctuary	Easter Sunrise Service Continental Breakfast Traditional Easter Service
	Tue 18			Tax Day
	Sat 22			Earth Day
	Fri 28			Arbor Day
May	Sun 7	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Communion
	Sun 14			Mother's Day
	Sun 28			Pentecost Sunday
	Mon 29			Memorial Day

Dates and times of special events and services will be in the weekly church bulletin and on the home page of the RPC website: [rockledgepres.com](http://rockledgepres.com).

### Prayer for Spring by John Birch

There is real wisdom, Lord, in the adage  
 'It is always Springtime in the heart that loves  
 God.'  
 Springtime is a season of optimism and hope,  
 and the Christian lives a faith centered on hope.  
 Winter, with its cold and dark days, has gone,  
 just as Good Friday has passed to Easter and  
 beyond.

We live a resurrection life  
 reflected in the new life springing up around us.  
 Thank you, Lord, for the hope that you bring,  
 the renewal that you bring,  
 both to this world and to our hearts and lives.



Rockledge Presbyterian Church  
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Rockledge, Florida 32955  
Phone (321) 636-0811

Church E-Mail Address:  
[officemanager@rockledgepres.com](mailto:officemanager@rockledgepres.com)

Pastor's E-Mail Address:  
[sandyelacey@gmail.com](mailto:sandyelacey@gmail.com)

Web Site:  
<http://rockledgepres.com/>

Facebook:  
<http://https://www.facebook.com/RockledgePresbyterian>

Services:  
In person 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Livestream on Facebook 11:00 a.m.  
Facebook/YouTube 11:00 a.m.



## RPC CONNECTION MARCH-MAY 2023

Since 1877, the members of Rockledge Presbyterian Church have been dedicated to the ministry of Jesus Christ and His mission in the world.

### Church Staff

Rev. Sandy Lacey, Pastor  
Liz Turner, Office Manager  
Jim Bishop, Choir Director  
Robert McBride, Organist/Pianist  
Julian Spratt, Treasurer  
Susan Rachor, Bookkeeper  
B.J. Smith, Financial Secretary  
Paul Wood, RPC Trustee Chairman  
Karen Rhein, Director, Presbyterian School  
TBD, PW Moderator  
Dr. Alan Foster, Men of the Church Moderator  
Jane Holmes/Beverly Myrick Co-Moderators, Board of Deacons  
Sydney McMaster, Nursery Attendant

Rockledge Presbyterian Church  
921 Rockledge Drive  
Rockledge, Florida 32955

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

