

# RPC NEWSLETTER

*Just these thoughts my friends...*



As the Gospel of John unfolds with the story of the first Easter morning, we become immediately aware of the fact that there is a lot of running taking place. And this means that you and I can relate. Mary Magdalene, in her grief and exhaustion from the agony of the previous days has, in an act of compassion, made her way to the tomb. She has gone there to lovingly care for the body of her dear friend. But after finding the tomb empty, she is hit with a rush of adrenaline, and runs to tell Peter and the beloved disciple the astonishing news. Peter will put on his running sandals and run back to the tomb to see with his own eyes what Mary has reported. John tells us that Peter will be outrun by his friend. For everything that Peter was, he apparently wasn't the fastest runner. I know the feeling. But the account seems clear. Mary is running to "tell" the story of the empty tomb. Peter and John are running to "see" the empty tomb. All of them are running to Easter, still not totally sure of what all of this may mean. And it is there, on that first Easter, that Mary, exhausted from all of her running and numb from sadness, encountered the risen Savior. And it is there, at the empty tomb, that she heard Jesus call her by name: "Mary!"

It seems that one of our greatest desires in this life is to be known; to be thought well of, to be respected and honored, to be liked and maybe even loved. It is the rare person in this life who just doesn't care about what anyone thinks of them. But most of us, if we are honest, probably aren't that person. We care about what people think about us. We care about being known. We want to be accepted. We want to be loved. So we strive, and we strive, and we strive. And we run, and we run, and we run. Only to fall exhausted at the end of most days, still lacking from the world around us that which we so earnestly long for.


Rock friends, Easter is a reminder that our risen savior calls us by name. The risen savior calls us by name, and loves us into a life that is devoted, not to this world, but to running the race he has set before us, with our eyes ever on him. Can you hear him calling your name?

Blessings in Christ!

Dr. Chris Leonard



# YOUTH! YOUTH! YOUTH!

## APRIL HAPPENINGS


Sunday, April 7 5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. **Sunday Night Live! (MH)**   
 Jim Moneyhun teaching  
 Dinner provided by the Sisiam Family

Sunday, April 14 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. **Visiting Shut-Ins and Dinner Out**

Sunday, April 21 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Joint Event with Rock JAM (MPB)**  
 (dinner with parents and kids, games, and worship)

**YOUTH** &   
 Sunday, April 28 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Youth Sunday Preparation, Pizza, & Fun (MH)** 

## COMING IN MAY

Sunday, May 12   
**YOUTH SUNDAY!**  
 Youth will lead in both services!

Wednesday, May 15 5:45 p.m. **Rock Family Supper & Senior High Recognition**

Sunday, May 19 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. **Summer Jam End of the Year Party & Concert (tba)**

Calling all Rock JAM & Youth!!  
 Family Fun Night is Sunday, April 21, in the multipurpose building.  
 Join us for games, worship, dinner, and lots of fun!! Parents are invited!



Sunday, April 21, 5:00 p.m. (MPB)

Join us for worship!

**May 12**

**9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**

**YOUTH SUNDAY**



# Rock JAM



**ROCK JESUS AND ME**

*April Activities:*

- April 7: Rock JAM, 5-6:30**  
Dinner Provided
- April 14: Rock JAM, 5-6:30**  
Dinner Provided
- April 21: Children sing at 9am & "Youth Family Supper" at 5pm**  
All Rock JAM and Youth families invited to a combined dinner & fun in the MPB!
- April 28: Putt-Putt & Popsicles!**  
Details Coming Soon!

Monday, June 3-Thursday, June 6  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Camp Firelight**  
A SUMMER CAMP Psalm 56:3  
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

Volunteers needed all areas.  
Contact [dgasque@rpcgwd.org](mailto:dgasque@rpcgwd.org) for more information.

# ROCK



# JAM



# FUN



**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!!**

Beginning Easter weekend there will be a table in the Welcome Center. The purpose of this table is to welcome visitors and offer a gift bag. We will need volunteers to help with this for 10-15 minutes after each service. If you can help let us know by contacting the church office and noting when you can help, after the 9:00 a.m. service, after the 11:00 a.m. service, or both.

Thank you in advance for your help!



**Rock Family  
Covered Dish Supper  
Wednesday, April 17  
5:45 p.m.**

Save the date and plan to join your church family for a covered dish dinner and lots of fellowship! Dr. Byron Greene will be our guest speaker and will share information about good health and wellness. No sign ups are needed. Just plan to bring a dish that will serve 8-10 people and come!

*Stewardship*

**ASK CHUCK:**



**How to Make Good Use of Your Tax Refund**

<https://www.crown.org/all-resources/ask-chuck-make-good-use-of-your-tax-refund>

**Helping a Friend with their Financial Stress**

<https://www.crown.org/all-resources/ask-chuck-tips-for-saving-money-on-income-taxes>

Check out [www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org) for other financial resources.

Copy and paste links in web browser to read articles

*Worship*



Date	9:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
April 7	Ellen Warner	Laura Snelling	Diane Easterlin
April 14	Angela Easterling	Patty Reagin	Ann Stevenson
April 21	Mary Ann Edwards	Julia McClanahan	Carolyn Fish
April 28 Men's Sunday	Karen Reese	Larissa Roughton	Kathryn Luke



## Sunday Sermons

Sunday, April 7 Communion Sunday	<i>Resurrection Shalom</i> John 20:19-23	Dr. Chris Leonard
Sunday, April 14	<i>Can a Rock Be Healed?</i> John 21:15-17	Rev. David Turner
Sunday, April 21	<i>The \$64K Question</i> John 11:25-27	Dr. Chris Leonard
Sunday, April 28	<i>The Annual Men's Sunday</i>	

April Ushers: Andrew Nickles, Dennis Murphy

Communion 9:00 a.m. Margaret Pridmore, Karen Reese  
11:00 a.m. Susan Chasteen, Jennifer Wood

*9:00 a.m. Contemporary/11:00 a.m. Traditional*  
*Live Stream (11:00 a.m.) and childcare are available each week*



## A Word From the Piano Bench by Sandra Hix

### Hymn "Morning Has Broken"

"**Morning Has Broken**" is a Christian hymn first published in 1931. It has words by English author Eleanor Farjeon and is set to a traditional Scottish Gaelic tune, "Bunessan". English pop musician and folk singer Cat Stevens included a version on his album, *Teaser and the Firecat*, in 1971. The song became identified with Stevens due to the popularity of this recording. It reached number six on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 and number one on the US easy listening chart in 1972. But the origin of the song came about when there was a need for a hymn to give thanks for each day. Eleanor Farjeon, who was an English poet and children's author, had been "asked to make a poem to fit the lovely Scottish tune." The song is often associated with children's music and the arrival of spring. The hymn is in our current hymnal on page 45.





Spaces still available for the Women's retreat! Come join your Rock sisters in Christ for fellowship and spiritual growth.

## **Rock Presbyterian Women's Retreat! April 26-28, 2024**

**THEME:** Something New (Isaiah 43:19)

**SPEAKER:** Amy Ricketts is a member of First Baptist Abbeville. She is a youth team leader, serves as a member of the Rescued and Restored Ministry for men and women who are in recovery, and is also involved with

Lakelands Women's Ministry.

**NEW LOCATION:** YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC

Join your sisters from Rock for a time of rest, fellowship, spiritual growth, and fun without the everyday distractions.

Sign up on the Rock Presbyterian Church Facebook page or use this link <https://bit.ly/rpcretreat24> (copy & paste). Final payments due April 1.

## *Building & Grounds*

Exciting news from Building & Grounds Ministry Team!! Covenant partners will begin seeing activity around our church campus related to the retention wall behind the MPB, the walkway between the Education Building and the Welcome Center, as well as sod work in front of the MPB.



### **Spring Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 20**

We have scheduled our spring cleanup day for Saturday April 20. All are invited to use their skills in this churchwide event. An activity list is being finalized. If there are suggestions for campus improvement contact the B&G ministry team.

## *Miscellaneous Church News*



**MEN'S STEAK DINNER  
SATURDAY, APRIL 27  
6:00 P.M.**



# CELEBRATIONS...

## Happy Birthday

4/2 Judy Markell  
 4/4 Connor Fagan  
 Ian Fagan  
 Max Snelling  
 4/5 Michael Cooper  
 Roland Snelling  
 George Young, III  
 4/6 Aidan Warner  
 4/7 Adalyn Croyle  
 4/8 Bob Golden  
 Leah Johnson  
 Reece Miller  
 4/9 Bob Pacheco  
 4/11 Josh Dunford  
 4/13 Danny Doss  
 4/14 Rhett Brock  
 Lindsay Jones  
 Jackson Palmer  
 4/16 Neeley Reagin  
 4/17 Mary Jane Bates  
 Landen Chasteen  
 Cassandra Figueroa  
 Katie Piontek  
 4/18 Teresa Fox  
 4/19 Thomas Gasque  
 Ronnie Markell  
 Suzanne Ramage  
 4/20 Alex Clayton  
 Susan Jennings  
 Sue McFarland  
 Melinda Snelling  
 4/22 Savannah Edwards  
 4/26 Karen Hicks  
 Keison Justice  
 Tammy Justice  
 4/27 Mary Kathryn Dill  
 4/28 Libby Croyle  
 Clair Harmon  
 4/29 Laurie Cordell  
 4/30 Katherine Martin  
 Caitlin Nickles  
 Joel Peterson



## Happy Anniversary

4/1 Tommy & Courtney Tsai  
 4/7 Mark & Rhonda Merritt  
 4/10 Jim & Stacy Slagle  
 4/11 Chris Dunford & Mary Ann Edwards  
 Joe & Toni Sample-Howlett  
 4/14 Randy & Kathy McDaniel  
 4/17 Chris & Dianne Salter  
 4/21 Daniel & Kelsey Bannister  
 4/24 Richard & Wendy Whiting  
 4/26 Dennis & Debbie Dill  
 4/28 Matt & Kelsey Reynolds  
 4/29 Patrick & Shanon Jackson

Rock of Ages met on March 4 with 50 covenant partners attending to enjoy fellowship and a meal together. Rev David Turner gave us an enlightening talk on the Celtic Cross.

Watch for announcement of time and date for our May Rock of Ages.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 6, 8:00 a.m.  
Mission House

All men are invited for a hot breakfast, Christian fellowship, and a brief devotion by Jeff Hix.

## "One Can" Ministry

RPC's One Can Ministry continues each week! Please bring any non-perishables on Sunday and place in the bins located in the Welcome Center. Our congregation generously gave 123 lbs. of food this month to support the Food Bank of Greenwood County.

*No expired food accepted.*

## 2024 GOLF TOURNAMENT and CONGREGATIONAL COOKOUT

The 2024 Men's golf tournament and congregational cookout is scheduled for Saturday, May 25. The golf tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. at Stoney Point. Everyone is invited to the congregational cookout whether you participate in the golf tournament or not. Cookout starts at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jim & Lillian Moneyhun (Creekside). Bring your chair and come for wonderful fellowship and a delicious meal with your church family. Sign up sheets will be posted in early May.

*Please keep in your prayers  
Church Family at home*

Sara Ashworth (Brookdale)  
Lucia Bryson (Presbyterian Community)  
Bill Cochran  
Bob Davidson  
Lib Grier (NHC)  
Carolyn Jeffcoat (Presbyterian Community)  
Mac Myers (Renaissance)  
Charlene Pacheco  
Pat Poole (Emerald Gardens)  
Marjorie Roberts (Presbyterian Community)

**Active Duty Military**

Felipe Denis Blengio (Susan Judge's grandson)  
Justin Goldstein  
Andrew Heath (Ken & Robin Leach's son-in-law)  
Adam Hix  
Lottie Kamis (Marie Miller's granddaughter)  
Matthew McManis  
William Mitchell (Bill & Suzy Mitchell's grandson)

**Reserved Duty Military**

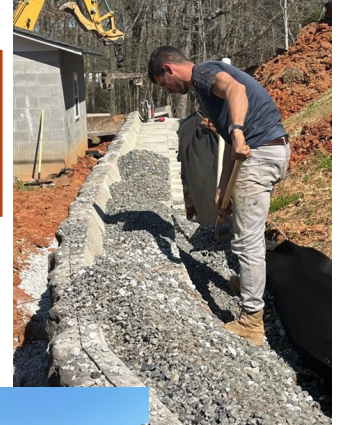
Chris Miller

**Rock Presbyterian Church wishes to express  
Christian Sympathy to...**

*Ludem Gonzalez & family in the death of his mother*



**Building  
of a  
Retention  
Wall**



MAILING LABEL

Return Service Requested



Rock Presbyterian Church  
122 Rock Church Road NW  
Greenwood, SC 29649  
Phone: 864-538-4932  
Email: [mfisher@rpcgw.org](mailto:mfisher@rpcgw.org)  
Website: [www.rpcgw.org](http://www.rpcgw.org)