

**RALEIGH COURT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR



Sunday, October 26, 2025
11:00 AM - Sanctuary

Back to the Basics



The Ark & Tabernacle

The Mission of RCPC is:
To Seek Christ
To Serve Christ
To Show Christ
To Know God through Christ

Ministers
Pastor & Head of Staff
Associate Pastor
Director of Christian Education
Minister of Care
Director of Music Ministries
Preschool Director

All the People of Raleigh Court Church
The Rev. Andrew C. Whaley
The Rev. Isabella Fagiani
Leigh Sackett
The Rev. David Dixon, MD
Dillon J. Swanson
Betsy Prillaman

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

THE WESTMINSTER CHIMES

OPENING PRAYER

John Calvin (1509-1564)

PROCESSIONAL

Brian Donaldson, bagpipes
Dillon J. Swanson, organ
arr. James Wetherald

Highland Cathedral

The banners this morning represent our theological heritage in the Reformed tradition, Part One of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA. These confessions include:

The Apostles Creed	The Westminster Confession
The Nicene Creed	The Barmen Declaration
The Scots Confession	The Confession of 1967
The Second Helvetic Confession	A Brief Statement of Faith
The Heidelberg Catechism	The Belhar Confession

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Isabella Fagiani
from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (1991)

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy one of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

*OPENING HYMN 624

TOULON

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

*CALL TO CONFESSION

from the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* (1647)

What is sin?

Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

God, having out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Martin Luther, German Reformer (1483-1546)

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I

doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.

(Let us silently offer confessions that are individually ours to make.)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

from *The Confession of 1967*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.

But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful human beings.

The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love. Friends believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***GLORIA PATRI**

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one. As it was in the beginning now forever. Amen!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

A Highland Hymn

Raleigh Court Ringers

Derek K. Hakes

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Presentation of New Members

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Question to the New Members

Question to the Congregation

Prayer of Welcome

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Please take a moment to find the Friendship Folder in your pew rack and sign so we know who was worshiping with us today. If you are new, please leave an address, email address, or phone number if you'd like to learn more about the life of our congregation.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

from the *Theological Declaration of Barmen* (1934)

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we

have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 25:10-22

(p. 70 in the pew Bible)

The grass withers and the flowers fade but the word of the Lord stands forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children's Worship follows immediately after the children's sermon. Children ages 4 through 1st Grade may leave for Children's Worship, an age-appropriate service.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 40:1-16

(p. 86 in the pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Andrew C. Whaley

The Big Top

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leigh Sackett

from the *Scots Confession of 1560*

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom alone we must worship, and in whom alone we must put our trust; who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; by whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE 45**

DUNDEE

I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING from the *Second Helvetic Confession* (1563)

For we teach that truly good works grow out of a living faith by the Holy Spirit and are done by the faithful according to the will or rule of God's word.

These same works ought not to be done in order that we may earn eternal life by them

but for the glory of God, to adorn our calling, to show gratitude to God, and for the profit of our neighbor.

We were not regenerated through faith in order to be idle, but rather that without ceasing we should do those things which are good and useful

Gifts for the offering can be made by placing your offering in the plate as it is passed or by scanning the QR Code on the back of your bulletin with your smartphone. Visit rcpres.org and click "Give Now" to learn more.

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

I Am Not My Own

Craig Courtney

I am not my own, not in body, not in soul, in life, or even death. I am not my own. I belong unto my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. I am not my own. His own blood has ransomed me, from evil set me free. I am not my own. For my salvation all things work together, in eternal life He gives me hope. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I will live for Him. I belong to Him, in life, in death, my only comfort. I will live for Him forever, and ever, forevermore.

-The offertory this week is a paraphrase of the first Question and Answer of the Heidelberg Catechism

SIGNS OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

At this time, you are invited to come to one of the stations in the Sanctuary to place your 2026 financial commitment and prayer requests in the basket beside the podiums. All regular offerings may also be placed in the basket.

***DOXOLOGY 696**

GRATUS, Scotland

O God, You Are My God Alone (stanza 2 only)

Your faithful love surpasses life, evoking all my praise. Through every day, to bless your name, my hands in joy I'll raise. My deepest needs you satisfy as with a sumptuous feast. So, on my lips and in my heart, your praise has never ceased.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***CLOSING HYMN 275**

EIN FESTE BURG

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

***CHARGE & BLESSING**

from the *Belhar Confession* (1983)

We believe

that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

We believe

that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 462**

HANKEY

I Love to Tell the Story (refrain only)

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

***POSTLUDE**

Scotland the Brave

Traditional Piping Tune

A Mighty Fortress

arr. Charles W. Ore

***TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING**

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Acolytes: Simon Whaley & Sylvia Mutcheson

Ushers: John Phelps, Joe Austin, Jane Powell, & Ron Kemnitzer

Children's Worship: Elizabeth, Freda, & Sam Chapman

Choral Accompanist: Deanne Vance

Flowers arranged by Marsha Ellison

MINISTRY MESSAGES

PRAYER REQUESTS: Marvin & Roena Barbre, Dawn Blakeman, Jackie Blakeman, David-Charles Campbell, Collie Family (friends of Paul Kessel), Rachel Cooper (daughter of Carolyn Wilson), Courtney Cronin, Beverly Day and family (friend of Camilla and Johnsey Cabaniss), Nate Ellison (son of Jay and Polly Ellison), Nancy Farthing, Carolyn Hampton (sister-in-law of Mary Hampton), Debra Harris, Cameron & Susie Hutto, Sue Garrett, Cheryl Gilliland, Susan Lindstrom, Megan Mallare (friend of Kathy Grove), Rusty McCown, Louise Morris, Betty Nance, Amy Starr Redwine, Randy Remington (friend of Betty Remington), Ian Richardson (brother-in-law of Jonathan Crook), Janis Wertz, and all caregivers.

Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with June Paxton's family following her passing on Thursday, October 16, and with Betty Garner's family following her passing on Tuesday, October 21.

ONLINE GIVING If you prefer to give online you can either visit rcpres.org and press the "Give Now" button on the homepage or scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to the donation page. This can be done as a one-time or an ongoing way to support our mission and ministry.



MISSION PARTNER SUPPORT Each month, we designate all cash and coin to one of our local mission partners. For the month of October, we are supporting the House of Bread. You can place your money in the offering plate or make an online gift using the QR code, noting that it is for Mission and making a note for House of Bread in the text box. As of October 19 we have collected \$1,711.75 for House of Bread.

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS Fellowship Dinners occur each Wednesday from October - May at 6:15 PM. Our amazing chef, Heather, has a delicious lineup of meals planned, and each week offers a vegetarian option as well. **Menu for October 29:** Roasted Pork Loin, Scalloped Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Homemade Bread, Red Velvet Cake & Roasted Squash Entree. Meals are a suggested donation of \$8 per person and free for 3 and younger, with a max of \$25 for a family. **Please register by noon the Tuesday before each meal either online at rcpres.org/dinner or on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.**

FALL FESTIVAL: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 – TONIGHT!

All proceeds benefit the RCPC Preschool

5:00 PM – Organ Spooktacular

5:30 PM – Dinner & Games & Raffle Tickets

6:45 PM – Trunk or Treat

SUPPORT THE RCPC PRESCHOOL - PLANT SALE & RAFFLE BASKETS

Holiday Plant Sale - order your holiday plants and support the preschool. Poinsettias, Amaryllis bulbs, wreaths, garland, cactus, and more! All orders are due Thursday, October 30, and the plants will be delivered to the church for pick up on December 2. Download the order form in the This Week @ RCPC.

Raffle Baskets - Do you want to win one of the amazing baskets displayed in the Gathering Area? Fall Festival Raffle tickets are now on sale! Order forms are located next to the baskets. Tickets are only \$1 each or 12 tickets for \$10. Most baskets are valued at over \$200 and include gift cards to local restaurants and stores. Baskets will be raffled off at the Fall Festival on October 26, and you do NOT need to be present to win. All proceeds benefit RCPC Preschool!

DRUMSTICK DASH SUPPORTING THE RESCUE MISSION Please consider signing up for the 2025 Drumstick Dash! In-Person is November 27th; however, you can always choose to participate virtually if you plan on being out of town. Either way, an awesome t-shirt is included. Please use the discount code (Williams15) to receive a 15% discount on the registration fee. You can also register your pup to walk or run with you! If you'd like to join Leigh-Ann William's team, it is named "Paws For A Cause". Move your feet (and paws) so others can eat! Register online at drumstickdash.net

THIS WEEK AT RCPC

Sunday, October 26

Commitment Sunday & Reformation Sunday

9:00 AM Worship – Chapel
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & New Member Welcome
5:00 PM Organ Spooktacular
5:30 PM Fall Festival

Monday, October 27

No Preschool
12:30 PM Monday Small Group
7:00 PM Men's Small Group
7:00 PM Session

Tuesday, October 28

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
4:00 PM Small Group: Dixon
7:15 PM Raleigh Court Ringers
7:30 PM Women's Small Group

Wednesday, October 29

3:15 PM Genesis Ringers
4:00 PM God Alive
6:15 PM Fellowship Dinner
6:45 PM Chamber Choir
7:00 PM Christmas Choir
7:00 PM Wednesday Small Group
8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 2 Our 9:00 AM service will take place in the Gathering Area overlooking the Columbarium, and we will light a candle for each member who has entered the Church Triumphant in the past year at both services.

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL – FRED HOFFMAN On Sunday, November 2 during the Seekers Sunday School class at 10:00 AM, Fred Hoffman will share a presentation about his trip to South Sudan earlier to support the Abukloi school this year.

URBAN REBLOK'D PLASTIC RECYCLING Wednesday, October 29 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the RCPC parking lot. Full list of items you can recycle in the Gathering Area and This Week @ RCPC.

Thursday, October 30

10:00 AM Hunger Mission Packing
10:30 AM Thursday Small Group
5:30 PM Parents of Young Children Small Group

Friday, October 31

Saturday, November 1

Rotary Food Packing

Sunday, November 2

9:00 AM Worship – Gathering Area
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary
12:15 PM Youth Group – The Least of These

WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR GROUPS

RCPC Preschool: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM

Centering Prayer at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church: Monday, 10:00 AM

Scouts-Troop 2B: Monday, 7:00 PM

AA-Primary Purpose: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30 AM

Tai Chi: Tuesday & Thursday, 5:30 PM

Hip Sober Chicks: Thursday, 6:30 PM

Opera Roanoke Chorus: Thursday, 7:00 PM

Al-Anon: Friday, 11:45 AM