



RALEIGH COURT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
THE CHURCH OF THE OPENDOOR

Sermon Series: June 15—August 24

In the summer months when people are on the road, we will be “on the way” with Abraham. The Abraham story marks a turning point in scripture, where God chooses to work through a specific family instead of through the creation as a whole (Garden, Flood, Babel, etc.). This family, however, meets no standards of righteous behavior. What they do show us is how struggling people can still live in trust, repent of wrongdoing, fail terribly, and yet still be precious to God. This journeying story is one of grace where we are reminded of God’s radical call, freedom, and mercy.



July 6—Salem Born & Salem Bred
Genesis 14:17-24

July 13—The Promise
Romans 4:1-5 & Genesis 15:1-7, 13-16

July 27—Uninvited Guests
Romans 9:6-18 & Genesis 18:1-15

August 3—Don’t Look Back
Genesis 19:15-28

August 10—Provisions
Isaiah 41:8-10 & Genesis 21:8-21

August 17—Jehovah Jireh
Romans 8:31-39 & Genesis 22:1-14

August 24—Burial Rites
John 8:52-58 & Genesis 25:7-11



Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday worship throughout the summer is at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary until Labor Day. Nursery and Children’s Worship are available each week. There is no Sunday School until the fall.

WORK GROUPS

Work Group Updates and Q&A Sessions

In the summer months, each of our four Work Groups of elders and deacons will offer a brief update on their planning processes for the strategic goals of RCPC. Each of these groups was birthed out of the conversations held last summer with many of you and at a retreat of our church officers in November. They have been meeting over these months and presenting reports to the session that we hope can guide us in the coming years.

We would love your reflections and thoughts on these presentations. After worship on the Sundays listed below, there will be a time for questions in the Fellowship Hall with the members of that Work Group. They can clarify matters, answer questions about their process, and hear what helpful insights each person in our church has to offer. Below are the dates for each group. Plan to join us!

July 20: Strategic Mission

August 3: Community Connection

Senior Session

Centennial Conversations - Community Connections Workgroup invites you to our very first trial run of a Senior Session!

What's a senior session?

A summer gathering once a month in July and August to provide a chance for fellowship and learning opportunities on a variety of topics pertinent for those aging in the congregation.

This summer we'll gather twice:

- Monday, July 21 - a trial run of a gathering on planning for the future with lunch provided
- August (date TBA) - a bring-your-own-lunch & ideas meeting where those gathered will help brainstorm topics they'd like discussed at next summer's gatherings

Senior Sessions: Planning for the Future – Monday, July 21 at 11:00 AM

Join us for a relaxed and engaging conversation on estate and legacy planning, led by RCPC member and attorney Sue Cook of Woods Rogers. Sue will walk us through the basics of wills, powers of attorney, advance medical directives, and how trusts can help simplify estate administration and protect loved ones. She'll also cover common probate questions, strategies to reduce delays and expenses—no trust required—and how to clearly document your final wishes regarding memorial services, cremation or burial, and how to designate someone to carry out those wishes. A representative from RCPC's Endowment Committee will briefly share options for including the church in your plans, if that's something you feel called to explore. This session is offered purely for the benefit of our members—no commitments, no pressure, just helpful information, and a chance to connect. We'll wrap up with a few thought-provoking hypotheticals and a Q&A. Lunch will be provided—bring your questions and join us!

Pre-register online at: tinyurl.com/RCPCSeniorSession721 or on the sheet in the Gathering Area.



**God Alive Summer
Gardening & Ice Cream**



MUSIC MINISTRY

Join the Choir this Summer!

The Sanctuary Choir will lead worship in our Grandin Road Summer Hymn Festival on Saturday, July 12 at 4:00 PM. Those interested in the hymn festival choir may visit the following link to sign-up for more information: forms.gle/nfzrB5Tmbs9viMRz9.

These opportunities are open to all adults and students 6th grade and older.

Summer Special Music

Before the return of our ensembles in fall, we have four opportunities for special music. These offerings may include vocal solos, instrumental solos, duets, etc. If you are interested in sharing your gifts and would like more information, please contact Dillon J. Swanson at dillon@rcpres.org.

Dates:

July 6, 13, & 20

August 3, 10, 17, & 31

Grandin Road Summer Hymn Festival Saturday, July 12 at 4:00 PM

GRANDIN ROAD SUMMER HYMN FESTIVAL

WE BELIEVE...

Celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the
Nicene Creed and the legacy of John Ferguson.

The Grandin Road Summer Hymn Festival, hosted by RCP, is a combined effort of the music ministries of churches on and around Grandin Road with a common goal of interdenominational song sharing and leading. Our hope for this event is that those gathered to sing will experience a breadth of hymnody and music from a variety of traditions and genres. Any singers from any church or choir in the Roanoke area are invited to join us in the festival choir or the assembly for the final

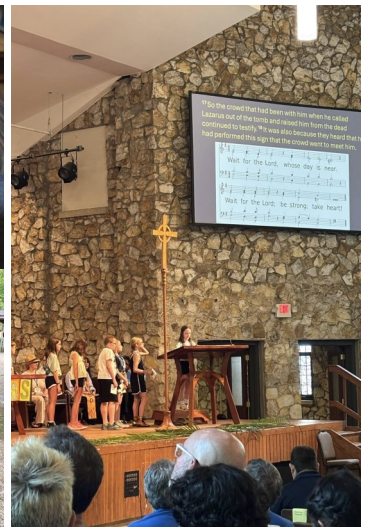
program. If interested, please contact Dillon J. Swanson at dillon@rcpres.org for more information.

2025 Theme - "We Believe . . ."

All of the hymn settings and anthems this year are arrangements by John Ferguson, a prolific church musician, composer, and teacher who passed away on January 5, 2025. He has composed many choral anthems and congregational hymn settings of varying difficulty levels, and our hymn festival will showcase the breadth of his work. We hope that all participants will learn something they can take with them as they return to their home congregations and church choirs.

Our guest conductor this summer is Dr. Michael Pekel, director of choirs at Roanoke College. We will be joined by a brass quartet to support the hymn singing using Ferg's arrangements for organ and brass.

Montreat Worship & Music Conference



YOUTH MINISTRY

Summer Youth Ministry & July Schedule

July 6—12 | Montreat Youth Conference

July 6 | Commissioning for Montreat & Massanetta Participants in Worship

July 10—13 | Massanetta Middle School Conference

Wednesday, July 23 | 3:00 PM—4:30 PM

Pop-Up Youth Group for High School

Hometown Mission Week—Shepherds Wanted

August 4—6, 2025

Shepherds accompany and serve with a small group of youth 1-3 days of our Hometown Mission Week. As a Shepherd, you arrive with the youth, worship alongside them, help drive them to mission sites, and work alongside them at the sites. At times, you will serve as a small group leader—prompting kids to think on questions (given to you) about their service. You make sure the kids in your group are always present as we move from site to site and the places where we are eating a brown bag lunch (often in a local park). While mission sites are not yet determined, activities in the past have included gardening at the Carver Garden, sorting food at the PCC, making PB&J sandwiches at the Rescue Mission, decorating lunch bags at RAM, landscaping at the Bradley Free Clinic, sorting donations at the Rescue Mission, waterway clean up at Wasena Park, and many more! If you are interested or would like more information, contact Isabella at Isabella@rcpres.org.

Hometown Mission Week—Registration Deadline

Deadline for Youth to Register is Sunday, July 20. Open to all youth, rising 6th grade through graduated 12th grade. You can register using the links in Isabella's emails throughout the month or contact Isabella at Isabella@rcpres.org if you have questions.



Youth Canoe Float



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Living the Word

Saturday, July 26

Saturday, August 16

All dates are 10:00 AM—12:00 PM at Ms. Leigh's

God Alive Garden

Wednesday, July 16

Wednesday, August 6

All dates are 4:00 PM—6:00 PM at Ms. Leigh's House

MISSION & FELLOWSHIP

July Mission Partner: West End Center School Supply Drive



West End Center for Youth is a non-profit organization located at the corner of Patterson Ave and 13th Street. The Center serves about 120 children from all over Roanoke, providing after-school care with homework tutoring and other opportunities to enrich their lives. RCPC has had a relationship supporting the endeavors of the center for 45 years! The first director of the program was Kay Hale, a member of RCPC. We have provided socks and underwear at Christmas, tutors to help with homework, school supplies and our Endowment Board helped the center to

purchase mini-buses to be able to transport the children to activities around the valley, and granted a large gift toward the bathroom and kitchen renovations.

This year the center was a recipient of a grant from the Women's Foundation that helped to renovate a large room into a gym and multi-purpose space for our Middle and High School students. This age group has continued to grow and we want to encourage their attendance. This room has new windows that let in natural light, a new floor, padding around the walls, a basketball hoop, new ac/heating units and a new sofa and loveseat seating area near the windows for socializing.

Our students are enjoying a fun summer with swimming at the new Washington Park Pool, field trips, hikes, education enrichment activities and playing on our new playground. Your donations help to support our programs, staff salaries and maintenance.

The West End Center Friends Mission Group would like to encourage you to participate in the **July School Supplies Drive**. When a child has the materials needed to begin the school day, he/she feels more confident and prepared to engage in the lessons. **All supplies need to be brought to RCPC or West End Center by Sunday, August 3** in order for individual bags to be prepared for each child that will be specific to their school and grade. The supply list can be found below or at the table in the Gathering Area.

This is also a perfect time to consider serving as a homework tutor at the center for the school year. A homework tutor sits with a child and helps the child focus to complete his/her assignments. If a child needs extra help in reading or doing multiplication facts, you can also give that help. It is helpful for the center to have mature tutors who come on a regular basis. Even one afternoon a week or month is very helpful on a regular basis. If you would like more information about tutoring or would like to sign up, please visit our table in the Gathering Area or call Susan Kessler (540-989-2103). We also welcome anyone who would like to be a part of the West End Center Friends Mission Group to sign up at the table.

2025-2026 School Supply Drive List

Items in red are a high priority. Monetary donations are also welcome. \$75 supplies most children with their full list. We do not need the following: paper pocket folders, spiral notebooks, pencil boxes, or crayons.

Supply List:

- **Hand sanitizer (8oz pump bottles)**
- **Disinfection wipes (e.g. Clorox)**
- Baby wipes
- Band-aids
- Tissues
- **Pencil pouches with 3-ringer binder holes**
- Headphones/ear buds
- **Plastic baggies (zip top in gallon, quart, sandwich)**
- Dry erase markers (thin & wide tip multipack, all colors)
- #2 pencils (Dixon & Ticonderoga preferred)
- Elmer's glue sticks
- **Children's Fiskar brand scissors**
- **Marbled composition notebooks (wide & college ruled)**
- Plastic pocket folders (with and without brads)
- Highlighters (thin & wide)
- 1-inch binders
- 2-inch binders
- **3-inch binders**
- Subject dividers (with and without pockets)
- 1/4-inch graph paper
- Index cards
- Notebook paper (wide & college ruled)
- Crayola colored pencils
- Crayola markers (thin & wide)
- Handheld pencil sharpeners with bin to catch shavings

FELLOWSHIP

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Lizzie Kessler
Steve Nash
3 Brock Mutcheson
4 Isabella Danyi
Polly Ellison
Debbie Nash
5 Thomas Hahn
Marty Hodges
Christina Urbaniak
6 Chris Bryant
Lonnie Phillips
7 Bonnie Cooper
Betty Nance
Dave Owen-O'Quill
Patrick Stanley
8 Gillie Henriksen
Robin McLamb
Anita Naff

9 Tom Gibbs
11 Patricia Coffey
Tom Mitchell
Courtney Ralston
12 Elizabeth Jones
Keith Jones
Brandon Pierson
Elise Poffenberger
13 Sam Chapman
Anne Newman
14 Jack McLamb
Bradley Oliver
Hannah Phillips
15 Nick Brash
Johnsey Cabaniss
17 Sam Bullington
Charlotte Johnson
Grant Skinner

18 Becky Carter
Jim Ellison
Charles Feuerstein
Frank Walkiewicz
Janis Wertz
20 Cassy Ammen
21 Frankie Doyle
22 Emma Feuerstein
Elizabeth Matthews
Jones
23 Tim Ritz
24 Sebastian Danyi
Cora Goad
David Moorman
Jacob Neathawk
Dawn Rees-Blakeman

25 Kurt Guelzow
Sophie Heddleston
Tyler Skinner
Carol Webster
26 Rachel Birch
Eric Clifton
Hank Henriksen
27 Elizabeth Martin
28 Lily Ward
29 Paula Derbyshire
Harry Rhodes
31 Finley Biddle
Jack Fishwick
Amy Ralston

Special Anniversary Wishes:

Les & Kathy Brown on celebrating their 54th Wedding Anniversary on July 3.
David & Gail Price on celebrating their 57th Wedding Anniversary on July 3.
Janis & Jerry Wertz on celebrating their 57th Wedding Anniversary on July 12.
Jeff & Katie Highfill on celebrating their 51st Wedding Anniversary on July 13.
Barry & Becky Marsh on celebrating their 53rd Wedding Anniversary on July 29.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR AFTER WORSHIP JULY 13 & 27

STAY AFTER WORSHIP FOR AN INFORMAL TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY.

Fellowship Outing—Salem Red Sox Game



Book Group

Nancy Ayling's monthly book group will meet on the following dates in room 201 at 10:30 AM.
July 9 at 11:30 (note the time change, bring your lunch!),
September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10
For book information or more details contact Nancy at ayling42@verizon.net

July 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Staff Planning Retreat	2 6:30pm—Summer Book Study	3 10am—Summer Book Study	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 9:00am—Summer Choir Rehearsal 10am—Worship: Sanctuary	7 9am—Preschool Camp	8 9am—Preschool Camp 9am—Staff Meeting 4pm—Small Group: Dixon	9 9am—Preschool Camp 6:30pm—Summer Book Study	10 10am—Summer Book Study 5:30pm—Justice, Equity, & Belonging	11	12 9am—Hymn Festival Rehearsal 4pm—Grandin Road Summer Hymn Festival
Montreat Youth Conference: 7/6—7/12						
				Massanetta Middle School Conference: 7/10—7/13		
13 9am—Summer Choir Rehearsal 10am—Sanctuary 11am—Fellowship Hour 11:15pm—Earth Care Committee	14	15 9am—Staff Meeting 1:15pm—Worship & Music 5:30pm—Endowment Board	16 4pm—God Alive Gardening 6:30pm—Summer Book Study	17 10am—Summer Book Study	18	19
20 9am—Summer Choir Rehearsal 10am—Worship: Sanctuary 11am—Workgroup Q&A: Strategic Mission	21 10am—Senior Session: Estate Planning 4:30pm—Personnel & Administration 5:30pm—Stewardship & Finance	22 9am—Staff Meeting 4pm—Small Group: Dixon	23 3pm—Pop-Up Youth Group: Middle School 6pm—All Church Orchestra Rehearsal 6:30pm—Summer Book Study	24 10am—Summer Book Study	25	26 10am—Living the Word
Family Promise Overnight Hosting & Dinners						
27 10am—Worship: Sanctuary 10am—Fellowship Hour	28 9am—Bible & Music Camp 7pm—Session	29 9am—Bible & Music Camp 4pm—Small Group: Dixon	30 9am—Bible & Music Camp 6:30pm—Summer Book Study	31 9am—Bible & Music Camp 10am—Summer Book Study		

WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR GROUPS				
Monday	Centering Prayer	10:00 AM at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal	Tuesday & Thursday	Tai Chi Hip Sober Chicks Al-Anon
Tuesday & Thursday	AA: Primary Purpose	10:30 AM	Friday	5:30 PM 6:30 PM 11:45 AM