

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

May 2026

A Publication of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church



“Sharing, Preparing and Caring in Jesus’ Name”

Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church

321 Rocky Grove Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323

Church Phone: 814-432-4162

Website: www.rockygrovepres.org

Email Address: rgapc@verizon.net

Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Church Staff

Rhonda Rust, Secretary

Mike Burkhardt, Organist

Janet Bish, Assistant Organist

Kevin Songer, Custodian

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church
321 Rocky Grove Avenue
Franklin, PA 16323





MAY Birthdays

27 Betty Cornmesser

Servants for May

Recorders: Lois Pierce & Joyce Wetjen

Pulpit Supply:
3 Rev. Joseph Martin
10 Bryce Lowe
17 Robert J. Piel
24 Rose Hilliard ~ *Communion*
31 Peggy Massung

Worship Leaders:
3 Lois Pierce
10 Rhonda Rust
17 Lois Pierce
24 Rhonda Rust
31 Lois Pierce

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 7, 2026, Noon & 6:00 p.m.,
Venango County Courthouse steps
1168 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA
Rain or Shine
(bring lawn chair if desired)

*(Sponsored by Venango County Prayer Consortium ~
Robin Montgomery, Peggy Hamm, Alice Jean Parker, Susan Seth)
Call 814-388-0166*

Lake Erie Presbytery Prayer List for month of May

Week of May 3rd

Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger, Jr.
Stated Clerk of Synod of the Trinity

Rev. Sylvester Gawuga,, Wa District Pastor (Ghana)
Rev. Seth S. Nipani, Bimbilla District Pastor (Ghana)

Week of May 10th

Girard Presbyterian Church
Rev. Nicola Vitiello, Pastor

Rev. Emily Chudy, Regional Representative
Board of Pensions

Week of May 17th

Rev. Foster E. Mawusi, Ag. Synod Moderator, Upper Northern
Presbytery & Chaplain of the EP College of Education, Bimbilla
(Ghana)

Bradford First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Katherine Randall & Rev. Rob Klouw, Co-pastors

Week of May 24th

Rev. John Dietz (Honorably Retired)
Rev. George Espy (Honorably Retired)

Rev. Francis Adjei, Katiejeli District Pastor (Ghana)
Rev. Tobias Gbande, Yendi District Pastor (Ghana)

Week of May 31st

Rev. Tommy O'Leary (Honorably Retired)
Rev. Robin Sharp

Rev. Chuck Cammarata (Honorably Retired)
Rev. Charlie McClung (Honorably Retired)

MISSIONS CORNER:

One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected during Lent amounted to a total of \$160.00. Your contributions will help with disaster assistance, alleviating hunger as well as helping people learn how to help themselves toward a better life. Thanks to all who were able to give.



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If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday morning worship, please contact the church office (814-432-4162). You will want to advise Rhonda as to whether you will order your own flowers, how you want it listed in the bulletin and if you will be removing them after the service.  
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The Mount Pleasant Cemetery Association is asking for volunteers to help at their annual Cleanup Day on Tuesday, May 19th, 6:00 p.m. at the cemetery located off of Route 965 in Mineral Township, Venango County. All of the Presbyterian churches in Venango County have been asked to help in maintaining this cemetery. If you can help or have questions, please call Dale Hastings 814-432-4794. In case of inclement weather, the date will be May 21st.
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*Congratulations to Arika Songer for attaining an Associate Degree in Nursing from University of Pittsburgh/Titusville on May 2, 2026!*

## The Prodigal Son

Where was the mother of the prodigal son  
On that day so long ago?  
What were her thoughts  
And what were her fears  
As she watched him turn to go?

How many times in the dark of night  
Did the tears slide down her face?  
Did she get out of bed  
And fall on her knees  
Just to pray that her boy was safe?

How were the days when she did not know  
Was he alive? Was he warm? Was he well?  
Who were his friends?  
And where did he sleep?  
Was there anyone there she could tell?

But oh, on that day  
When she looked down the road  
As she had looked since her son went away,  
Did love unspeakable flood her soul?  
Did she cry?  
What did she say?

I think when the father had welcomed their son  
And the boy had greeted his brother,  
That the servants made a path  
For him to enter the door  
And the waiting arms of his mother.

*This poem is dedicated to all the mothers who have lost wayward children.  
Don't lose your faith in God who can bring them back to the fold.*



# MAY 2026



| SUNDAY                                                            | MONDAY                | TUESDAY                                                       | WEDNESDAY          | THURSDAY                           | FRIDAY                        | SATURDAY                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                   |                       |                                                               |                    |                                    | 1<br>May<br>Friendship<br>Day | 2<br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous  |
| 3<br>9:00 Worship<br>Rev. Joe Martin                              | 4<br>6:00 Trustees    | 5                                                             | 6                  | 7<br>National Day<br>of Prayer     | 8                             | 9<br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous  |
| 10<br>9:00 Worship<br>Bryce Lowe<br><br>Mother's Day              | 11                    | 12<br>11:00 Presbytery<br>Meeting ~ Hybrid<br>New Hope (Erie) | 13<br>1:15 Session | 14<br><br>Ascension<br>of the Lord | 15                            | 16<br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous |
| 17<br>9:00 Worship<br>Robert J. Piel                              | 18                    | 19                                                            | 20                 | 21                                 | 22                            | 23<br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous |
| 24 Communion<br>9:00 Worship<br>Rose Hilliard<br>Day of Pentecost | 25<br>Memorial<br>Day | 26                                                            | 27                 | 28                                 | 29                            | 30<br>9:30 Overeaters<br>Anonymous |
| 31<br>9:00 Worship<br>Peggy Massung<br>Trinity Sunday             |                       |                                                               |                    |                                    |                               |                                    |

*Newsletter articles are due in the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month or risk being omitted from next month's issue.*