

“WHAT'S THE BUZZ, TELL ME WHAT'S A-HAPPENING?”

Early in the 1971 rock opera “Jesus Christ Superstar” by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, we find the disciples singing, “What's the buzz? What's the buzz, tell me what's a-happening?” They want to know from Jesus what's up? What's going on? What's the buzz?

As we move into this time of pastoral transition, we will be doing our best to keep you up to speed on all that is going on. But on the flip side, it is also very important for our church leadership to have a sense of “the buzz” among our church members and friends. To that end, we are asking people who have been active and involved in the life of the church to complete an online survey about our church.

Since you may hear some of the strange names associated with this survey. Let us introduce you to them here. The company that supplies the survey is Holy Cow Consulting. The survey itself is called the Congregation Assessment Tool, often referred to as the CAT. What sets this particular company and assessment tool apart is that they use an evidence-based discernment process. In addition, they benchmark our data, so it goes beyond just a survey, and looks at the deeper trends in our church compared to other congregations. Holy Cow can tell us what 60% of our congregation agreeing or not agreeing with something means through this benchmarking process. Holy Cow has a lot of data, over 6,000 congregations have taken the assessments; that's 2,900 congregations in the last 6 years. The CAT will provide key indicators of our congregational health, along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at Rye Presbyterian and the possibilities, willingness, capacity, and energy for moving our ministry into the future. The results of the survey will be shared with our officers at their annual retreat on January 6, 2024.

An exclusive web link to finish the assessment online has been sent to your email. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to access the assessment. If you prefer using a paper copy, please contact the church office at 914-967-0842.



NOTE: If there is only one email address for all members of your household, it may be tempting to have one person take the survey on behalf of the family. However, *please be sure your spouse and all confirmed young adults living in your home have an opportunity to complete the survey.* INDIVIDUAL INPUT is key to our gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences.

Please set aside enough time to answer all the questions. This will take about 30-40 minutes. All survey responses are strictly anonymous. Survey input from the congregation will be collected from November 1-22. Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this assessment. If you have questions, please contact either John Miller at jmiller@ryepc.com or Dan Love at dlove@ryepc.com, or the church office, 914-967-0842.

That's the buzz. That's what's a-happening. We look forward to you being part of it!

Sincerely,  and 



November 1-22

Congregation Assessment Tool

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Planned Giving & Stewardship 2024

What's Your Legacy?

Learn more about Planned Giving to benefit Rye Presbyterian Church at www.ryepc.com under Giving tab.

1870 Legacy Society:

Marian and Richard Bott

Leslie and Tuck Bradford

Marty and Rick Bradt

Jason Charneski and Richard Coffey

Meg & Demie Duckworth III

Dolores Eyler and Van Siler

Janet and Campbell Gerrish

Gloria and Jeff Holtman

Cindy and Jim Kuster

Carol and Dan Love

Mary Anne Massey

Zofia and Pat McGunagle

Becky and Pete Ruegger

Mary and David Versfelt



We are delighted that these families have chosen to include Rye Presbyterian Church in their wills or estate plans.

To learn more about Planned Giving at our church, please contact Dr. Miller or Rev. Love, or [click here](#):

If you have already made a Legacy Gift and we don't have your bequest intentions recorded, please let us know.



Stewardship 2024

Let The Light Shine!

(But not quite yet!)

Just a reminder that our annual stewardship campaign and financial pledge drive for the coming year will be starting in January.

If you have been a household that for tax purposes has been in the habit of giving in the fall for the coming year, you are still most welcome to do so. If so, please let us know that your gift is for the 2024 operating budget.

In the meantime, let your light shine nonetheless!

Your Stewardship Committee

Dick Bott, Young Kim, Paul Knight, Christina Mohraz, Scot Stevens, Dan Love and John Miller

CHILDREN’S COMMUNION WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 10:00-11:30 a.m.

The body of Christ? Really? And what exactly is in that cup??

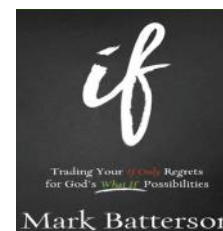
If your children have been curious about the Lord’s supper, this is a great opportunity for them to learn more about it, to be officially welcomed at the communion celebration of the church, and for you to grow in your faith together. On Saturday, Nov 4, from 10:00–11:30 a.m., children in the second through fifth grades are welcome to come with a parent to this special workshop. Together we will explore the meaning of the sacrament and how we celebrate it here at Rye Presbyterian. **Space is limited, so please sign up by contacting [Rev. Love](#).**

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE DISCUSSION – A NEW BEGINNING!

All are welcome to jump in as we start our reading of the Acts of the Apostles and look at the fascinating development of the early church. We meet almost every Monday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM via Zoom. Contact Dan Love (dlove@ryepc.com) to be added to the reminder list!

WOMEN’S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Tuesday Afternoons 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. in the RPC Library and via Zoom.
IF...Trading Your If Only Regrets for God's What If Possibilities by Mark Batterson
 For more Information contact Alicia Baldwin (aliciabaldwin@verizon.net) or Courtney Bennett (courtney910@gmail.com)

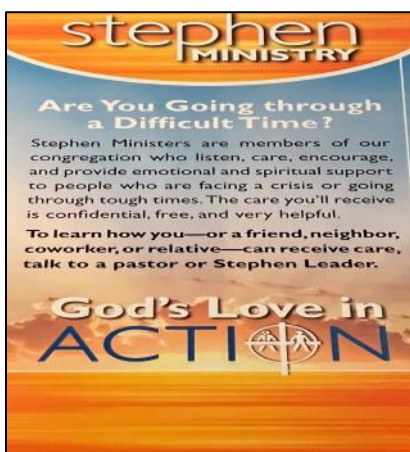


WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Women’s Bible Study group will meet on Saturdays, 11/4 & 11/11. For further information contact Cynthia De Santis (cynthialwells@gmail.com).

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

This month we will meet on Sundays, November 12 & 19, 8:00 p.m. in person in the church library, Zoom option also available. Together we are looking at the history, content, and current implications of the letters of Paul. All are welcome to join in as we continue our study and time together. Contact Dan Love (dlove@ryepc.com) for more information.



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

“We are a Stephen Ministry Church.” What does that mean? In the book of Acts, chapter 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles’, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. For more information, contact Becky Ruegger at bruegger@aol.com or 914-282-7733



This November we continue to make our way through our Celebrate Wonder curriculum, which seeks to engage our children's natural sense of wonder and curiosity to help them know and understand God's love! Through the story of Isaac and his sons Jacob and Esau, we will focus this month on how God blesses and provides for us. Below are the stories we are engaging this month:

Nov 5: Genesis 25:29-34
(The Birthright)

Nov 12: Genesis 27:1-45
(The Blessing)

Nov 19: Singing Our Faith

Nov 26: No Sunday School
(Thanksgiving Weekend)

We invite families to engage in these stories together at home! This curriculum comes with its own Take-Home pages that invite families to read, wonder, and pray together. These pages will be sent home with your children every Sunday morning. We will also include these pages in our weekly Christian Ed newsletter. If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter, please contact Rev. JP (jmarshall@ryepc.com).

**FEEDING WESTCHESTER
BREAKFAST BAG EVENT
Sunday, Nov. 5,
11:15 a.m., Front Lawn**

All are welcome to join us as we partner with Mission & Outreach and Feeding Westchester to help hungry children in our community! Following the 10:00 a.m. service, we will gather out on the front lawn to pack Breakfast Bags filled with cereal and healthy snacks. These bags will be shared with school children who receive free or reduced-price lunch in Yonkers,

Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Ossining, Peekskill, or Port Chester. This program provides food to children for weekends and holidays to help ensure they have food between school-provided meals.

We need donated Fresh Direct bags to help pack up the finished breakfast bags at the end of the event. You can either drop these off at the church beforehand or bring them with you that morning.

For further information, or if you want to help with the event, please contact Amanda Kearney (amanda.f.askew@gmail.com) or Cally Bruce (callybruce19@gmail.com).

**INTERGENERATIONAL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Dec. 17, 4:00 p.m.,
Sanctuary**

This year the Christmas Pageant is open to children age 4 through 5th grade, youth in 6th-8th grade, and adults! If you or your children are interested in participating through acting or working behind the scenes, please sign-up online or contact (jmarshall@ryepc.com).

*All sign-ups are due Tuesday,
Nov. 21*

Any high school youth interested in helping out with lighting or ushering, please contact Rev. JP at (jmarshall@ryepc.com).

Auditions for those interested in a speaking role – Sunday, Nov 5, 11:15 a.m., Westminster Room. Feel free to go pack one or two breakfast bags at our Feeding Westchester event that morning before heading over for auditions!

The rehearsal schedule: Thursday, Nov. 30, 3:30-4:45p.m, Thursday, Dec. 7, 3:30-4:45p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, Dress rehearsal; 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.; followed by pizza party.



**ALL 6TH-8TH GRADERS ARE
WELCOME AT CONNECTION!
SUNDAY, NOV. 5,
5:30 P.M., YOUTH ROOMS**

We're trying out a new gathering time in Nov! We'll take time to catch up over pizza, play some games, and reflect together.

**Friday, Nov. 17
4:30 p.m., The Rock Club**
Join us for rock climbing at The Rock Club in New Rochelle! We'll meet at 4:30 p.m. in the church parking lot and will be back by 7:00 p.m. Limited to 10 youth. Please RSVP to Rev. JP (jmarshall@ryepc.com) by Monday, Nov 6.

know if you'd like to be on the parent email list. All updates about Connection gatherings will also be put up on the website each month.

Updates through Remind!
Text @rpcccon to 81010 or sign up at <https://www.remind.com/join/rpcccon>.



This month we will meet at **5 p.m.** in the Westminster Room on Sunday, Nov. 5 and Sunday, Nov. 19. Please keep this year's class in your prayers throughout the coming months!

YOUTH GROUP

ALL 9TH-12TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME AT HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Saturday, November 18 @ 3:00 p.m.,

Boundless Adventures

Join us for an afternoon of climbing and team bonding at Boundless Adventures! We'll meet at 3:00 p.m. in the church parking lot and will be back by 6:00 p.m. *Limited to 10 youth.* Cost: \$57 per youth.

Sunday, November 19 @ 6:00 p.m., Youth Rooms

Join us at The Table, where we will gather around a meal together for reflection, conversation, and games! Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite dish/dessert to share. Please let Rev. JP know if you plan on joining us and if you are bringing food.

We are on Instagram! Username: ryepresyouth

Updates through Remind! Text @ryepre to 81010 or sign up at <https://www.remind.com/join/ryepre>.

2024 YOUTH SUMMER SERVICE TRIP

We hope you can join us as we continue serving alongside our neighbors during the summer of 2024! This year we are planning on returning to New Orleans on the week of June 30-July 6!

For those interested in learning more, there will be an information session on Sunday, November 19, at 11:15 a.m. in the Westminster Room. Sign-ups for the trips will begin online on Monday, January 8, at 8:00 p.m. and will require a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Space is limited, so mark your calendars! Please contact Rev JP (jmarshall@ryepc.com) if you have any questions.



Youth Mission Trip 2023



by Jason Charneski

Cantata Sunday Slated for December 10; Interested Singers Welcome to Join the Choir...

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 10, at the 10:00 a.m. service. The Chancel Choir (with soloists from its ranks) and orchestra will offer Part 3 of the *Christmas Oratorio* by J. S. Bach. Running about 25 minutes, Part 3 is one of six cantatas that comprise the oratorio. Its focus is Luke 2:15-20, which tells of the shepherds' travel to Bethlehem to see the newborn King, Mary's "pondering in heart" their visit and the larger miracle of God's grace, and the shepherds' return to their flocks and subsequent imparting to others what they had witnessed.

Beyond the cantata, the orchestra will offer selected movements from the *Orchestral Suite in D*, also by Bach, for the prelude, offertory music, and postlude. Following the service, a festive reception will take place in the Assembly Room. Cantata Sunday is made possible by the generosity of Susan and Dod Fraser, Marian and Richard Bott, and Pamela Kindler. Thank you!

Persons who are not regular members of the Chancel Choir, yet have interest in and availability to add their voices are welcome to join. We will begin rehearsing the full-choir movements on November 5, within the Chancel Choir's regular Sunday morning rehearsal (beginning at 11:15 a.m.). Please let me know (jcharneski@ryepc.com) if you'd like to sing!

...or, Join the Choir for Christmas Eve

Perhaps your schedule precludes you from joining the Chancel Choir for Cantata Sunday. Fret not, as it is possible to sing in the choir on Christmas Eve. This is one of those years when Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday; thus, the choir will sing at the 10:00 a.m. service (for the 4th Sunday of Advent) AND the 10:00 p.m. service (Lessons and Carols). Please let me know (jcharneski@ryepc.com) if you're interested. To help you plan accordingly, the Christmas Eve-focused rehearsal will be on December 17, from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Children's Music – Let's Start at the Very Beginning

The words, "Let's start at the very beginning," penned for use in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*, make perfect sense now at Rye Presbyterian Church, especially as there are so many young children who have become a part of this community in these post-pandemic days! As a result, we're going to build anew music programs for children and youth by starting with the youngest.

Our plan is to immerse children and their parents in the creativity of music-making within the context of community. I am working with Kristin Kumar and Margaret Sculti to develop a regular music time for children in the nursery school (likely beginning in January), and I'm going to join the once-per-month Saturday Playground Meetup (coordinated by Amanda Askew Kearney and Cally Bruce) for some music-and-movement time. In addition, music will be a feature monthly in Sunday School classes and in the every-other-month Children's Chapel sessions. We'll experience the wonderful energy of singing and moving together, of listening to and encouraging one another. In so doing, our hope is that new generations will come to know, love, and then share the greater song of faith. Stay tuned....

Cantata Sunday

J. S. Bach

Christmas Oratorio, Part 3

and selected movements from the

Orchestral Suite in D

presented by the Chancel Choir, Soloists, & Orchestra



December 10, 2023, in 10:00 a.m. Worship
Festive Reception to Follow

Cantata Sunday is made possible
through generous gifts to the Music Fund.

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Pumpkin Carving



RPC ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING



DECEMBER 3, at 7:00 p.m.

Carols around the tree on the front lawn to welcome the Christmas season, followed by desserts at the Miller manse.

THE GREENING OF THE KIRK



Yes, it feels early . . . but it's almost that time when RPC elves gather together to decorate the Sanctuary for the holidays. Come by on Wednesday, **November 29, 9:00 a.m.**

Of course, there will be food and drink, music, and lots of merriment.

Please contact Ashley Ginnings (ashleytginnings@gmail.com) if we can count on you this year!

**RYE WOMEN'S INTERFAITH
THANKSGIVING SERVICE**



**Sunday, November 19,
3:00 p.m.,
Christ's Church, Rye**

**You are invited to bring
non-perishable food items
as a donation.**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Sunday, November 19**

A congregational meeting is called for Sunday, November 19, following 10:00 a.m. worship, in the Sanctuary and online, for the purpose of acting on the nominations for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and members-at-large to the Nominating Committee.

—Katy Ridley, Clerk of Session

THRIFT SHOP

DRIVE-BY, DROP-OFF DONATION DAY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 10AM-12PM

Please drop off gently used items by the Grape Arbor, utilize the entrance at RPNS entrance on Milton.

Your donations help us to help others. If you have questions please email Ryethrift10580@gmail.com.

The Thrift Shop is open Thursdays, 10:00 am-1:00 pm. For information on donations, please check the church website. Drop-Off Times: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 -11:30 a.m.



**SUNDAY CHANCEL
FLOWERS**

Each week beautiful flowers adorn our sanctuary and provide an uplifting reminder of the goodness of God. Please consider honoring the memory of a loved one or recognizing a special occasion for a \$80 donation.

The flowers are a blessing to worshippers attending the service live in the sanctuary as well as those attending via zoom

Your donation will be noted in the church bulletin.

To make arrangements, contact Tangy Linzy (tlinzy@ryepc.com).

**Worship in the Sanctuary
In Person**

**Sunday Services also
Online via Live Stream!**

*Bulletin and instructions
on joining via Zoom or YouTube
are on the church website:*

ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/



Online donation options are available on the RPC Website Giving page.

To access, go to ryepc.com/give or scan the QR Code to the right with your cell phone.

Please contact Maida Robinson:

mrobinson@ryepc.com

if you have any questions or need assistance.



In Memoriam

Minna Kermelis, September 27, 2023

*Dr. James David Askew, father of Amanda
Kearney, September 28, 2023*

*Armistead "Bill" Gilliam, father of Elizabeth
Lukes, September 29, 2023*

*Joan Ratsey Darling, aunt of Cindy Ratsey
Young, October 7, 2023*

*Walter "Wally" Nelson –
October 15, 2023*



Brooks Russell Gehrett on September 29,
son of Jamie and Russell Gehrett.

Watson Beam Tory, October 14,
son of Allie Bradford and George Tory, and grandson of
are Leslie and Tuck Bradford.

RETURN TO STANDARD TIME NOVEMBER 5, 2023



Board Meetings

Deacons: Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., Library
Trustees: Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., Westminster & Zoom
Session: Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m., Westminster & Zoom

Bible Studies

Men’s Bible Study: Sundays, Nov. 12 & 19, 8:00 p.m., Library with Zoom option
Monday Morning Bible Discussion: Every Monday, 9:15 a.m., via Zoom
Women’s Bible Study: Saturdays, Nov. 4 & 11, 10:00 a.m., Library
Women’s Discipleship: Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m., Library

Youth

Children’s Communion Workshop: Nov. 4, 10:00 a.m. Westminster Room
Christmas Pageant Auditions: Sunday, Nov. 5, 11:15 a.m. Westminster Room
Confirmation: Sundays, Nov 5 & 19, 5:00 p.m., Westminster Room
High School Youth Group: Nov. 19, 6 p.m., Youth Room
NOLA Information Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 19, 11:15 a.m. Youth Room

Music

Chancel Choir Warm-up: Sundays , 9:15 a.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

Other Church Meetings

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 19, following worship
Feeding Westchester: Sunday, Nov. 5, 11:15 a.m., Front Lawn
Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m., Library
New Members Dessert: Meet with Session, Sunday, Nov. 5, 7:00 p.m., Library and Assembly Room
Personnel Committee: Monday, Nov. 6, Conference Room
Stephen Leaders: Mon., Nov. 21, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room
Stephen Ministry: Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7:00 p.m.,
Women’s Association: Friday, Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m., Library
Worship & Music: Nov.13, 7:30 p.m. Westminster Room
3Ts: Thursday, 9:50 a.m., Nov. 17, via zoom
 Contact [Jane Mickatavage](#) (914-967-8622) or [Nancy Steed](#) (914-328-9658).

BLESSING THE ANIMALS 2023



DOGS BLESSING THE PASTORS



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Blessing Of the Animals



[The Rev. Daniel Love](#), *Co-Pastor*

[The Rev. Dr. John Miller](#), *Co-Pastor*

[The Rev. Jean-Paul Marshall](#), *Associate Pastor*

[Jason Charneski](#), *Director of Music and Organist*

Collin Miller, *Knock Intern in Sacred Music*

[Maida Robinson](#), *Chief Administrative Officer*

[Peggy Berretta](#), *Administrative Assistant*

[Juan Velasquez](#), *Head Sexton/Building Manager*

[Tangy Linzy](#), *Intern Pastoral Assistant*

Alonso Osorio, *Sunday Sexton*

Rye Presbyterian Church

882 Boston Post Road, Rye, New York 10580 / Tel: 914.967.0842 / www.ryepc.com

We are a Stephen Ministry church.