

## Change is Gonna Come



About a decade ago, a fast-moving storm came through Rye one afternoon. One of the high winds' casualties was the "Christmas Tree" on the front lawn. It is a much beloved Atlas cedar, and as it is lit each year on the first weekend of December, for countless years it has been the gathering place of the congregation when we begin the journey from Advent to Christmas. And with that storm, suddenly the Tree Lighting tradition was in doubt because the top of the tree lay on the front lawn amid a tangle of lights. Had the weather Grinch stolen Christmas?

Thanks to our tree company and electrician, Christmas came after all. The cedar was trimmed and saved (though it looks more like a very large Christmas bush than a tree), and the lights were fixed. It wasn't the same, but it was ready to be a harbinger of Christmas once more.

But discouraging warnings were spoken. The tree has seen better days. The lights are getting more challenging to keep running reliably. So to hedge our bets, a new tree was planted nearby through the generosity of one of our Confirmation Class gifts. For the days are surely coming, say our experts, when the old tree will need to be removed, and a new Advent tradition will need to begin.

I can hear the laptops starting up and emails being written even now. The tree is gone?! No!!! We've always started the Christmas season there at that tree with carols and candlelight and wax dripping on our mittens!

Don't worry... yet. It is still there, and again this year we will gather there on December 4 at 7 PM. We will light our candles, and we will sing our carols. Christmas will come. But one year, that tree will be no longer, and a new tree – yes, a smaller tree still finding its roots – will be the focal point of the congregation. It will be the cause of oo's and ah's when the lights come on, though many of us will say... "It's not like that old tree." A new tradition will begin.

It is the lovely irony of the season, made visible in front of our eyes and the church. In the birth of Jesus, we celebrate an event that changed the course of the world and its history – an event that challenged the course of the way of thinking and living for the faithful. We welcome the One who calls us to new life – to change and to

grow into our God-given purpose. And we do so with traditions that we hold with the tightest of grips.

For now, we will sing in the season with two trees. But the day for change will come. For some of you this year, change has already come to your Christmas traditions, brought on by a change in your life or the loss of a loved one. Peace and good cheer may not come easily in the wake of such events. For you, our Longest Night service on December 21 – a quiet time of reflection on the darkest day of the year – may be a meaningful new tradition. Or while we are mixing things up, how about coming to church on Christmas morning? Yes, Christmas Day is a Sunday, and yes, there will be worship at 10 AM. A once-in-a-decade event!

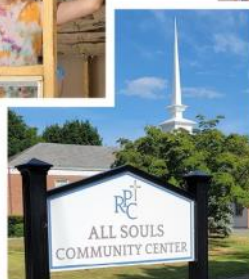


Please take a look through this edition of Grace Notes. You'll find familiar traditions and a few new twists. And then come! Come all ye faithful and all ye who are still working on it. Join together in ways old and new, as we prepare Him room in our hearts and lives.

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## Stewardship 2023, Christmas Eve



Enriched for generosity  
on every occasion  
*2 Corinthians 9:11*

### RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2023 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN— “Enriched for Generosity on Every Occasion”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION, MINISTRY,  
AND GENEROSITY OF RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

Pledge online here - <https://ryepc.com/give/>

Those who have made a 2023 Stewardship pledge by December 6  
will be gratefully acknowledged by name in the December 11 Cantata Sunday worship bulletin.



## Christmas Eve

Family Services  
with LIVE NATIVITY and CANDLELIGHTING

3:30 p.m. – In-Person only

5:00 p.m. – In-Person & Live-Streamed

Candlelight Service  
of Lessons & Carols  
with string quartet and choir

In-Person & Live-Streamed  
10:00 p.m.

## Christmas Eve

*All are welcome to pause Christmas Day and come to worship at 10:00 AM.  
Sing carols, hear a Christmas story, celebrate Communion together.*



Events of the Season



Sunday,  
December 4,  
at 7:00 p.m.

Carols around the trees on the front lawn to welcome in the Christmas season with dessert following next door 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 **Thursday, December 1, 9:00 a.m.** As usual, there will be food and drink, music, and lots of merriment.

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

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING EVENT

Sunday, December 4,  
Assembly Room,  
5:30-7:00 p.m.



*Pizza, snacks, and hot cocoa will be provided.*

All are welcome to join us for our annual ginger bread house decorating event. Families are welcome to leave their ginger bread houses in the Assembly Room to dry as they join in the tree lighting at 7:00 p.m. on the front lawn, followed by dessert at the Miller manse.

Please register on our website (<https://rvepc.com/article/gingerbread-house-decorating-december-4/>) by **Thursday, December 1!** If you have any questions, please contact Rev. JP ([jmarshall@rvepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@rvepc.com)).



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
Sunday, December 18, at 4:00 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary

Join us for our annual Christmas pageant as we hear the wonderful and joyful story of Jesus' birth together! This year we are putting on a pageant adapted from Illustrated Ministry's **Do Not Be Afraid: A Christmas Pageant** with a cast made up of children, youth, and adults from our church community.



Youth Leaders Niklas Hofmann, Ty Bibas, and Lili Waters wish everyone a Joyful Holiday!



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 7:30 P.M.  
IN THE CHAPEL

There's an Advent tradition within Western Christianity of inviting people to come together for the Longest Night, a night at the time of the winter solstice when there are more hours of darkness than light. Known also as "Blue Christmas," a Longest Night gathering is a safe and sacred space to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our lives, as well as for our country and our world. Let us come together and hope through our tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth."

This special service, held in the Chapel, will include scripture readings, prayers, silence, the lighting of candles, and music.

## Planning your Legacy, Christmas Joy Offering



### What's Your Legacy?

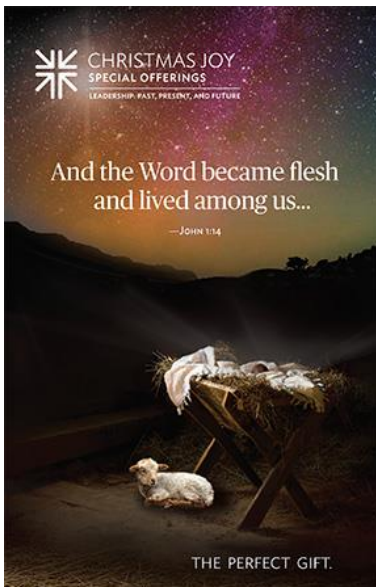
Learn more about Planned Giving to benefit Rye Presbyterian Church at [www.ryepc.com](http://www.ryepc.com) under the Giving tab.



Being members of Rye Presbyterian has been an important part of our lives, and we want the church's work to continue long after we are gone. Naming the church as a beneficiary of an IRA (or other retirement account) is easy: for us, just completing a form. Since IRAs are heavily taxed if they pass to an heir, it also makes sense as a part of our estate planning. We hope you will consider this impactful use of your IRA – a strong church is an example that people who believe in God can come together and make their community, and their world, a more loving, equitable and just place to live.

*Cindy and Jim Kuster*

*Rye Presbyterian Church is pleased to welcome the Kusters, as well as the Bradts, featured in the October Grace Notes, to our 1870 Legacy Society. If you have included RPC in your estate plan, please be sure to inform Maida Robinson in the church office or one of the pastors so we can properly record your name in our records.*



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

By supporting the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (BOP), the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

- \$1.1 million of gifts from 2021 are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.
- Income supplements from the BOP helped 278 individual recipients, assisting retired church workers, and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.

- Housing supplements from the BOP helped more than 227 individual recipients remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.
- Emergency Assistance Grants from the BOP helped more than 246 individual recipients facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.

The PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue – sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

- \$1.1 million of gifts from 2021 are being used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together. While we may meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, be we are very much still together. We thank God for being “with us” through the gift of Jesus, for opening doors that may not have been accessible to us, and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

This annual special offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be received through Sunday, December 18.

To donate online, click [here](#).

## Three Milestones for our Three Pastors

In this season of thanksgiving, we would like to express our gratitude to the co-pastors and associate pastor for their deep care and service to the RPC community. While we are blessed to experience first-hand the many gifts that John, Dan and Jean-Paul give to our church through worship, education and pastoral care, our congregation may not be aware of the myriad of contributions that these three pastors serve to our greater Presbyterian community.



In addition to his steadfast dedication to his pastoral responsibilities at RPC, Reverend Dan Love continues to take an active role in the care and maintenance of our beautiful sanctuary and grounds. We are grateful for his work to bring us the beautiful new Sarah and Abraham stained glass window. Likewise, we are thankful for Dan's efforts to move our service to a virtual platform during the beginning of the pandemic so that we could stay connected to one another and to our church on Sunday mornings. Dan is also an integral part of our youth's journey of faith, guiding high school freshmen along the confirmation process and supporting them as they develop their own statements of faith and prepare to become members of our church. Additionally, Dan joins a group of eager high school students on a mission trip to New Orleans each summer, and he recently led a group of curious church members on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Sharing his gifts beyond our RPC community, Dan is serving on the City of Rye Police Advisory Committee. In December, Dan will have completed 6 years on the Hudson River Committee on Ministry, serving as liaison to several churches in the presbytery and the head of the Presbytery Credentials team. Dan is celebrating his 25th year as one of our pastors this year. We thank you, Dan!



Reverend Dr. John Miller brings to us his gift of curiosity and thinking outside the box. His creativity has led to positive changes in the life of our church over the past 10 years, such as worship under the tent each September. John oversees multiple programs for RPC, including Coming Home, an 18-week program which pairs RPC congregants with the formerly incarcerated to help them transition back to their communities. He has recently committed countless hours to learning about suicide awareness and prevention, and he, along with Jean-Paul, has brought this knowledge to our members through the *Soul Shop* workshops. It was John's vision and passion for our greater community that brought us on the journey to acquire the All Souls property for it to become the All Souls Community Center. John spearheaded the long process and continues to take a leadership role in overseeing the implementation of new community outreach program possibilities at the Port Chester campus. Extending beyond RPC, John is involved with the Rising Hope, Inc. program, a college level educational program for the inmates at Sing Sing where he has been teaching an "Introduction of Counseling" course in that program since the fall of 2014. Reverend Dr. John Miller celebrates 40 years of ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament this year and will celebrate his 10th year as a co-pastor in 2023. We thank you, John!



In addition to expanding the amazing scope of programming for the youth of RPC, Reverend Jean-Paul Marshall actively oversees all Sunday School programming. He is continually seeking ways to create fellowship among our youth whether it be through Saturday morning donuts, leading the yearly service trip to New Orleans, engaging the youth in local service projects, challenging the youth to a game of giant Jenga, or introducing them to a calming time for reflection through Vespers. He has also received over 30 hours of training on mental health and suicide awareness and, alongside John, has shared his knowledge with fellow parishioners during the recent *Soul Shop* workshops. In helping to serve the greater community, this year JP assisted the congregation of Bryn Mawr Park Presbyterian Church with closing their doors, addressing financial issues, helping tenants find alternative meeting spaces, and is currently working on completing the sale of the property on the presbytery's behalf. He is also going into his third year as co-chair of the Hudson River Committee on Preparation for Ministry, which nurtures and guides those discerning ordination. Reverend J.P. Marshall will celebrate his 5th year as RPC's associate pastor in 2023. We thank you, Jean-Paul!

Dan, John and Jean-Paul have dedicated a collective 40 years of their time and their hearts to our RPC community and beyond. To honor Dan's 25th, John's 10th and Jean-Paul's 5th anniversaries, and to express our deep gratitude for their service, we are planning a well-earned celebration of our wonderful pastors this spring! Do check future Grace Notes for more details, including ways in which you can help us plan this special event.

"Regard them very highly in love because of their work." (1 Thessalonians 5:13)

Katy Ridley, Clerk of Session  
 Susan Parish, President of the Deacons  
 Katherine Olsen, President of the Board of Trustees

# Adult Education, Coming Home Relaunch, Baby Shower, Caring Connections

## ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education programming for 2023 will begin in January. As always, it will be anchored by Bible Studies: General Bible study on Monday mornings; Men’s Bible study on alternate Sunday evenings; and Women’s Bible study on Saturday mornings. See the weekly bulletin for specific times.

We will also offer two book studies during the course of the year along with new member classes, and 3Ts on the third Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

More details on the programs will be forthcoming as the year progresses.

## Help RPC Relaunch COMING HOME

Our Imagine Initiative several years ago helped us launch our Coming Home program. We celebrated our graduates for the first four years. Then, in 2020, the pandemic caused us to suspend the program, which was not held in 2021 or this year.

We are planning to relaunch the program in 2023. If you aren’t familiar with COMING HOME, it is an extension of our long-standing Prison Ministry at Rye Presbyterian Church. The program seeks to empower those who are returning to the community from incarceration. The 18-week program pairs RPC congregants with the formerly incarcerated to help them transition back into the community. Teaching sessions and a shared meal are on Thursday evenings. In 2023 we hope to begin on February 2 and conclude with graduation on Sunday, June 4.

This ministry offers several volunteer opportunities, including serving as mentors, who are paired with participants, supporting and encouraging them during the course of the program; as well as cooks who prepare and serve a meal enjoyed by the participants and RPC congregants who share table fellowship together. In order to relaunch Coming Home, we need a committed group of volunteers who will once again serve to make Rye Presbyterian Church a place of welcome to those who are returning home from prison. If you’d like more information, have questions, or are interest in serving as a mentor (for which we will offer training) or to cook a meal, please contact John Miller at 914-967-0842, ext. 14 or by email, [jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com).



Rye Presbyterian Church will soon have a child born to the manse - something that hasn’t happened for many years!

Please mark your calendars and join us after worship on January 8, 2023, as we honor Susie and JP Marshall with a Baby Shower Coffee Hour and Brunch.



*These caring and committed individuals have completed RPC’s Caring Connections Training and will serve as Stephen Ministers or Friendly Visitors, bringing care and compassion to those who need a shoulder to lean on in their journey toward healing.*



## Christian Education, Confirmation



This December we continue our journey through our Sunday School curriculum called **Celebrate Wonder**, which seeks to engage our children's natural sense of wonder and curiosity to help them understand God's love! Through opportunities for reflection, music, engaging activities, and spiritual practices, our children will be given a safe space to ask big questions and help them live into their identities as beloved children of God. Below are the stories we are engaging this month:

**Dec. 4:** Children's Chapel (Advent!)

**Dec. 11:** Matthew 1:18-24

(An Angel Visits Joseph)

**Dec. 18:** Luke 2:1-7 (Jesus is Born)

**Dec. 25:** No Sunday School

(Merry Christmas)

We invite families to engage 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 newsletter, please contact **Rev. JP** ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)).

### Gingerbread House Event

**Sunday, December 4**

All are welcome to join us for our annual gingerbread house decorating event on **Sunday, December 4** in the **Assembly Room** from **5:30-7:00pm!** Pizza, snacks, and hot cocoa will be provided. Families are welcome to leave their gingerbread houses in the Assembly Room to dry as they join in the tree lighting and desserts on the Front Lawn at 7:00pm, followed by dessert at the Miller Manse.

**Please register on our website**

(<https://ryepc.com/article/gingerbread-house-decorating-december-4/>) by

**Thursday, December 1!** If you have any questions, please contact Rev. JP ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)).

### Middle School Connection

All 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome at **RPC's Connection!**

- **Wednesday, December 7 @ 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms**

We'll take time to catch up over pizza, play some games, and reflect on the Advent season together!

- **Saturday, December 10 @ 9:30 a.m., Carver Center**

Join us as we help serve those in need at "Dinner at Noon" at the Carver Center in Port Chester! We will set the tables, plate food, serve meals to the guests, bag meals to go, and help clean up. Limited to 5 youth. Please let Rev. JP ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) know if you are able to join us.

- **Wednesday, December 21 @ 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms**

We'll enjoy some pizza, play some games, decorate cookies, and celebrate the Christmas season together!

Let **Rev. JP** - ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) know if you'd like to be on the **parent email list**. All updates about Connection gatherings will also be put on the website each month.

#### Updates through Remind!

Text @rpcon to 81010 or sign up at <https://www.remind.com/join/rpcon>.

### YOUTH High School Youth GROUP Group

All 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome at **RPC's High School Youth Group!**

- **Sunday, December 11 @ 6:00 p.m., Marshall Manse**

Join us over at the Marshall Manse (2 Cornell Pl.) for games, delicious treats, and hot cocoa!

- **Sunday, December 18 @ 11:30 a.m., Bread of Life (65 Orchard Ave.)**

Join us as we help Bread of Life prepare pantry bags for local families! We will meet at the pantry at 11:30 a.m. and we should be done by 1:00 p.m.

- **Sunday, December 18 @ 6:00 p.m., Chapel**

Join us for Vespers, where we invite our high school youth to slow down in the midst of all the busyness for a time of intentional connection and prayer! Let Rev. JP ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) know beforehand if you plan on joining us for Vespers.

#### We are on Instagram!

Username: ryepresyouth

#### Updates through Remind!

Text @ryepre to 81010 or sign up at

<https://www.remind.com/join/ryepre>.

## Confirmation

**Sundays, December 4 & 11,  
4:00 p.m.**

#### Westminster Room

It may be more questions than answers, but here is what has been on the minds of the Confirmation Class since we begin our study and conversations this fall. How did we get here? By the hand of God, or through a long series of very fortunate mutations? Even then we have to ask, why are we here? If God made the world and declared it good, how did it get so far off track? How is God at work trying to mend all this? And how, in the middle of all that life is, do we better connect with that God?

This month we will start our look at Jesus and his role in God's story during our meetings on Sunday afternoons, December 4 and 11 at 4PM in the Westminster Room. Keep up the good work!

## Rye Presbyterian Church

### New Members— Fall 2022

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*Kathryn Kumf*—Kathryn Kumf and her husband, Brian, recently moved from Tribeca to Rye with their 3 children, Cooper (4), Brady (2), and Charlie Grace (7 months). Kathryn graduated from Dartmouth College and works on the Business Development team at IEX Exchange. She was previously an equity-sales trader at Lehman Brothers and then Barclays. Cooper and Brady currently attend (and love!) the nursery program at RPNS. In terms of hobbies and other interests, Kathryn is a longtime tennis player and an avid theatergoer when she's not wrangling 3 kids under 5. She looks forward to meeting more people at Rye Presbyterian & becoming part of the church community.



*Caroline and Ryan Polisi* —The Polisi Family: Ryan, Caroline, Adeline (11) and Will (9). Our family moved from New York City to Rye last year, where Ryan grew up and graduated from Rye High in '00. Caroline grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, where she attended Westminster Presbyterian Church, and where she and Ryan were married. Our daughter, Adeline (11), and son, Will (9), attend Milton School in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Ryan works for Mangrove Partners, a New York based hedge fund, and Caroline is an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School and a legal analyst for CNN. Our family is excited to join RPC and to get to know the many wonderful people affiliated with the church. We cannot wait to meet you!



*Sarah Rooney*—Sarah grew up in New Vernon, NJ as the oldest of 4 children. She and her family attended The First Presbyterian Church in their town. Sarah is married to Hank Rooney and is mother to Charlotte (1) and step-mother to Daniel (8) and Frankie (6). Hank grew up in New Rochelle and they currently reside in Rye. Sarah works as an Executive Recruiter for the financial services industry and Hank is in technology/ad sales. On the weekends they like to spend time with family and friends in the Rye community and be active (hiking, running, etc). Sarah attended Duke University and Hank went to Boston College. They look forward to more fully immersing themselves in the Rye community via Rye Presbyterian.





*Marg & Phil Scibona*— Marg and Phil lived in Rye for 40 years before moving to Brook Hills in White Plains 10 years ago. Their children, Anthony and Meghan, both went through the Rye school system.

Phil is a retired Vice President of an Application Integration software company. He has worked in the computer industry for over 35 years, managing their company's business, while setting goals for various groups that were in his organization. Phil has volunteered to teach members of The White Plains Community College, and other organizations with career planning and interview skills. He played competitive tennis, is still active in golf and PickleBall.

Marg originally lived and was raised in Brooklyn. They both loved living in, and bringing up their children in Rye. The greenery, parks, and living near Rye Beach made it easy to adapt. They were also fortunate to meet wonderful people who became real friends in Rye through the Newcomers Club.

They attended Resurrection Church for many years, then All Souls, and now look forward to the years with Rye Presbyterian. While raising the children, Marg attended College of New Rochelle and earned undergraduate and Masters degrees in teaching, primary grades. When she retired she didn't look for a long-term volunteer position, and is still enjoying having free time to follow her love of reading, staying connected to friends and family, and cooking. The love of cooking is getting less and less as years pass. Each day she gets out to walk and attend aquatic classes at the Rye Y. Life is good. We are blessed.



*Christia & Ryan Smith* — Ryan, Christina, and their 11 month old daughter, Sienna recently moved to Rye, after living in Larchmont and New York City. Ryan and Christina both work in finance and enjoy cooking, skiing and getting outside with their dog, Nellie. The Smith family wants to share their excitement to be joining the wonderful Rye Presbyterian Church and looks forward to meeting others in the community!



*Allison Stuebe* — Allison (Ali) and Christian Stuebe were married on July 18, 2020 and have a 16 month old daughter named Annie. Christian grew up in Rye, and attended RPNS along with his four siblings. Ali grew up in New Vernon, NJ and went to The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon alongside her parents and three siblings. Christian and Ali are delighted to join this community and look forward to making new friendships and growing more in their faith.



*Cathryn & Scott Warner*—Scott and Cathryn live in Larchmont. Their daughter Julia was confirmed at RPC in June and participated in the NOLA mission trip. They have a border terrier named Lucky. They were previously members of Larchmont Avenue Presbyterian Church and St. Columba's Presbyterian Church of Scotland in London, where Julia was baptized. Scott grew up in York, PA, graduated from MIT and the University of Chicago, and worked in investment banking and financial risk consulting. Cathryn grew up in Orange County, CA, graduated from UC Berkeley and USC, and works in the specialty insurance industry. They enjoy living near the Sound and attending their daughter's horse shows.

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## Music Notes

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by Jason Charneski

The custom of Cantata Sunday will return in full measure this year as the Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra will present Part 1 of Handel's well-known oratorio, *Messiah*, within the worship service on December 11. In addition, the orchestra will offer the last movement of the *Concerto in C, for Two Trumpets and Strings*, by Antonio Vivaldi. A festive reception will follow the service. Invite your friends to join you! Cantata Sunday this year is made possible through the generosity of Marian and Richard Bott, Susan and Dod Fraser, and Pamela Kindler.

Rye  
Presbyterian  
Church

Cantata  
Sunday

G. F. Handel  
***Messiah, Part 1***

presented by the RPC Chancel Choir,  
soloists, and orchestra



Sunday, December 11, 2022  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
Festive Reception to Follow

## Worship, Giving

### YEAR-END GIVING

#### YOUR CHARITABLE DEDUCTION

As 2022 comes to an end, please keep in mind the church financial records will close on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at noon. All checks must be received by December 30 to qualify for a charitable deduction in the 2022 tax year.

As you make your year-end gifts to the church, please note the purpose in the memo line or on the envelope—Annual Giving or Christmas Joy Offering. Separate checks for gifts are appreciated.

#### PLEDGE BALANCE

If you would like to check your annual giving and Imagine balance online through Access ACS, here: <https://ryepc.com/about-rpc/member-login/>

#### DONATING STOCK TO RPC

Gifts of stock to RPC are cleared through Janney Montgomery Scott LLC DTC #0374. For further credit to Rye Presbyterian Church Acct. #8926-9870. It is helpful as well to note that the church's legal name is the Presbyterian Church in the Town of Rye, and our tax ID is 13-1740299. If you have questions or a problem, contact Geoff Beringer at:

Janney Montgomery Scott  
The Beringer Weinstock Group  
800 Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820  
Tel: 203-662-6360

To insure that your donation is accurately recorded at RPC, please also forward a copy of your letter of instruction to:

Maida Robinson  
[mrobinson@ryepc.com](mailto:mrobinson@ryepc.com).

### Worship in the Sanctuary In Person

As conditions and guidance change,  
please [click here](#) for updated  
Covid protocols.

### 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/](https://ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/)*

### DIAL IN TO SUNDAY WORSHIP!

*To attend worship by using your phone,  
call 1-646-558-8656  
then enter this Meeting ID: 560 770 303*

### WILLING TO HELP ON SUNDAY?

We welcome those who would like to help out on Sunday mornings by joining the crew of people who read scripture, usher, or serve communion. If you are interested in doing so on an occasional basis, please with one of the pastors or Gary Gibson ([ggibson@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ggibson@med.cornell.edu)), chair of the Worship and Music Committee.



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

To access, go to [ryepc.com/give](https://ryepc.com/give) or scan the QR Code to the right with your cell phone.

Please contact Maida Robinson:

[mrobinson@ryepc.com](mailto:mrobinson@ryepc.com)

if you have any questions or need assistance.



### 8:30 A.M. WORSHIP UPDATE

Please note that the Worship and Music Committee has decided that 8:30 am worship will be paused for now based upon attendance patterns. The committee will re-evaluate reinstating this service at the beginning of the new year.

*Pumpkin Carving at RPC*



Pulpit practice during children's communion workshop. Future co-pastors?

## Bible Studies, Meetings

### BIBLE STUDIES

#### Men's Bible Study

Sunday, December 11

8:00 p.m. in the Library with Zoom option

Sunday, December 11 at 8:00 p.m. in the church library with a Zoom option. From the book of Acts, we are on to a sampling of Paul's letters! Contact **Dan Love** at ([dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com)) if you'd like to be on the email reminder list and a part of our study.

#### Monday Morning Bible Discussion

Mondays throughout the month at 9:15 a.m. on Zoom  
Our reading of the Gospel according to Luke continues, and all are welcome to join in!  
Contact Dan Love ([dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com)) to be added to the reminder list!

#### Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, December 3 & 10, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

For further information, contact Cynthia De Santis ([cvnthialwells@gmail.com](mailto:cvnthialwells@gmail.com))

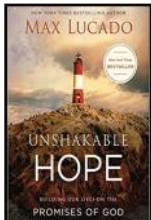
#### Women's Discipleship Group

Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m.,  
in the RPC Library and via Zoom

Please e-mail questions to:  
Alicia Baldwin  
([alicia.baldwin@verizon.net](mailto:alicia.baldwin@verizon.net))

or

Courtney Bennett  
([Courtneybennett910@gmail.com](mailto:Courtneybennett910@gmail.com))



### THRIFT SHOP THRIFT SHOP EVENING SALE

Wednesday, December 7, 5-7 p.m.

An evening opportunity to see the great items the thrift shop has for sale.

Shop for holiday décor, holiday gifts, or a little something for yourself.

All proceeds aid local non-profits.

Questions? Email [Ryethrift10580@gmail.com](mailto:Ryethrift10580@gmail.com).

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Donations: For information on donations, please check the church website.

You can also email the shop at [RyeThrift10580@gmail.com](mailto:RyeThrift10580@gmail.com).

Drop-Off Times: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

### DECEMBER

Church Office Closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 26 & 27, in observance of Christmas

#### Board Meetings

**Deacons:** Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:00 p.m., Love Manse

**Trustees:** Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Westminster & Zoom

**Session:** Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7:00 p.m., Miller Manse

#### Bible Studies

**Men's Bible Study:** Sunday, Dec. 11, 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, Dec. 3 & 10, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

**Women's Discipleship:** Tuesdays in Dec., 1:00 p.m., Library

#### Children & Youth

**Christmas Pageant Rehearsal,** Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8, & 15, 3:30 p.m., Assembly Room

**Confirmation:** Sundays, Dec. 4 & 11, 4:00 p.m., Westminster Room

#### Connection:

-Wednesdays, Dec. 7 & 21, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms;  
Saturday, Dec. 10, 9:30 a.m., Carver Center

#### High School Youth Group:

- Sunday, Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m., Marshall Manse  
-Sunday, Dec. 18, 11:30 a.m., Bread of Life  
-Sunday, Dec. 18 6:00 p.m., Vespers, Chapel

#### Music

**Chancel Choir:** Meet 9:15 a.m., sing at 10:00 a.m. service, rehearsal following service (11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.);  
Cantata Rehearsal, Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

#### Other Church Meetings

**Cantata Sunday:** Sunday, Dec. 11, 10:00 a.m. worship service

**Christmas Pageant:** Sunday, Dec. 1, 18, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

**Gingerbread House Decorating,** Sunday, Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m., Assembly Room

**Greening of the Kirk,** Thursday, Dec. 1, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary

**Longest Night Service:** Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., Chapel

**Mission & Outreach:** Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Library

**Stephen Ministry Caring Connections Discernment:**

Sunday, Dec. 4, 8:45 a.m.; Tuesdays, Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m.;

Sunday, Dec. 11, 8:45 a.m. All meetings held in Conf. Rm.

**3Ts:** Thursday, Dec. 18, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Contact [Jane Mickatavage](mailto:JaneMickatavage) (914-967-8622) or

[Nancy Steed](mailto:NancySteed) (914-328-9658).

**Thrift Shop: Shop Event Sale, Wed., Dec. 7, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Assembly

Room. *Note:* Donations taken on limited basis.

Email [ryethrift10580@gmail.com](mailto:ryethrift10580@gmail.com) for updates.

**Tree Lighting,** Sunday, Dec. 4, 7:00 p.m., Front Lawn

# F.A.C.T.

Facing Advanced Care Together:  
*All You Want to Know But Were Afraid to Ask*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH  
12:00 - 1:30pm  
Online Workshop

RSVP by Sunday, Dec 4th  
A link to the virtual session and all related materials will be sent out via email prior to the workshop.

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## QUESTIONS WE WILL ANSWER

- What is 'advanced care planning' and when should it begin?
- What is the difference between a health care proxy and a living will?
- What kind of legal healthcare documents are important to have in place?
- Are there apps and/or websites that can help with advanced care planning?
- Do advance directives vary by state?
- What is the best way to introduce the conversation about loved ones' wishes as they age?

SOUL RYEDERS™

To RSVP to Soul Ryeders, click [here](#).

### Greetings to the Rye Presbyterian Church Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar.

Last month, RPNS hosted Family Movie Night on the Great Lawn! Families enjoyed delicious dinner from two food trucks and children participated in a minion dance party with glow sticks before the movie began. Once it was dark, we watched the movie Despicable Me on the big screen! Movie snacks and donuts with warm apple cider were an added treat! Movie Night has become a special tradition at RPNS that families look forward to each fall. The event raises money for the Flood Family Scholarship Fund.

