

During this disruptive year, I found myself turning to Arianne Braithwaite Lehn's *Ash & Starlight: Prayers for the Chaos & Grace of Daily Life* when I found myself at a loss for words, which was quite often this past year. One line that caught my attention recently was in her prayer for Lent. After a moment of confession, she writes, "But, I'm coming back home."

This line caught me off guard since it isn't usually what follows after our confessions in worship. Typically, after a moment of silent confession, we ask for

God to forgive us. We trust that God is gracious and loving, but nonetheless, we still ask. Yet, this prayer skips the plea for forgiveness and boldly claims "I'm coming back home."

Honestly, I have to say I like this response more. There is this healthy mix of humble recognition of how we've missed the mark and a sense of daring hope behind it. It reminds me of the parable of the prodigal son - when the youngest son has reached his lowest point, his first thoughts are of returning home. Despite what he has done, despite what has happened, he holds on to the hope that there is still a place for him at his father's home. So he humbly returns home, and sure enough, he is welcomed by a loving embrace.

I believe that same hope is what's at the center of this Lenten season: no matter who we are, no matter what happens, God lovingly welcomes us home time and time again. With that good

news at its center, this season invites us to make the journey back home - back to our true selves, back to each other, back to God.

While confession and forgiveness are a part of such a journey (and are practices we should probably turn to more often during these divisive times), I believe there is more to it this time around. As we continue to journey through this wilderness that is this pandemic, we are invited to name and let go (when possible) all that prevents us from feeling at home with ourselves, in the presence of our neighbors, and in the presence of God. We are invited to turn to practices - both old and new - that help create a sense of home in our lives again. And we are invited to keep an eye out for how God might be transforming our sense of home into something new.

To help with that journey this Lenten season, I've invited our youth to join me in cultivating a rhythm of prayer using a set of daily devotional cards created by Sanctified Art. Starting with Ash Wednesday and going through Easter Sunday, we will select a card each day and contemplate the word printed, trusting that it is exactly what we need for that moment. Then we're encouraged to read the short scripture, reflection prompts, and prayer on the back. I invite you all to join us in this practice this season! If you wish to receive a copy of these cards, please contact me via email ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)).

It is my hope for us all that these devotional cards, or whatever practices we might turn to, help us with our journey back home this season. And may we all feel God's loving embrace upon our return.

*Jean Paul M.*



## Adult Education

Programs planned and scheduled for 2021 offer exciting new opportunities for growth and learning, as well as continuation of traditional programs we have been blessed with for years.

January ended with the completion on January 21 of the last two sessions of the Thursday evening Reflections series on the Basic Tenets of our Reformed Faith.

Starting January 28, the Thursday evening Reflections course, led by the Presbyterian Outlook, will use a new six-week curriculum published last year by PCUSA called "*Testimony*." This course will explore the core values of the Christian faith and provide tools to help enable us and our communities to live out those values. *To register for this course, contact Dr. Miller ([jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com)).*

Our regular Bible Study programs will resume virtually via Zoom until Covid restrictions on in-person meetings are lifted.

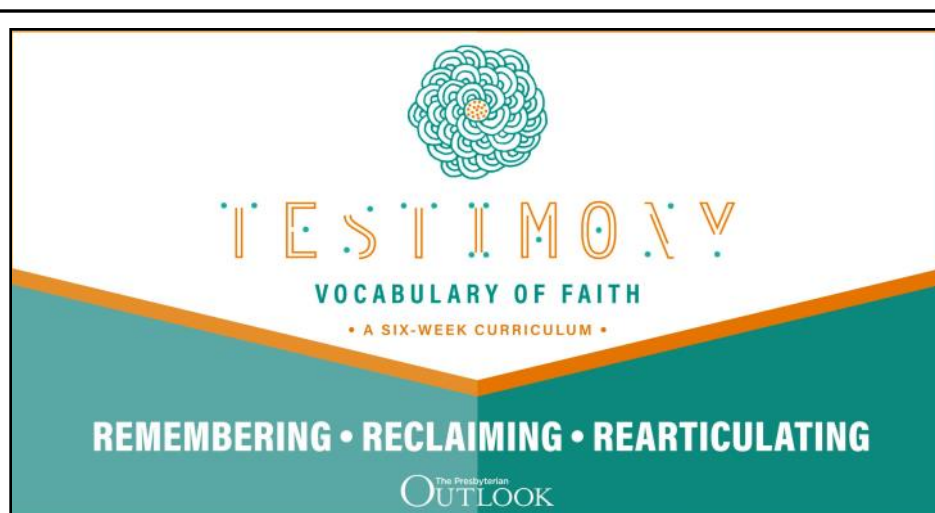
They include:

- Monday morning Bible study led weekly by Dan Love.
- Saturday morning women's Bible study led by Cynthia DeSantis (even if she is temporarily in residence in Kentucky—oh, the value of Zoom).
- Sunday evening men's Bible study led by Dan Love.

Other programs among our regular offerings will continue, via Zoom. They include

- Three T's—an informal discussion group on a variety of subjects, meeting on the Third Tuesday of each month at Ten o'clock.
- New member orientation classes.
- Hopefully, "Show Up and Make," combining arts and crafts projects with worship, will be able to have a session later in the year.

With this wide array of offerings, we encourage participation by members and non-members alike in exploring and deepening their faith.



**Thursday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00 PM via Zoom  
Feb. 4, 11, 25, March 4**

Do you want to:

- Wrestle with the language of faith and its relevance for today?
- Discern what it means to have an embodied faith?
- Consider ways of living that reflect your faith beyond the church doors?

If so, then gather virtually with others and spend six weeks exploring this new adult curriculum for Presbyterian people of faith! "Testimony" offers six stand-alone sessions exploring what we believe about God, the *Imago Dei*, covenant, grace, love and Christian community. It invites participants to remember (or learn for the first time) the Reformed language of faith, reclaim it for our own particular time and context, and reinterpret it in daily living.

**Contact John Miller ([jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com))  
for more information, materials, and Zoom link.**

## Stephen Ministry, Coming Home, Women's Discipleship, Memoriam & Birth Announcements, Thrift Shop



Amanda Gorman's 2021 inaugural poem urged us to consider

*Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:  
That even as we grieved, we grew  
That even as we hurt, we hoped  
That even as we tired, we tried  
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious  
Not because we will never again know defeat  
but because we will never again sow division*

If you are grieving, hurt, or feeling weary, the Stephen Ministers of Rye Presbyterian Church want to remind you that we are here to provide support while you endure loss, heal, and by God's grace continue to learn what it means to "merge mercy with might" each day.

### COMING HOME PROGRAM



This is a reminder that the decision has been made not to hold our Coming Home program in 2021 due to the continuing pandemic.

A significant part of the program is our shared meal together, which cannot happen yet as the risks are too high for both participants and church members.

We look forward to offering the Coming Home program again early in 2022.

Questions? Contact John Miller  
([jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com)).

### In Memoriam Recent Passings in our Church Community

Ankie Zeilstra, on December 29,  
mother of José Zeilstra.

Signe (Olson) Schlotzhauer, on January 10,  
mother of Vicki McHugh and Ingrid Lopp.

Martha Reynolds, on January 18,  
mother of Allison Reynolds.



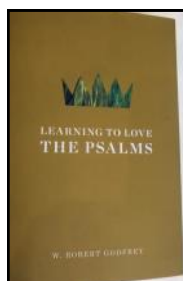
### Birth Announcements

Thomas Howland Curley, on January 2,  
son of Julia and Shawn Curley, and  
grandson of Dinah and Jim Howland.

Benjamin Thornton Koster, on January 11,  
son of Charlotte and Simon Koster, and  
grandson of Jannie and Campbell Gerrish.

Madeline Alice Skelsey, on January 10,  
daughter of Susan and Henry Skelsey, Jr., and  
granddaughter of Susan and Henry Skelsey, Sr.

### Wednesday Mornings Women's Discipleship Group 8:30-10:00 a.m., via Zoom



Join us for our study:

### Learning to Love THE PSALMS

For details, email either  
Alicia Baldwin  
([alicia.baldwin@verizon.net](mailto:alicia.baldwin@verizon.net)), or

The RPC Thrift Shop has closed for the holidays. We will revisit opening in February.

**THRIFT  
SHOP**

At this time our ability to take donations is limited. If you have specific items you would like to donate, please email us at [rvethrift10580@gmail.com](mailto:rvethrift10580@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continued support!

<https://ryepc.com/ministries/thrift-shop/>



## Christian Education, Confirmation



For the first half of February, we will finish off our focus on embodying the message of the Lord's Prayer in our daily lives. Starting on Sunday, February 21, the first Sunday of Lent, we will switch over to Illustrated Ministry's *An Illustrated Lent: Reflections on the Heart*. By exploring Gospel passages about treasures and matters of the heart, we will wonder more deeply about what kinds of treasure matter, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives. Each week we will focus on a different theme:

**Feb. 7:** Praying for You, Me, Us, We

**Feb. 14:** Praying When it is Difficult

**Feb. 21:** Storing Up Treasures

**Feb. 28:** Sharing Our Hearts  
(Luke 2:41-52)

Starting on Sunday, February 21, we are changing the layout of our 30-minute Zoom class! Each Sunday we will start off together at 9:00 a.m. to introduce the theme. Then we will split into two breakout rooms based on age (PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) for discussion and activities. If you would like your child (ren) to participate via Zoom, please fill out the registration form on our website <https://ryepc.com/ministries/children/>!

With this new layout, we invite you to help out as a virtual Teaching Volunteer! All discussion questions and activities will be sent out beforehand so volunteers can reflect on them ahead of time. Rev. JP will be hosting the Zoom class each morning, so he will be around to check in and assist when needed. He is also up to leading any Zoom training beforehand if needed as well!

If interested in being a virtual Teaching Volunteer, please contact Rev. JP at [jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com).

Families are also invited to join us in reflecting on treasures and matters of the heart at home! This curriculum comes with its own Family Devotions, consisting of a brief reflection, an activity, and a prayer. If you would like to receive these materials and are not already

signed up for our weekly Christian Ed newsletter, please contact Rev. JP ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)). We hope you and your families join us on this Lenten journey!

### Middle School Connection

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

• **Wednesday, Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom:** Join us as we spend time catching up, playing games, and praying together! Please contact Rev. JP for the Zoom link ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)).

• **Wednesday, Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m., Assembly Room:** Join us as we spend time catching up, playing games, and praying together, in person!

Let Rev. JP ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) know if you'd like to be on the parent email list. You can also sign up for updates through Remind: text @rpcccon to 81010 or sign up at:

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

**GroupMe** - If your youth would like to be a part of our group chat, please send Rev. JP either your youth's cell-phone number or email - [jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com).

### 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, Feb. 21, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room.** All participants of the NOLA mission trips will take time to get to know one another and discuss why we are going on these trips!

• **Sunday, Feb. 28, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room & Zoom:** 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. Please let Rev. JP ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) know beforehand if you plan on joining us for Vespers. Also, if you have a specific concern you would like us to pray for, please feel free to reach out, even if you are unable to attend! If you would like to join virtually, please contact Rev. JP for the Zoom link.

• **Youth Mental Health Initiative:** Based on research done by Maddie Howson, a senior in our youth group, various

youth groups in our community are coming together around the topic of youth mental health. Together we seek to raise awareness, educate and train parents and youth on how to manage mental health challenges together, and work on reducing stigma. Keep an eye out this month for more information on how parents and high school youth can participate in this initiative within our church community and the wider community of Rye!

**We are on Instagram!**

Username: ryepresyouth

([www.instagram.com/ryepresyouth/](https://www.instagram.com/ryepresyouth/)).

**Updates through GroupMe!**

Join our group chat for updates and keeping in touch with one another!

Please send Rev. JP

([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) either your cell-phone number or email.

**Updates through Remind!**

Text @ryepre to 81010 or sign up at

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

### Confirmation

**Sunday, February 7,**

2:45 p.m. via Zoom and

4:00 p.m. in-person

(Please note the earlier times!)

**Sunday, February 21,**

3:45 p.m. via Zoom and

5:00 p.m. in-person

**Sunday, February 28,**

3:45 p.m. via Zoom

and 5:00 p.m. in-person



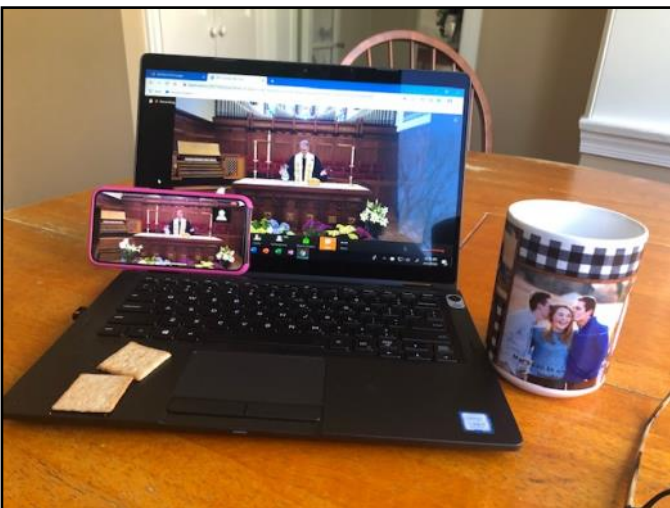
## Worship

### Weekend Worship

As we move into February, we will continue with a single service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. As we have done since the summer, that service will have limited in-person attendance and we ask that you sign up online to reserve a space each week. In addition, the online option through Zoom and YouTube will continue. As we keep an eye on demand and safety, we will add services as needed – bringing back the Saturday 5:00 p.m. service or an early Sunday service. Please watch your weekly emails for updates!

### Online Worship

As mentioned above, live-streamed worship will continue this winter and will become a permanent feature of RPC. This month the installation of a permanent system in the sanctuary with multiple cameras, more microphones, and an upgraded sound system will be completed. The live feed will be available for now in Zoom and YouTube. But, if you don't have computer capability you can also dial in to hear the service on your phone. That information is in the box below. A special thank-you to the virtual worship crew, the Worship & Music committee, and the in-person usher corps for working so hard to make worship in the Covid-19 era go so smoothly!



#### 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

#### SATURDAY AT 5 WORSHIP



ON HOLD  
STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES

### Worship in the Sanctuary In Person

*(Reservation required—go to [ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/](https://ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/) to reserve a pew.)*

*Please read our worship safety guidelines which can be found online: [ryepc.com/article/worship-reopening-plan-and-guidelines/](https://ryepc.com/article/worship-reopening-plan-and-guidelines/)*

### 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/)*

*Instructions on joining by Zoom  
and other platforms  
are on the church website:  
[ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/](https://ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/)*



February 17  
Service at 7:30 p.m.  
In-person & via Zoom

## Bible Studies, February Meetings

### BIBLE STUDIES

#### Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, February 21,  
at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom**

All are welcome to join in as we continue this study and conversation with the Gospel according to Luke and with each other. Contact Dan Love, [dlove@rvepc.com](mailto:dlove@rvepc.com), for more information.

#### Monday Morning Bible Discussion

**Mondays, February 1, 8, & 22,  
at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom**

This month we will wrap up our survey of the bible with help from *The Bible Project* ([bibleproject.com](http://bibleproject.com)) videos, then on to new territory. All are welcome! Please contact Dan Love ([dlove@rvepc.com](mailto:dlove@rvepc.com)) for more information or to be on the reminder list.

#### Women's Bible Study

**Saturdays, February 6 & 27,  
at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.**

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

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

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

Please contact Maida Robinson:

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

if you have any questions or need assistance.



### 2021 Summer High School Mission Trips to New Orleans



It is our hope to continue serving alongside our neighbors in New Orleans this summer: June 27-July 3 and August 1-7.

We will continue our partnership with Rebuilding Together New Orleans and will stay at Camp Restore of Prince of Peach Lutheran Church and School for lodging.

Sign-up for the trips by clicking here: <https://rvepc.com/article/nola-youth-mission-trips-summer-2021-registration/>. A \$100 deposit will be required. Space is limited, so please register soon! Any questions, contact Rev. JP ([jmarshall@rvepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@rvepc.com)).

### FEBRUARY MEETINGS

#### Board Meetings

**Deacons:** Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

**Trustees:** Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

**Session:** Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

#### Bible Studies

**Men's Bible Study:** Sunday, Feb. 21, 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

**Monday Morning Bible Discussion:** Mondays, Feb. 1, 8, & 22, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

**Women's Bible Study:** Saturdays, Feb. 6 & 27, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

#### Youth

**Confirmation Class:** Sunday, Feb. 7, 2:45 p.m. via Zoom & 4:00 p.m. in-person; and Sundays, Feb. 21 & 28, 3:45 p.m. via Zoom & 5:00 p.m. in-person.

**Connection:** Wednesdays, Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom, and Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m., Assembly Room

**High School Youth Group:** Sundays, Feb. 21, 6:00 p.m., NOLA Prep Mtg., Assembly Room & Feb. 28, 6:00 p.m., Vespers, Assembly Room and via Zoom

**Children's Choir:** Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom

**Youth Choir:** Sundays, Feb. 7 & 21, 11:00 a.m., via Zoom

#### Other Church Meetings

**Adult Education:** "Testimony," Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday Service:** Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., in person and via Zoom

**3 Ts:** Tuesday, Feb. 16, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom.

Contact Jane Mickatavage ([Swingramm@aol.com](mailto:Swingramm@aol.com)) or (914-967-8622); or

Nancy Steed ([steedheart@aol.com](mailto:steedheart@aol.com)) or (914-328-9658).

**Mission & Outreach:** Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

**Personnel Committee:** Monday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

**Stephen Ministry meetings via Zoom:**

**Prime Ministers:** Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

**Even Stephens:** Monday, Feb. 1, 6:00 p.m.

**Stephen Leaders:** Tuesday, Feb. 2, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

**True Blues:** Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7:00 p.m.

**Thrift Shop:** Currently closed. See page 3 for information.

**Women's Discipleship Group:** Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m., via Zoom

**Church offices and Buildings closed on  
Monday, February 15,  
in observance of Presidents' Day**

#### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 7,  
following 10:00 a.m. worship, in person & via Zoom.



## Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

### Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

One of our four-year-old classes is studying space. This month, the class is focusing on the moon. The children made craters by pressing rocks in a playdough moon surface.



They also worked on a science experiment when creating a moon volcano. The children added baking soda, vinegar, dish soap, and food coloring and watched in amazement at the chemical reaction!



The class worked together in the art studio to create a model of the moon. They made a rubbing of different size coins and circle shapes placed under aluminum foil. The effect looked

like the millions of craters on the moon! The children learned about the moon orbiting around the Earth and about the different phases of the moon including the new moon, crescent moon, and the full moon. The children learned that it looks like the moon is changing shape, but it really is not! We are seeing different parts of its bright, silvery surface.



The class also created a space pattern – star, planet, star, planet.... Early math skills include recognizing and completing patterns. Children learn how to predict what comes next when working with patterns.



The children are so excited to learn more about space as their investigation continues!

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

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

[The Rev. Jean-Paul Marshall](#), Associate Pastor for Christian Education

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

[Lisa Rawson](#), Director of Choirs for Children and Youth

[Maida Robinson](#), Chief Administrative Officer

[Peggy Berretta](#), Administrative Assistant

[Denise LeVan](#), Pastoral Assistant

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

Alonso Osorio, Sunday Sexton

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*We are a Stephen Ministry church.*