



It is the annual pre-Christmas challenge. The Christmas card. It takes a very intentional pause amid the ramp-up from Thanksgiving to Christmas to look back over the year that was. What were the highlights? What were the challenges? What pictures capture the year best? What were the themes of the year that may find their way into the card, knitted together from the many strands of the year's activity?

And then the final challenge. How do you rightly celebrate the goodness of the year, but also keep it real? For many these days, Instagram and other social media platforms have become not-so-subtle competitions – a way of presenting a “curated” life. Best-foot forward...all smiles and good looks and great parties. Others see and wonder, “What’s wrong with my life that it doesn’t look like that?” Christmas cards can function the same way.

So we wrestle – how do we keep it human? How do we acknowledge reality without overcorrecting into the Christmas letter “organ recital” of the woes of the year? How do we keep it real while at the same time celebrating the joy of the season and of life? Hopefully you pulled it off this last year.

Now as January dawns, a new year begins, but challenge remains. We are nearly two years into all the complexity of this pandemic – our spirits riding the ups and downs of infection rate charts. Reality is all too real. Still.

So now the challenge is reversed. We enter a new year, we go back to reality of life after the holiday season, but how do we retain something of the Christmas joy that was hopefully present in your card and at the end of last year?

One phrase has stuck with me since John Miller spoke of it during his homily on Cantata Sunday. “Cultivated joy.” More than wishful thinking or “faking it until you make it,” here in January as the decorations of Christmas are packed away for another year, it is time to cultivate joy. Deep-rooted, steady-growing, fruit-bearing joy.

May there be for us all this year moments when joy simply arrives and surprises us. But may we also join together in taking intentional steps now to cultivate joy. May we seek out new practices that break up the hard soil of habit and old thought patterns. May we make the commitment, even amid the ongoing challenges of these days, to join together with others for worship, for study, for service, for connection, and simply for fun.

Opportunities await you in this newsletter. Cultivate and nurture the light and joy that dawned at Christmas. And come next December, may you have difficult choices to make as to which moments of joy to include in your Christmas card!

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Stewardship, Adult Education. Coming Home



2022 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

"O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things." - Psalm 98:1

Thank you for adding your voice to the song as you make your pledge for the coming year.

[Click here to pledge online.](#)

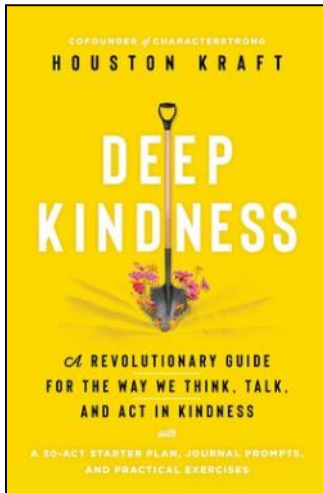
As of December 30, here's how our song is sounding for Stewardship for 2022:
272 pledges for \$1,124,000.

Between decreases, increases, and new pledges, up \$48,000 (4.5%) from 2021.

A BOOK STUDY

Tuesdays – 7:30pm, Rye Presbyterian Church – Library

Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1



Join John Miller in this six-week discussion of Houston Kraft's book – *Deep Kindness*. Practicing kindness is an essential step in helping to repair a world that has grown to be more divisive, lonely, and anxious. Exploring everything from empathy to emotional regulation, *Deep Kindness* is perfect for anyone who is looking to dig below the superficial definition of kindness to truly understand and embody their role in creating a kinder world.

Please purchase and read the book in advance.

For more information, contact John Miller at jmiller@ryepc.com

(Note: this group will meet in person and via Zoom [hybrid].

If pandemic restrictions have changed, it may meet via Zoom only.)



COMING HOME IS COMING BACK!

(hopefully...)

It is our hope that our Coming Home program will be back in February with limited participation. This will be dependent upon how things progress regarding the pandemic. If we begin again and you would be willing to serve either as a

mentor or to help prepare meals, please contact John Miller, jmiller@ryepc.com, to indicate your interest.

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Resuming January 12!

Wednesday Mornings

8:30am-10:00am

in the the RPC Library

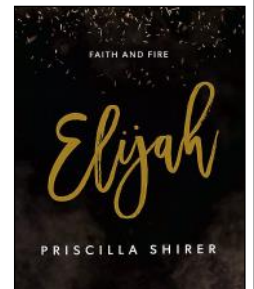
Zoom TBD

Please join us for our study:

FAITH AND FIRE

ELIJAH

by Priscilla Shirer

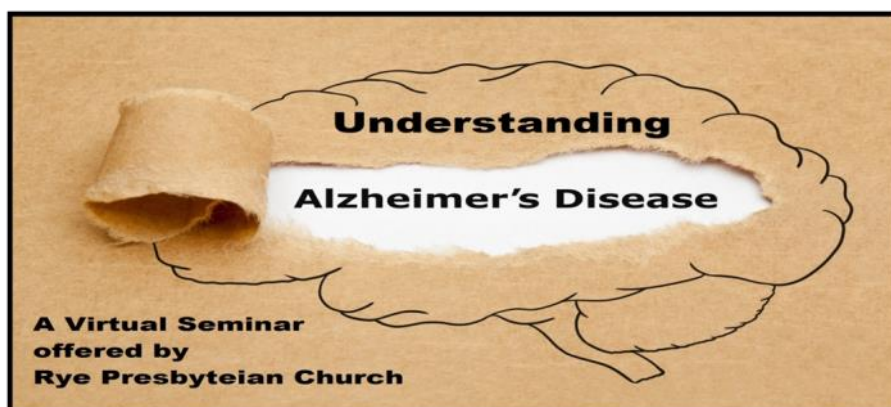


Please e-mail questions to:

Alicia Baldwin (alicia.baldwin@verizon.net) or

Courtney Bennett (Courtneybennett910@gmail.com)

Understanding Alzheimer's Disease Seminar



Wednesday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

This gathering is for you...

- If you know someone with Alzheimer's Disease and would like to understand it more.
- If you know someone who is starting to worry about their own memory issues.
- If you a caregiver or know a caregiver and would like to understand that role better.
- If you want to know what resources are available for people dealing with Alzheimer's.
- If you are interested in learning more about what's on the horizon about Alzheimer's disease.

Presenters:



Jody Addeo, MPH, LNHA, is the Community Engagement Manager for Westchester & Rockland Counties for the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. She will present an overview of the disease and highlight the help available in the community to be given by you.



Gurney Williams, was a caregiver for his wife for many years. His wife had primary progressive aphasia. When he could no longer care for her at home, she went to the care facility where he continued to help with her care and did some staff training. He will be sharing from the caregiver's viewpoint.



Gary E. Gibson, Ph.D., is professor of Neuroscience at Weill Cornell Medicine/Burke Neurological Institute. He has performed preclinical studies for decades. Recently he and his colleagues tested the resulting ideas in a pilot clinical trial with encouraging results. He will discuss some exciting current areas of research and some results from the pilot clinical.

The presentations will be followed by a Q&A.

To register, [click here](#).

For more information, please contact John Miller at jmiller@ryepc.com.



Recent Events , Thrift Shop

Murdoch Award

Congratulations to our recent Richard E. Murdoch Community Service Award recipients –

Molly Howson and Erika Lee.

Both Molly and Erika used their considerable skills and energy to help many in our community during the early phases of the covid-19 pandemic.



Thrift Shop News



Our volunteers make it all happen! Above are just a few of our crew that donates, prices, cleans, stages, and sells our goods. All proceeds go to local nonprofits.

The Thrift Shop will reopen on January 6 in the Assembly Room, 10:00 a.m. -100 p.m.

2021 Gingerbread House Party!



*Thank you to our
2021 Christmas Elves
for
The Greening of the Kirk*



Chrissy Connor, Ashley Ginnings, Krysta Holland, Young Kim, Roger Moyer, Amy Pizzimenti, Rebecca Ruegger, Cindy Young, Elizabeth Zahm, and a special thank-you to our sexton, Juan Velasquez.

Christian Education, Mission Trips, Confirmation



This January 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:

- Jan. 2:** No Sunday School (Happy New Year!)
- Jan. 9:** Luke 2:41-52 (Jesus in the Temple)
- Jan 16:** Luke 3:1-22 (Jesus’ Baptism)
- Jan. 23:** Luke 4:1-13 (Temptation in the Desert)
- Jan. 30:** Luke 4:14-30 (Jesus in the Synagogue)

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).

Sunday School Teacher Midyear Check-in

Saturday, January 15, 10:00 a.m., Assembly Room

All Sunday School teachers are invited to this midyear check-in so we can express our gratitude for you all and talk about how the program year is going so far. Refreshments will be provided during our time together.

Middle School Connection

All 6th – 8th graders are welcome at RPC’s Connection!

Wednesdays, January 5 & 19 5:30-6:45 p.m., Youth Rooms

We’ll take time to catch up with one another over pizza, then play some games and reflect together!

Let **Rev JP** (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.

We are also keeping the connections going outside of our gatherings through **GroupMe!** If your youth would like to be a part of our group chat, please send **Rev. JP** (jmarshall@ryepc.com) either your youth’s cell phone number or email.

High School Youth Group

All 9th – 12th graders are welcome at RPC’s High School Youth Group!

• **Sunday, January 9, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**, Join us as we collect hygiene items and create kits for young children in our local community. Please bring your collected items with you that evening so we can sort them and distribute them into kits. If you are unable to attend but would still like to donate items, please let me know when you would like to drop them off at the church. All kits will be donated to the Sharing Shelf.

Please collect the following hygiene items:

- Toothbrush (in packaging) - multiple in youth size
- Full-size toothpaste (geared toward younger children)
- Bar of soap (in packaging) - neutral scent preferred
- Full-size shampoo
- Full-size conditioner

• **Sunday, January 23, 6:00-7:30 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! Please let **Rev. JP** (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!

• **Sunday, January 30, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Assembly Room:** Summer Mission Trip Prep Meeting — All participants of the summer mission trips will take time to get to know one another and discuss why we are going on these trips.

We are on Instagram:

Username: ryepresyouth

Updates through GroupMe! Join our youth group chat for updates and keeping in touch with one another! Please send **Rev. JP** (jmarshall@ryepc.com) either your cell phone number or email.



2022 Summer Mission Trips

We hope you can join us as we continue serving alongside our neighbors during the summer of 2022! This year we are planning on two different trips on the week of June 26-July 2: one to New Orleans and the other to Chicago. Each trip will have space for 15 high school youth.

Sign-ups for the trips will begin online on **Monday, January 10, at 8:00 p.m.** and will require a **\$100 non-refundable deposit**. Space is limited, so please mark your calendars. Please contact Rev. JP (jmarshall@ryepc.com) if you have any questions.

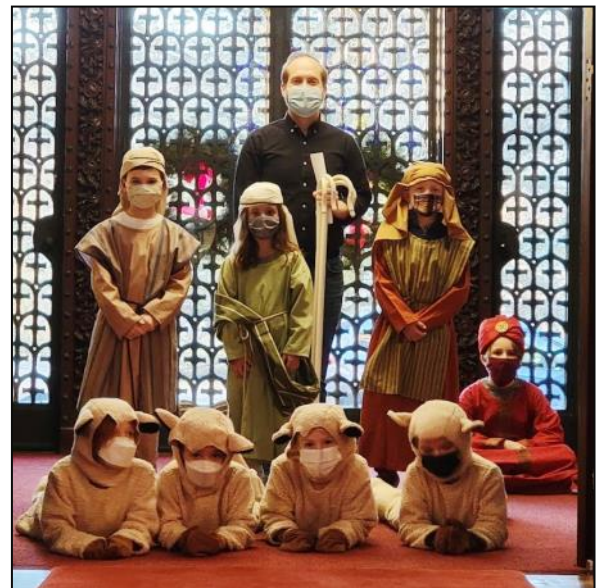
Confirmation

Sundays, January 9, 23, and 30, 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room



High school youth helping out at Sharing Shelf.





(8)

2021 Christmas Eve, Live Nativity





Jill Dinan

Jill grew up attending RPC with her family. She lives in Rye with her husband, Tim, and her 1½ -year-old son, Teddy. Jill's favorite things include: teaching (she teaches PreK in Greenwich), traveling, being outdoors, spending time upstate NY at her family's farm, and most of all, having adventures with her son. Jill has had many special experiences with the church from serving as a youth elder, being involved in music and mission, singing in the children's choir, and getting married here in 2013. She is excited to once again become a member of the wonderful RPC community!



Danielle & Andrew Essick

Danielle and Andrew are excited to join RPC! They recently moved to Harrison, and have a three-year-old daughter (Sydney) and three-month-old son (Alex). Sydney is currently enrolled at RPNS and is enjoying her time there. Their favorite family activities involve spending time outdoors at some of the parks in Westchester and participating in local sports. Recreationally, Andrew enjoys golf and soccer while Danielle loves to draw and paint. She is also set on re-learning tennis, which she played growing up. Originally both from New Rochelle, they spent almost 10 years in Manhattan before settling into their new home in June 2020. Professionally, Danielle works in retail managing a buying team for an off-price store and Andrew works in commercial real estate finance at a bank.



Blaire & Stewart Feeney

Stewart grew up in Rye, was confirmed at RPC, and is a 3rd generation member. He works in sports marketing for Winstate Sports Consulting. Blaire grew up a member of First Church of Christ Congregational in Woodbridge, CT. She manages wholesale for Lilly Pulitzer. They were married by Reverend Love in July 2020 and welcomed their first daughter, Finley, on September 4, 2021. Blaire and Stewart were grateful to have the tradition and guidance of RPC on Sundays over Zoom during the pandemic as well as Reverend Love as they navigated their 2020 marriage and their faith together. They look forward to having their own family now be a part of the church.



Amy Pizzimenti

Amy lives in West Harrison along with her husband, Vincent, and their 5-month-old son, Dominick. Amy grew up in Rye, attending RPNS and Rye public schools. She then went on to attend college at New York College of Health Professions, where she studied massage therapy. Amy graduated in 2014 and currently has her own private practice. The family loves to be active outdoors, but also frequent movie nights with family and friends. Amy is excited to bring her son to RPC where her grandfather, Robert Ritchings, was an elder as well as a deacon, and her mother, Starr Ritchings Rexdale, sang in the choir. They can't wait to meet other families in the community who share a same faith and love of memories and traditions through RPC.



Emily & Avery Woods

Avery and Emily Woods moved from Greenwich Village in Manhattan to Harrison, NY in early 2020 and welcomed their son, Colin, in July 2021. They have a family dog, Henrik, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named for Henrik Lundquist of the New York Rangers (Avery's favorite sports team). Avery works in the marine insurance industry and Emily in consumer startups. Avery grew up in Rye and was an active member of Rye Presbyterian throughout his childhood and high school years. Emily grew up in Baltimore and joined a group from Rye Presbyterian on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in February 2020. Both like to play golf and enjoy vacationing in Bermuda.

Worship, Giving. In Memoriam

Weekend Worship

As we move into January, we will continue with a single service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. As we have done throughout the last year, that service will have limited in-person attendance. 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 fall and is now a permanent feature of RPC. The live feed will be available for now on 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.

**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*

Worship in the Sanctuary In Person

GUIDELINES

In keeping with our practices since March of 2020, we have continued to study recommendations and guidelines from the NYS Department of Health, the CDC, and Presbytery. The guiding principle of the task force has been to ensure the health and safety of our congregants and of our leadership. In light of recent decisions by the CDC and New York State reflecting the situation regarding COVID-19, we have revised our guidelines for in-person worship and other gatherings at the church facility. Below are our revised worship guidelines. Know that our live-stream services are going well and will continue in some form for the foreseeable future. Because of the increased incidence of COVID infections in Westchester County at this time, we have modified our mask policy:

Masks are required for all attending in-person.

Updated guidelines for safely attending in-person may be found on our website at <https://ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/>

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/

*Instructions on joining by Zoom
and other platforms*

are on the church website:

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

Bulletins will also be available there.



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

*Recent Passings in our
Church Community*

Larry Maukonen, December 10,

Brother-in-Law of John and Heather Miller

Susan Boice Whitton, December 16,

Mother of Sue Goodenough

Bible Studies, Meetings

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sundays, January 9 & 23,

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

This month, the men of Sunday evenings will be continuing their work through the Acts of the Apostles. If you'd like to join in and be a part of this ongoing fellowship and conversation, plan to gather on Sunday evenings, January 9 and 23, at 8:00 p.m. Currently we meet in the church Library, with a Zoom option. Contact Dan Love, dlove@ryepc.com, if you'd like to be on the email reminder list and a part of our study.

Monday Morning Bible Discussion

January 3, 10, 24, & 31

9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Our journey through Gospel of Luke continues in the new year, and likely for the rest of the year! But what we lack in speed, we make up for with great depth. All are welcome to join in to this weekly discussion—from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Zoom. If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, contact Dan, dlove@ryepc.com. Our meetings this month: January 3, 10, 24, and 31.

Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, TBD, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

For further information, contact Cynthia De Santis
(cvnthialwells@gmail.com)

Women's Discipleship Group

Resuming January 12

Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m.,

RPC Library and Zoom TBD

Current Study - *Elijah: Faith and Fire* by Priscilla Shirer.
Info: Alicia Baldwin (Alicia.baldwin@verizon.net) or
Courtney Bennett (Courtneybennett910@gmail.com)

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 6,
following 10:00 a.m. worship,
in person & via Zoom.

NEW OFFICER TRAINING

Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

**ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS**

Sunday, January 30,
during the 10:00 a.m. service

JANUARY

**Church Office Closed on Monday January 17,
in observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday**

Board Meetings

Deacons: Wednesday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Trustees: Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., Westminster & Zoom

Session: Wednesday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study: Sundays, Jan. 9 & 23, 8:00 p.m., Library with Zoom option

Monday Morning Bible Discussion: Jan. 3, 10, 24, & 31, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, Jan. 12 & 28, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Women's Discipleship: Wednesdays, resuming Jan. 12, 8:30 a.m., Library

Adult Education

Book Study: *Deep Kindness* by Houston Kraft

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Library, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1; contact John Miller, jmiller@ryepc.com, for further information.

Youth

Confirmation: Sundays, Jan. 9, 23, & 30, at 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Connection: Wednesdays, Jan. 5 & 19, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms

High School Youth Group:

-Sunday, Jan. 9, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room
Hygiene items collection

-Sunday, Jan. 23, 6:00 p.m., Vespers, Chapel

-Sunday, Jan. 30, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room,
Summer Mission Trips Prep Meeting

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.)

Other Church Meetings

Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Stephen Leaders: Monday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Stephen Ministers:

-**Prime Ministers:** Monday, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

-**True Blues:** Wednesday, Jan. 5, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

3Ts: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 9:50 a.m., via Zoom

Contact [Jane Mickatavage](mailto:Jane.Mickatavage@ryepc.com) (914-967-8622) or
[Nancy Steed](mailto:Nancy.Steed@ryepc.com) (914-328-9658).

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

Worship & Music Committee: Monday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the RPC Community
from
Kristin Bassett Kumar

RPNS was so happy to host our annual Holiday Caroling Party again in December! The event took place entirely outside and it was a day filled with family fun! There was a petting zoo on our bike track, a track-less train riding around the parking lot, a breakfast café under the grape arbor, music with the children's band "Songs for Seeds," ornament decorating, and photos with Santa! We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and we are excited for the New Year!



[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*
 Theodore Cheng, *Knock Intern in Sacred Music*
[Maida Robinson](#), *Chief Administrative Officer*
[Peggy Berretta](#), *Administrative Assistant*
[Denise LeVan](#), *Pastoral Assistant*
[Juan Velasquez](#), *Head Sexton/Building Manager*
 Alonso Osorio, *Sunday Sexton*

Rye Presbyterian Church

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