

Will you let it be a Prayer or a Litany?

Did you know that Christmas doesn't end on December 25? On Friday, January 6, 2023 the Advent/Christmas season concludes with the Epiphany of the Lord, or Three Kings Day. It is when we celebrate the arrival of the Magi as recorded in Matthew 2:1-12. January 6 is also known as the twelfth day of Christmas, counting from December 25. One of the most powerful reflections about the passing of this season was written by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. The poem, entitled "The Work of Christmas" is from Howard Thurman's *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*.

"The Work of Christmas"



When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Some have called this a poem. Others refer to Thurman's work as a prayer, a prayer that should be on our lips and in our hearts. Some suggest that a prayer is talking to God, invoking God, or asking for a blessing from God. If this is the case, then I prefer what others have called this poem – a liturgy.

According to James White (*Introduction to Christian Worship*) the word "liturgy" comes from the Greek *leitourgia* and is composed of the words "work and people". In ancient Greece, a liturgy was a public work performed for the benefit of the city or state. Liturgy, then, is a work performed by the people for the benefit of others. In other words, it is the quintessence of the priesthood of believers that the whole priestly community of Christians shares.


So I ask, as we move into 2023, will we use Thurmond's "The Work of Christmas" simply as a prayer upon our lips? Or might his powerful poem become for us a New Year Liturgy – our works performed for the benefit of others? I invite you to join me with the liturgy of your life in 2023 –



to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Peace,


Stewardship 2023, Marshall Baby Shower



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

RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION, MINISTRY,
AND GENEROSITY OF RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!**
Pledge online here - <https://ryepc.com/give/>

As of December 29, here's how our generosity looks for 2023: 239 pledges for \$1,007,700.
110 households who pledged in 2022 haven't yet pledged for 2023.
With decreases, increases, and new pledges, we are up \$52,000 (5.4%) from 2022.



BABY SHOWER, COFFEE HOUR, AND BRUNCH
January 8, following worship
*Rye Presbyterian Church will soon have a child born to the manse,
something that hasn't happened for many years!*

**Please join us after worship on January 8, 2023
as we honor Susie and JP Marshall with a Baby Shower, Coffee Hour, and Brunch.**
If your family would like to make a contribution toward a gift from the congregation,
please [click this link](#) to contribute via PayPal, or send a check to the church, noting
"Marshall Baby Gift" in the memo line.

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Coming Home, Stephen Ministry, Dinner at Noon

COMING HOME IS Coming Back!



We are excited to announce that our **COMING HOME** program **IS** coming back. The program will relaunch next month, beginning on Thursday, February 2. 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 and will 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. We hope that you consider volunteering to once again 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 interested in serving as a mentor (for which we will offer training) please contact John Miller at 914-967-0842, ext. 14 or by email, at jmiller@ryepc.com. To prepare and serve a meal, contact our Meals Coordinator, Linda Otness, at otness.linda@gmail.com. We look forward



Please join us in worship on Sunday, January 22, at the 10:00 a.m. service when 14 members of RPC will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. These individuals devoted themselves to the Caring Connections training this fall and are now ready to serve in our church's Stephen Ministry Program, which provides quality, one-to-one Christian care to individuals experiencing a life crisis. Come celebrate these servant leaders as they are blessed into faithful action!



VOLUNTEER FOR DINNER AT NOON

Dinner at Noon is a volunteer collaboration between local faith based groups including Rye Presbyterian Church, Community Synagogue, and Resurrection who serve a hot meal at the Carver Center every Saturday to those in need. Each group manages several Saturdays during the year.

RPC's upcoming dates are **January 14, April 15, and June 3**. We are in need of 5 volunteers for each date from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Volunteers will set tables, plate food, serve meals to guests, bag meals to go and clean up. Masks are recommended for all volunteers.

Please contact Gabby McCree (gabmccree1@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping. Families and children ages 10 and up are welcome to volunteer together!

If you are not able to volunteer in person, please consider donating nut-free baked goods (homemade or store bought) to serve with the meal.

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 \$70 donation.

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

Your donation will be noted in the church bulletin.

To make arrangements, contact Denise LeVan (dlevan@ryepc.com).

2022 Christmas Pageant and Live Nativity





Christian Education, 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. 1: No Sunday School
(Happy New Year!)

Jan. 8: Matthew 2:1-12
(Wise Men Visit Jesus)

Jan. 15: Mark 1:4-11 (Jesus' Baptism)

Jan. 22: Mark 2:13-17
(Jesus Calls Levi)

Jan 29: Luke 4:14-30
(Jesus Feeds Five Thousand)

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).



Rise Against Hunger Event Sunday, January 29 following 10:00 a.m. worship, Assembly Room

All are welcome to join us for our annual Rise Against Hunger event! We will come together in the Assembly Room following the 10:00 a.m. service to help package 10,000 meals. The meals we put together that morning will be used as part of school feeding and crisis relief programs. Coffee, lemonade, and lunch will be served!

Middle School Connection

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

- **Wednesday, January 4 @ 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms**

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

- **Wednesday, January 18 @ 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms**

We'll take time to catch up over pizza, play some games, and reflect on the Epiphany season 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.

Updates through Remind!

Text [@rpcccon](https://www.remind.com/join/rpcccon) to 81010 or sign up at <https://www.remind.com/join/rpcccon>.

YOUTH High School Youth GROUP Group

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

- **Saturday, January 14 @ 9:00 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 know if you are able to join us.

- **Sunday, January 22 @ 6:00 p.m., Chapel:** Join us at The Table (formerly "Vespers"), 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 (jmarshall@ryepc.com) know if you plan on joining us and if you are bringing food.

- **Sunday, January 29 @ 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room:** Summer Mission Trip Prep Meeting – All participants of the summer mission trip will take time to get to know one another and discuss why we are going on the trip!

We are on Instagram!

Username: ryepresyouth

Updates through Remind!

Text [@ryepre](https://www.remind.com/join/ryepre) to 81010 or sign up at <https://www.remind.com/join/ryepre>.



2023 Summer Service Trip

We hope you can join us as we continue serving alongside our neighbors during the summer of 2023! This year we are planning on returning to New Orleans on the week of June 25-July 1. The trip will have space for 25 high school youth.

Sign-up for the trips will begin online on **Monday, January 9, 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.



Sundays, January 8 and 22, 5:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room

On the discussion agenda this month: why is "holy week" such an important part of the story? And can someone please explain the Holy Spirit?



Worship, Giving

Weekends in January

Sunday, January 1

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary / Hybrid
- Communion

Saturday, January 7

9:00 a.m. New Officer Training, Westminster Room

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, 2nd fl. Con

12:00 p.m. All Church Officers, Assembly Room

Sunday, January 8

9:15 a.m. Church Choir Warm-Up

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary / Hybrid

11:00 a.m. Marshall Baby Shower, Assembly Room

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Westminster Room

8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study, Library/Hybrid

Saturday, January 14

9:00 a.m. Dinner at Noon

Sunday, January 15

9:15 a.m. Church Choir Warm-Up

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary / Hybrid

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 22

9:15 a.m. Church Choir Warm-Up

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary / Hybrid
- Stephen Ministry Commissioning

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Westminster Room

6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group, "The Table"
(formerly "Vespers"), Chapel

8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study, Library

Sunday, January 29

9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Warmup

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary / Hybrid
- New Officers Ordination & Installation

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

11:30 a.m. Rise Against Hunger, Assembly Room

6:00 p.m. NOLA Prep Meeting, Assembly Room

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/

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*

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.

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), 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 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

Stephen R. "Monk" Koch, Dec. 17

Janice Hunt Rounseville, Oct. 28,

sister of John Hunt

Ford Winter, Nov. 18,

husband of Neva Winter

Diane Elaine Gross, Dec. 15,

mother of Debra Segal

Adrian Hendrik Ladders, Dec. 20,



Bible Studies, January Meetings

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sunday, January 8 & 22,

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

This month, with the start of a new year, the men of Sunday evenings will be heading in a new direction. After hearing of Paul's adventures as told through the eyes of Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, we turn to the source directly. We'll begin with Paul's earliest letters – those written to the Thessalonian church. If you'd like to join in and be a part of this ongoing fellowship and conversation, plan to gather on Sunday evenings January 8 and 22 at 8 p.m. Currently, we meet in the church library with a Zoom option. Contact Dan Love **Dan Love** at (dlove@ryepc.com) to learn more and to be on the email reminder list.

Monday Morning Bible Discussion

Mondays, January 9, 23, & 30, 9:15-10:15 a.m., via Zoom

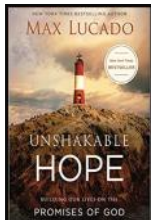
Our journey through Gospel of Luke resumes in 2023 and will likely carry us for the better part of the year! But what we lack in speed, we make up for with great depth and meaningful conversation. All are welcome to join in to this weekly discussion – from 9:15-10:15 AM on Zoom. If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, contact Dan Love - dlove@ryepc.com.

Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, January 7, 10:00 a.m., 2nd fl. Conference Rm.

For further information, contact Cynthia De Santis (cynthialwells@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)

or

Courtney Bennett
(Courtneybennett910@gmail.com)

THRIFT SHOP

THRIFT SHOP

Reopens Thursday, January 5

All proceeds aid local non-profits.

Questions? 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.

You can also email the shop at
RyeThrift10580@gmail.com.

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

JANUARY MEETINGS

**Church Office Closed on Monday, January 16,
in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Board Meetings

Deacons: Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Rm/Zoom

Trustees: Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Library & Zoom

Session: Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study: Sunday, Jan. 8 & 22, 8:00 p.m., Library with Zoom option

Monday Morning Bible Discussion: Jan. 9, 23, & 30,
9:15 a.m., via Zoom

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, Jan. 7, 10:00 a.m.,
2nd fl. Conference Room

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

Children & Youth

Confirmation: Sundays, Jan. 8 & 22, 5:00 p.m.,
Westminster Room

Middle School Connection:

-Wednesdays, Jan. 4 & 18, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms;

Dinner at Noon: Saturday, January 14 p.m., Carver Center

High School Youth Group:

-Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:00 a.m., Carver Center

-Sunday, Jan. 22, 6:00 p.m., "The Table" (formerly Vespers)

-Sunday, Jan. 29, 6:00 p.m., Summer Mission Trip mtg.,
Assembly Room

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

Stephen Ministry Training: Tuesdays, Jan. 3 10, 6:30 p.m.,
Westminster Room

Nola Prep Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 29, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Rm.

Rise Against Hunger: Sunday, Jan. 29, 11:30 a.m., Assembly

3Ts: Thursday, Jan. 19, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Contact [Jane Mickatavage](mailto:JaneMickatavage@ryepc.com) (914-967-8622) or

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

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

Women's Association: Friday, Jan. 6 & 13, Library &
downstairs.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 5,
following 10:00 a.m. worship,
in person & via Zoom.

Saturday, January 7

NEW OFFICER TRAINING
9:00 a.m., Westminster Room

ALL CHURCH OFFICER TRAINING
12:00 noon, Assembly Room

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sunday, January 29, during 10:00 a.m. service

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

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

RPNS was so happy to host our annual Holiday Caroling Party again in December! The rain did not stop us from having a successful event! There was a petting zoo, a trackless train, a breakfast café, 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*
Jason Charneski, *Director of Music and Organist*
Collin Miller, 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

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

*We are a Stephen Ministry church that offers one on one caring ministry to those in need.
If you need assistance from your pastors, deacons, or a Stephen Minister, please call at (914) 967-0842.
If you are experiencing an acute crisis, you can call or text 988
and you'll connect with a mental health professional through the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline'*