



The season of Lent is one of the few church seasons that the culture has not yet really figured out how to co-opt, as it has done with Christmas and Easter. And yet, you still hear people ask, folks who don't ever attend a worship service, "What are you giving up for Lent?" The other interesting thing that occurs is that while many Christians wear ashes on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday, few, if any, don sackcloth! And yet, the two are often mentioned in the same breath in Scripture.

Today, we tend to picture someone wearing sackcloth as someone wearing a burlap bag with holes for the head and arms. In biblical times, sackcloth was made from the coarse hair of a goat. Because it produced some degree of pain or discomfort, it was worn by one who was mourning or as a public sign of repentance, atonement, or submission. Because of this, sackcloth was sometimes worn by the Prophets as an outward sign of their call to repentance.

The purpose of wearing sackcloth was intended to express one's sincere desire to turn one's heart toward God and to follow God faithfully. It was a physical "act of contrition." Although we no longer wear sackcloth as part of our Lenten practice, we are still called to practice true contrition: recognizing the discomfort that our actions may cause, grieving for the damage we have caused, and expressing a sincere desire to follow God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Some years ago, I shared these words with you, but they are worth sharing again. In fact, every year at Lent I read them again. We don't need to give something up. We don't need to walk around in sackcloth. Yet of all the church seasons, Lent is the most appropriate time to do some soul searching.

In his book, *Whistling in the Dark*, Presbyterian pastor and author Frederick Buechner invites us into a Lenten observance as we follow in the footsteps of our Lord. He writes:

"In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the River Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

- If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

- When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?
- If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?
- Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?
- Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?
- If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are, but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end."

Lenten Blessings,



## What's Inside?

- Page 2:** One Great Hour of Sharing
- Page 3:** Adult Education, Empty Bowls, Stephen Ministry
- Page 4:** Christian Education, Confirmation
- Page 5:** Davidson Gordon Award, Peter Bishop Scholarship, Thrift Shop Spring Sale, Easter Flowers & Music, NOLA August Trip
- Page 6:** Music Notes
- Page 7:** Sesquicentennial Challenge
- Page 8:** Sundays in March, Bible Study
- Page 9:** March Calendar
- Page 10:** Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

## One Great Hour of Sharing



### Restoring Hope Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Envelopes will be available in the pews beginning March 8. The offering is received through Easter, April 12. To watch a brief video about the offering, [click here](#). To see the OGHS Engagement Map, [click here](#).

#### *The offering at work:*

- 5,676 PDA work team volunteers served in 2019
- \$3.2 million granted around the globe through PDA in 2019
- \$925,960 granted around the globe through PHP in 2018
- 329 farms and gardens provided healthy food to families in need
- 95,500 trees and seedlings planted around the world
- 5,316 clergy, wage theft monitors, human rights trainees, organizers, policy advocates, and indigenous leaders attended intensive trainings in the U.S.
- 5,600 loans distributed for income generating projects and cooperatives
- over 5,000 projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception
- 946,000 pounds of fresh produce grown and prepared by five PHP grant partners in the U.S.
- 213 certified PC(USA) Earth Care congregations in 47 states helped care for creation

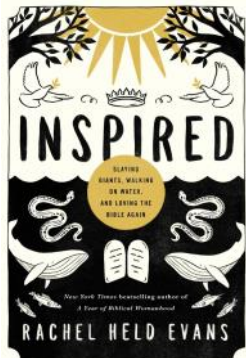


*Members and friends of RPC on their recent trip to Israel -- pictured here on the steps leading to the doorways (now closed off) that Jesus would have used to enter the Temple Mount area.*



Adult Education, Empty Bowls, Stephen Ministry

Lenten Book Study



**Inspired**  
By Rachel Held Evans

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31  
7:30 p.m.—Library

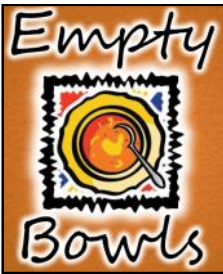
Do you find yourself unsure of how to feel about the Bible? Or maybe you've read it from front to back multiple times out of love for its stories? Or you find yourself somewhere in-between? Wherever you might be with your relationship with the Bible, you

are invited to bring your doubt, curiosity, and imagination to this Lenten book study led by Rev. Marshall and Rev. Love on Rachel Held Evans' book, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*.

In her book, Rachel Held Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work, but a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world.

We hope you can join us as we reflect and discuss these mysteries together!

We will discuss the Introduction and Chapter One on Tuesday, March 3.



**Empty Bowls**  
Sunday, March 29  
In the Assembly Room  
following 10 a.m. Worship

Even with all that we have, the **Empty Bowls Project** is a regular reminder that people right here in our area still find a steady diet of healthy food challenging. This year, for our 19<sup>th</sup> time, potters from the Clay Arts Center in Port Chester will be working with the middle school youth of our church to bring **Empty Bowls** to RPC.

Following 10:00 a.m. worship on March 29, all are invited to the RPC Assembly Room. There you will find beautiful ceramic bowls created and donated by local artists. With the purchase of a bowl, guests receive a meal of soup made and donated by Matt Karp of Plates Caterers. Bread donated by the Kneaded Bread will be there to complement the soup. After the meal, the bowls are to be taken home as a reminder that even in the land of plenty, there is always someone with an empty bowl.

With all food, bowls, and help donated by local talent, the entire proceeds will be donated to the Town of Rye Interfaith Soup Kitchens in Port Chester. Since its inception in 2000, the Empty Bowls event has raised nearly \$70,000!

Come, be a part of this great event!

Sunday Mornings



9:00-9:45 a.m.  
Westminster Room  
through June 14

Join us for coffee and conversation as we explore the scriptural texts that will be used in worship each Sunday using the lectionary-based curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*. Each session is a stand-alone session, so participants can join the study at any point.



(There will be **no** class on the following weekends: 4/12, 5/24.)

Evening Study

**Race and Religion—Part II**

Last fall participants read Debbie Irving's book, *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, as well as The Confession of Belhar. This spring we are partnering with our brothers and sisters at Macedonia Baptist Church in Mount Vernon to continue the conversation regarding race and religion with one another. We will gather for dinner and discussion at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, at Rye Presbyterian Church, and then again on Monday, May 4, at Macedonia Baptist Church.



If you did not attend Part I, but are interested in participating in these discussions, please contact Dr. Miller ([jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com)).



**Volumes of Support**

In addition to the confidential, one-to-one care offered by RPC's Stephen Ministry, there are also resources providing a fresh perspective at your fingertips. For over 15 years, the Stephen Ministry Leader Team has collected books which offer support for caregivers as well as compassion for those suffering from loss, grief, or a crisis of faith. Recently, the materials have been updated and expanded. The SM Leader Team encourages all to peruse or borrow from the collection located on shelves to the right of the stained glass windows in the RPC Library. Should you or someone you know be interested in learning more about the support offered by Stephen Ministers, please contact one of the pastors.

## Christian Education, Confirmation



### Sunday School

This month we enter the season of Lent, a time that calls us to examine our hearts and re-center our lives in Christ. Throughout the season of Lent, we will introduce our children to spiritual practices centered on gratitude, trust, forgiveness, and compassion. We will also spend our time together each Sunday morning working on creating dioramas of our favorite Bible stories in preparation for our special coffee hour event on March 22 – The Gospel According to Peeps! (See below.)

### Middle School Connection

#### Middle School Connection

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

- **Wednesdays, March 4 & 18**  
5:15-6:30 p.m., Clay Art Center  
Join us as we get ready for the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser by making bowls at the Clay Art Center! The CAC is at 40 Beech St. in Port Chester—a right turn off Midland just past Grace Church St. and the firehouse. It is the first building on the right.

- **Sunday, March 29—Empty Bowls Following 10 a.m. worship in the Assembly Room**

Immediately following worship, join us for soup, bread, and awesome bowls made by local potters (and the Connection group) - all proceeds benefit local soup kitchens. **Our middle school youth staff the event!**

Let Rev. JP ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) know if you'd like to be on the email list.

Also, you can sign up for updates through Remind: text @rpcccon to 81010 or sign up at <https://www.remind.com/join/rpcccon>.

### 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, March 1,**  
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
Assembly Room  
NOLA Bingo Fund-raiser during Coffee Hour!
- **Sunday, March 15,**  
6:00-7:30 p.m., Westminster Room  
We will share dinner and conversation with the young men from the Youth Shelter of Westchester.
- **Lenten Book Study:**  
*Inspired by Rachel Held Evans*  
**Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31**  
7:30 p.m., Library

All high school youth are invited to bring your doubt, curiosity, and imagination to this Lenten book study led by Rev. Marshall and Rev. Love on Rachel Held Evans' book, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. In her book, Rachel Held Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work, but a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world.

We will discuss the Introduction and Chapter One on Tuesday, March 3.

**We are on Instagram!**

Username: rypesyouth

**Updates through GroupMe!**

Please email your name and phone number - [jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com).

**Updates through Remind!**

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

### Confirmation 2020

Class meets twice this month—**Sundays, March 1 and 29, at 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.** We won't meet that day, but draft Statements of Faith are due on March 8.

Confirmation

### The Gospel According to Peeps



**Sunday, March 22,**  
following 10:00 a.m.  
worship

Throughout the month of March, our church school classes will be hard at work creating dioramas of their favorite Bible stories. These marvelous creations are hand-crafted using the most venerable of artistic mediums: Peeps Easter candy. All are invited to come see these one-of-a-kind projects on display during a special PEEP-tacular coffee hour on March 22!



### Mardi Gras BINGO



*Fun for all ages!*

*Youth Mission Trips Fundraiser*

**Sunday, March 1, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,**  
**in the RPC Assembly Room**

Prizes will be given to winners and  
Snacks provided for all.

*If you do not wish to play Bingo, but would like to contribute, we will gratefully accept contributions.*  
All proceeds from the event go towards the Youth Mission Trips to New Orleans.



Davidson Gordon Quiet Service Award, Peter Bishop Scholarship, Thrift Shop Spring Sale, Easter Flowers & Music, NOLA August Trip

The Davidson T. Gordon Quiet Service Award



The recipient of this year's Davidson T. Gordon Quiet Service Award is Cynthia De Santis. Presenting the award was Elder (and Cynthia's husband), C.J. De Santis. Also present to congratulate Cynthia were Davidson Gordon and her sons, Nicholas and Christian.

THE PETER BISHOP SCHOLARSHIP

Since 1968, Rye Presbyterian Church has awarded grants to graduating high school seniors who are going on to college studies. The award is in memory of Peter Bishop, son of a former pastor of RPC.

The number of grants and the amounts awarded each year vary, but it is a one-time award given to students demonstrating academic promise and financial need, with priority consideration given to those seniors who have been active in the life of Rye Presbyterian Church.

**If you are a Rye High School senior, application for this scholarship is done through the guidance office at RHS.**

**If you are not a student at Rye High School, but wish to apply for the scholarship, please contact Rev. Love ([dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com)) for more information.**

Save the Date . . .

Spring cleaning and giving !

**THRIFT SHOP SPRING SATURDAY SALE**

**Saturday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

All of the proceeds are given to local non-profits and do so much for our larger community. We need your special donations to be dropped off all day Friday, April 24.

(go to <http://ryepc.com/ministries/thrift-shop/> for specific guidelines.)

Then come SHOP! Tell your friends and spread the word!!



Easter Flowers & Music

What would Easter be without the beautiful flowers and glorious music to celebrate the Resurrection? Please help defray the cost of our Easter flowers and music.

Use the designated envelope in the pew rack, indicate "Easter Flowers & Music" on the check memo line. To donate online, go to the <http://ryepc.com/article/easter-flowers-music/>.

For your gift to be acknowledged in the Easter program, your donation **must** be received no later than **Monday, March 30.**

The Children's Communion Workshop: Welcome to the Table!



AUGUST NOLA YOUTH MISSION TRIP

We still have openings for our August Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans. The trip is open to 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders! The dates are August 2-8 and the cost will be approx. \$700. Expect to be installing floors, laying tile, scraping, painting, etc. on the home of a veteran, a disabled person, or another person in need. You will sweat. (A lot!) We will also have fun exploring New Orleans in the evenings.

If interested, please contact Rev. JP at [jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com).

## Music Notes



***From Jason Charneski***

**Join the Chancel Choir for Palm Sunday,  
Maundy Thursday, and Easter**

Here's an opportunity for anyone who has thought about singing in the Chancel Choir or for those whose schedules preclude regular participation: You're invited to join us for Holy Week services (Palm Sunday – April 5; Maundy Thursday – April 9; and Easter – April 12). Having you join us on March 22 for part of the choir's weekly rehearsal would be ideal; we certainly would need you to attend the rehearsal on March 29. Please let me know (914-967-0842, ext. 16, or [jcharneski@ryepc.com](mailto:jcharneski@ryepc.com)).

**Chamber Music Concerts Resume on Palm Sunday (April 5): Four Cellos!**

Chamber Music at Rye Presbyterian Church will offer its next concert on Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday), at 3:00 p.m., with great works by Bach, Mozart, and others played by four of the region's premier cellists: Peter Wiley, Rafael Figueroa, Edward Arron, and Joel Noyes. A reception follows the concert. Invite your friends and family members to join you -- \$20 for RPC members and friends; students get in for FREE! Come!

*Jason*

### Chamber Music at Rye Presbyterian Church

Ronald Arron, artistic director

presents

## Four Cellos



Peter Wiley, Rafael Figueroa, Edward Arron, and Joel Noyes

**Sunday, April 5, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.**

**Music of Bach, Mozart, and more!**

Admission: \$20 for RPC members and friends;  
FREE for students; \$40 for the general public

To reserve your seats, please call Ronald Arron at 914-523-4646, or send him an email: [ronarron@optonline.net](mailto:ronarron@optonline.net)

++++

Rye Presbyterian Church 882 Boston Post Rd. Rye, NY 10580

## Sesquicentennial Service Challenge

### Volunteering at the RPC Thrift Shop by Cheryl Flood

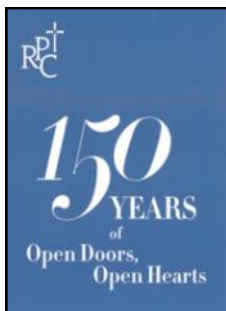
As I reflect on the RPC Thrift Shop motto, “Repurpose with a Purpose,” I am struck by the number of years and the many ways that this RPC Women’s Association organization has been providing service to the church and community. From its humble beginnings as an annual tag sale in 1973, to last year’s distribution of over \$80,000 in grants to 19 local non-profit organizations, countless volunteers have shared in the blessings of personal fellowship and support, while dedicating their time and service to the mission of “giving back” to the world.

Throughout my years as the Director of RPNS from 1983 to 2014, my staff and I rejoiced at finding gently used, affordable children’s books, puzzles, games, toys, baskets, and other treasures for our preschoolers and our classrooms. I remember the dedicated volunteers who would greet shoppers with a smile, help us to find any need and invite us back the next week. I have always been indebted to the Women’s Association and Thrift Shop for their initial grant to start up the RPNS Scholarship Fund in my son’s name at the time of his death in 1995, as well as their continued grant every year since then. When I think of the number of preschoolers and their families who have been able to attend RPNS over the years because of the efforts of Thrift Shop volunteers, I marvel at the beautiful synergy of giving: donating, reclaiming and recycling, providing affordable items for shoppers, enjoying friendship and fellowship among colleagues, and raising funds to benefit people in need through local non-profits.

*Cheryl Flood is the former Director of Rye Presbyterian Nursery School.*

Now that I am retired, I love being able to “give back” by working with the wonderful people who continue the Thrift Shop legacy. As I delight in the new friendships that I have made, I am grateful for renewing friendships with the many volunteers and shoppers who are parents of children who attended RPNS. I love hearing the stories of their children and seeing the children return as young adults. It was with great sadness that we all shared the news of the passing of our own Jessica Gay on February 9. Our leader, Suzanne Davies, wrote, “Jessica’s contributions to the Thrift Shop were many. I am fairly sure she clocked in more volunteer years than any of us. Even through her illness, Jessica was polishing silver, and coming in when she could not have felt very well. Her spirit was always up, as she lived her days to their fullest. We were all honored that they included us! Oh, how we will miss our dear friend.” We are so grateful to have the memory of spending Jessica’s last day with us, quietly cleaning, pricing and organizing together as we shared stories about our children, grandchildren, family and Christmas holiday. Fellowship is truly one of the blessings of volunteering.

There are many opportunities for service at the Thrift Shop. You can donate housewares, jewelry (real and costume), knick-knacks, artwork, toys, lamps, china, silver, crystal, children’s books, and small furniture. Volunteers are welcome on Wednesdays, from 9:00-1:00 when we price, clean, and organize donations, on Thursdays, from 10:00-1:00, when the Thrift Shop is open and on some Saturdays, when we hold our Saturday Sale. Please contact Suzanne Davies ([suzannebd1@aol.com](mailto:suzannebd1@aol.com)) if you would like to volunteer.



### The Sesquicentennial Service Challenge

2020 marks the sesquicentennial of our sanctuary. 150 years of people coming in and going out through the doors of our beautiful sanctuary. People come in to find their faith strengthened and renewed as we worship together. People then go out in service to the world beyond our doors.

The Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to join your fellow disciples of Rye Presbyterian Church in the 2020 Sesquicentennial Service Challenge!

**The goal:** at least 150 minutes of service from every member for every month of 2020. With 1,052 members, that would mean the total number of services minutes for 2020 would be 1,893,600!

Please know that ANY volunteer service you do either with the church or in the community COUNTS. If you are giving the gift of your time, it counts. When logging your minutes, you can group your minutes together. You don’t need to log each activity separately. Simply total your minutes and then list, as briefly as possible, what activities you did. The two things we are tracking are total number of minutes (not hours), and the variety of activities that people are involved in as they give the gift of their time by volunteering.

**TO LOG YOUR MINUTES, GO TO: <https://ryepc.com/150>**

#### Opportunity for service: Coming Home

Our Coming Home ministry offers various volunteer opportunities:

- **Cooks and Hosts**—each evening begins with a meal prepared and served by RPC congregants who share table fellowship before the program begins. Contact our Meals Coordinator, Linda Otness, at [Otness.Linda@gmail.com](mailto:Otness.Linda@gmail.com).

For more information, contact Mr. Kevin Bunch, Program Coordinator, at [savedmedic2001@yahoo.com](mailto:savedmedic2001@yahoo.com), or 914-473-2221; or Pastor John Miller at [jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com), or at 914-967-0842.

**Sesquicentennial Service Challenge . . . An Individual Challenge for a Common Goal!**



## Weekends in March, Bible Study

### Saturday, February 29

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study / Library  
5:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship / Chapel

### Sunday, March 1—The First Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel  
8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room  
10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion / Sanctuary  
Sunday School  
-Children attend worship through children's message.  
11:00 a.m. New Member Gathering / Library  
11:00 a.m. NOLA Bingo / Assembly Room  
11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room  
4:00 & 5:00 p.m. Confirmation / Westminster Room

### Saturday, March 7

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study / Library  
5:00 p.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

### Sunday, March 8—The Second Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel  
8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room  
9:00 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal / Jason's office  
10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary  
Sunday School  
Children's Choir sings  
-Children attend worship through children's message.  
11:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal / Westminster Room  
11:00 a.m. New Member Gathering / Library  
11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room  
8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

### Saturday, March 14

- 5:00 p.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

### Sunday, March 15—The Third Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel  
8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room  
10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary  
-Children attend worship through children's message.  
11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room  
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group / Westminster Room

### Saturday, March 21

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study / Library  
5:00 p.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel

### Sunday, March 22—The Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel  
8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room  
10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary  
-Children attend worship through children's message.  
11:15 p.m. Gospel According to Peeps / Assembly Room  
11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room  
7:00 p.m. New Member Dessert with Session / Library

### Saturday, March 28

- 5:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship / Chapel

### Sunday, March 29—The Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion / Chapel  
8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room  
9:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal / Jason's office  
10:00 a.m. Worship / Sanctuary  
Sunday School  
-Children attend worship through children's message.  
Youth Choir sings  
New Members Recognition  
11:00 a.m. Empty Bowls / Assembly Room  
11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room  
4:00 & 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class / Westminster Room  
5:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

## BIBLE STUDIES

### Men's Bible Study

Sundays, March 8 and 29, at 8:00 p.m. in the Library

Our work on the Gospel according to Luke—all are welcome to join in! If you'd like to be on the email reminder list for this gathering, please contact Rev. Love [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

### Monday Morning Bible Discussion

Mondays, March 9 and 23,  
at 9:30 a.m. in the Library

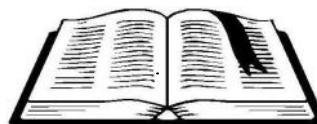
Our tour through the Old Testament continues with a little help from "The Bible Project" (<https://thebibleproject.com>). Even if you can't come—check out their videos! Contact Rev. Love ([dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com)) for more information.

### Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, March 7 and 21,  
at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

Please join the Women's Bible Study twice monthly on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Library. A warm welcome and hot coffee await!

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



Contemplative Saturday at 5 Service  
February 29 & March 28 in the Chapel

*Come, enter God's presence.  
Find your center.*



## March Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

### BOARD MEETINGS

**Deacons:** Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Library  
**Trustees:** Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room  
**Session:** Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

### WORSHIP AND STUDY

#### Worship on Saturday evening:

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., March 7, 14, 21, & 28 (Contemplative Service on 3/28)

#### Worship on Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

**Prayer Gatherings:** Sundays in the Library at 8:40 a.m.

#### Adult Education:

**Sundays, 9:00-9:45 a.m., Westminster Room:**

**Coffee & Conversation:** Through June 14 (*no classes on holiday weekends: April 12 and May 24.*)

**Lenten Book Study:** *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans, Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, 7:30 p.m., Library

**Sunday School:** Regular Sunday School on March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

**Confirmation:** Sunday, Westminster Room, March 1 & 29, 4:00 & 5:00 p.m., Westminster Room

**Men's Sunday Bible Study:** March 8 & 29, 8:00 p.m., Library

**Monday Morning Bible Discussion:** March 9 & 23, 9:30 a.m., Library

**Women's Bible Study:** Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., March 7 & 21, Library

**Women's Discipleship:** Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Library.

### YOUTH

**Boy Scout Troop #2:** Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

**Connection:** Wednesdays, March 4 & 18, 5:15 p.m., Clay Art Center

Sunday, March 29, Empty Bowls, 11:00 a.m., Assembly Room

**High School Youth Group:** Sunday, March 1, NOLA Bingo Fundraiser, 11:15 a.m., Assembly Room

Sunday, March 15, 6:00 p.m., dinner and conversation with young men from Youth Shelter of Westchester

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, Lenten Book Study "*Inspired*," 7:30 p.m., Library

### MUSIC

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

**Children's Choir Rehearsal:** Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., Choir Room; Sunday, March 8, 9:00 a.m., Jason's Office

**Youth Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays, March 8 & 22, 11:00 a.m., Westminster Room

### OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

**3 Ts:** Tuesday, March 17, 10:00 a.m., Library

**Coming Home Dinner:** Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

**NOLA Fundraiser Mardi Gras Bingo:** Sunday, March 1, 11:15 a.m., Assembly Room

**The Gospel According to Peeps:** Sunday, March 22, 11:00 a.m., Assembly Room

**Mission & Outreach:** Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m., Library

**New Member Gatherings:** Sundays, March 1 & 8 11:15 a.m., Library

Dessert with Session: Sunday, March 22, 7:00 p.m., Library

#### Stephen Ministry:

Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, March 3, 6:00 p.m., Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

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

**Women's Association:** Monthly Meeting, Monday, March 8, 9:00 a.m., Library

### OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

**AA Rye Harrison Group:** Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Youth Room

**AA Group:** Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

#### Mr. Westchester/Al-Anon Group:

Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Library

**Helping Hands:** Thursday, March 19, 10:00 a.m.,

Kitchen & Assembly Room



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Sunday, April 19,  
RPC's 26th annual

**CHURCH AND JUSTICE SERVICE**

led by formerly incarcerated men now leading  
productive lives. **Don't miss it!**

## Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

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

### Literacy Curriculum



For the 2019-2020 school year, RPNS has incorporated the Wilson Language literacy program called Foundations into our daily literacy instruction. Our fours/fives classrooms have been using this literacy curriculum since the beginning of the school year. The goal of the Foundations Pre-K program is for the students to learn the names of the letters and their corresponding sounds, as well as, teach the children the proper formation of uppercase and lowercase letters.

The literacy curriculum in our threes classrooms prepares the children for the fours literacy program by allowing the

students to participate in activities that promote phonemic awareness (hearing and understanding that words are made up of smaller sounds). Each week the children study two letters and learn the name of the letter, the keyword that is associated with the letter, and how the letter is formed. The program is cumulative as previously learned letters are continuously reviewed. When learning vowels, the program focuses on short vowel sounds as they are found more often in words.

In our fours and fives, the teachers use a special writing grid to teach the children the proper way to form the letters. They model for the children how to form the letters in uppercase and lowercase consistently following a specific stroke



sequence and verbalize how the letter is formed on the grid. The lines on the grid have child friendly names that help the children (the sky line,

the plane line, the grass line, and the worm line). The picture of the plane is always flying to the right to remind the students to write from left to right.



In addition, the Foundations literacy program uses "sky writing" during whole group instruction to help teach the children letter formation. Sky Writing is a way for students to use gross motor movement while learning the correct way to write a letter. After following the verbalizations to form the letter "in the sky" using their "arm pencil," the class repeats the letter name, keyword, and sound. This multi-sensory approach helps to form a tight association with the letter, its sounds, and how it is formed.

Small group work is an essential part of the program as the students have the opportunity each week to practice forming the letters. In our fours and fives the children use their own dry erase writing grids and letter formation sheets and in our threes the children explore letters in a fun and multi-sensory way (example: writing letters in sand or shaving cream).



[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 Sextion

Richard Gress, Knock Intern in Sacred Music

### **Rye Presbyterian Church**

882 Boston Post Road

Rye, New York 10580

Tel: 914.967.0842