

Grace Notes

October 2021 • Vol. 218

waterlines

"Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God." Psalm 69:1-3



When we lived in Dallas, we'd vacation in the Florida panhandle, often stopping in New Orleans during our travels. Following Hurricane Katrina I remember being deeply saddened by the destruction all along the coast. Visiting New

Orleans years later, there were still waterlines on buildings from the devastation of Katrina. Our youth at Rye Presbyterian have continued to travel there on mission trips all these years later.

Early in September our community and those around Rye experienced the raw emotion of the Psalmist found in Psalm 69. The rushing waters of Ida, whether they came from the rising Blind Brook, or because of a historic amount of rain in such a brief period of time, left their waterlines on the homes, businesses, and lives of so many in our congregation and in the communities in which we live. For many it will take months and months to remove or repair both the physical and emotional waterlines that have been etched into our lives. Others are simply planning to move on. The waterlines of which I speak are usually horizontal lines, leaving their mark to remind us of the depth of the despair.

But there is also another kind of waterline. It most often runs vertically. It is the waterline caused by the tears that mark the faces of our community, of our country. As a ruling elder in a former church I served wrote: "Whether it be on the faces of the families of lost soldiers, or of those impacted by wildfires and other disasters, or of advocates and activists alike, or of those impacted by COVID, there are just too many waterlines to keep track of today."

The Psalmist writes of both of these waterlines, writing first of horizontal waterlines, saying, "I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me." And then, writing about the vertical waterlines, saying, "I am weary with my crying... My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God." We have come to know well these waterlines in our lives.

In the midst of all of the vertical and horizontal waterlines that are etched into our lives, there's another image I invite you to remember and reaffirm in these days. Rather than being a waterline, it is more of a watermark. It is the watermark of our baptism. It is the watermark with which we claimed Reese as a child of God as we baptized her on September 26.

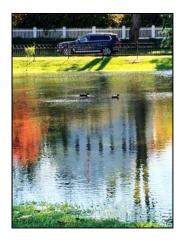
The symbolism of this watermark was put into perspective by the six-year-old son of a seminary student as they prepared for Ash Wednesday. The father wanted to make sure that his young son understood that ashes would be put on his forehead. "I know," the child replied, "and I can hardly wait." "Really?" the puzzled father said. "Why's that?" Then came his remarkable answer: "That's the one day of the year that we get to see the cross that was traced on our foreheads in baptism."

Theologian Karl Barth wrote: "Against all this there goes forth the witness of the Holy Spirit, the witness of the heard Word of God, and the witness of baptism. For the relevance of holy baptism is this, that we may our whole life long think upon the fact that we are baptized... Baptism concerns me completely, quite independently of whether I always perceive the witness of the Holy Spirit with the same liveliness... There is a rise and fall in it; there are times when for me the word is not living, and that is where the fact may interpose, that I am baptized. Once in my life a sign has been established, which I may hold on to even at a time when the witness of the Holy Spirit does not reach me. Just as I was born, I was once baptized."

Friends, in the midst of all of the waterlines of our lives, let us never forget the indelible watermark of our baptism. For as the Psalmist proclaims later in Psalm 69:33 – "For the Lord hears the needy, and does not despise his own that are in bonds."

May the Peace of Christ be with you,





Hurricane Ida creates a temporary new waterline on the RPC Great Lawn, taken advantage of by a few ducks!

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Adult Education, New Members, Thrift Shop

Rye Presbyterian Church **Adult Education Conversations**

Join us on the following Sunday evenings: October 3 & 10 7:30 - 9:00 PM via Zoom

Contact John Miller, jmiller@ryepc.com, for Zoom info

The guiding principles of this series:

... where are you from?

Everyone is beloved. Everyone has a story to tell. We commit to disrupting our assumptions and staying curious.

... where does it hurt?

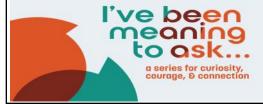
Everyone carries hurt and can acknowledge the pain of others. We commit to vulnerability and compassion.

... what do you need?

Everyone has needs. God calls us to care for one another. We commit to listening and being present.

... where do we go from here?

Courageous conversations can transform us. God bridges connections. We commit to continuing the conversation.



Become Part of Our

New Member Welcome Discussions October 17 & 24

Perhaps you've been coming to RPC a long time, or perhaps you are brand new to the area or the church. Either way, if you've thought about taking a further step into the life, commu-

nity, and mission of RPC, this is a great time to explore it. All those who are interested in finding out more about what it means to be a member of the Rye Presbyterian Church are invited to take part in the New Member classes. The classes are Sundays, October 17 and 24, at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.

In these classes, we will explore what it means to be a Presbyterian in general, and what it means to actively live out our faith together as a part of this particular church. In addition to the Sunday classes, for those choosing to join the church, there will be a meeting with the leadership of the church on Sunday evening, November 7, at 7:00 p.m. This is a time to meet the officers of the church and for the Session to meet briefly to approve the new class for church membership. A New Member Social will follow the meeting with Session. Public welcome and recognition of the new members will take place during worship on Sunday, November 14.

Anyone wishing to find out more about joining the church should contact Peggy Berretta in the church office – pberretta@ryepc.com or 967-0842 x11.



How the Pandemic Has Changed Our World Sunday mornings, 9:00 AM Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 12 Rye Presbyterian Church

A 2020 Pew Research poll asked Americans how the pandemic has affected them. The majority (89%) mentioned at least one negative change in their lives, while a smaller share (though still a 73% majority) mentioned at least one unexpected upside. Most have experienced these events simultaneously. 67% of Americans mentioned at least one negative and at least one positive change since the pandemic began.

> Join us as we welcome "experts" to address four areas: Education, Medicine, Religion, and Business



October 17 - Medicine Dr. Jason Shuker, Associate Medical Director, Urgent Care of Westmed Medical Group



November 14 – Religion Deborah Milcarek, General Presbyter Hudson River Presbytery



December 12 – Business Jim Howland (RPC Member) Managing Director



THRIFT

The RPC Thrift Shop is **Open Thursdays** 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room.

No donations being taken at this time stay tuned for updates.

> For further information, email: ryethrift10580@gmail.com.

Stephen Ministry, Women's Discipleship, Chancel Flowers



Lost & Found – Following the shock of rushing and rising water, our community had a couple of grueling weeks to find clean foundations under the wet saturated mess. Each has a story to tell about what's been lost & found, but not all have the

capacity to listen as often as would be helpful. Sometimes those closest to us are too overwhelmed to listen objectively. When

you feel your family, friend, or neighbor is struggling to listen, consider telling your story to a new, trustworthy set of ears. Through RPC Stephen Ministry, our congregation has equipped laypeople to provide one-to-one, confidential care to those experiencing loss, grief, financial stress, loneliness, or other life difficulties. In addition to being a resource for our church family, a Stephen Minister's caring capacity is available for our neighbors at large. If you or someone you know is in need of a patient, steady, consistent presence, please contact Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator Becky Ruegger (914-282-7733 or rhruegger@aol.com) or one of the RPC clergy.

Women's Discipleship Group

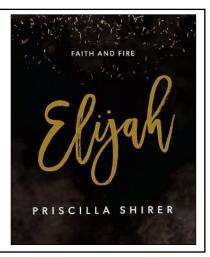
Wednesday Mornings 8:30am-10:00am in the the RPC Library Zoom TBD

Please join us for our next study:

FAITH AND FIRE ELIJAH by Priscilla Shirer

Please e-mail questions to: Alicia Baldwin (<u>alicia.baldwin@verizon.net)</u>

Courtney Bennett (Courtneybennett910@gmail.com)





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 via ZOOM. Your donation will be noted in the church bulletin.

To make arrangements, contact Denise LeVan (<u>dlevan@ryepc.com</u>).





Interfaith service for the 20th anniversary of 9/11 at Christ Church.

Christian Education



Our 2021-2022 Sunday School program got off to an amazing start this year! October will be our second month of using a new 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:

Oct. 3: Genesis 41:1-57

(Joseph Saves the Day)

Oct. 10: No Sunday School Oct. 17: Genesis 42:1-46:34

(Joseph and His Brother Reunited)

Oct. 24: Exodus 1:8-14, 2:1-10

(The Baby in the Basket)

Oct. 31: Exodus 3:1-22

(God Speaks to Moses)

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 Teaching Volunteers!

Here at Rye Presbyterian Church we seek to guide and nurture our children on their journey of faith! We strive to provide a welcoming environment for them to engage Scripture, ask faith questions, and grow closer to God and our community of faith.

We invite you to join in on that work as a Teaching Volunteer! Teaching is done in teams, providing a support system among fellow volunteers and a rotating schedule. You are invited to teach based on your own schedule, either teaching on a regular basis, seasonally, or as a substitute. All lessons are prepared and all materials are provided for

you each week. Training is also provided at the beginning of the program year, and we'll come together for a mid-year check -in as well.

We hope you decide to walk alongside the children of our community this year! If interested in being a part of this work, contact Rev. JP-jmarshall@ryepc.com.

Middle School Connection

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

Mondays, October 4 & 25, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms

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

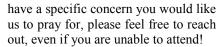
Let **Rev. JP** (<u>imarshall@ryepc.com</u>) know if you'd like to be on the **parent email list**. All updates about Connection gatherings will also be put up on the website each month.

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** (<u>imarshall@ryepc.com</u>) 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

- Put down **Sunday**, **Oct. 3**, and **Saturday**, **Oct. 16**, in your calendars! We are working on scheduling service opportunities for these dates. Keep an eye out for more information soon!
- Sunday, Oct. 24, 6:00 p.m., Chapel: Join us for Vespers, where we invite our high school youth to slow down in the midst of all the busyness for a time of intentional connection and prayer. Please let Rev. JP know beforehand (jmarshall@ryepc.com) if you plan on joining us for Vespers. Also, if you



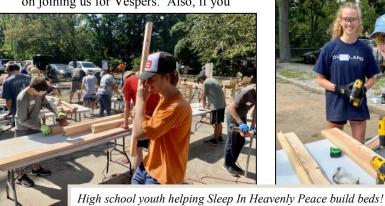
- Midnight Run Drive: We are partnering with Larchmont Avenue Church to hand out clothes and food to people on the streets of NYC on Saturday, Nov. 13. As part of that run, we are asking for help with collecting the following items during the month of October. Please note that we are not accepting donations of men's dress clothing or children's clothing for this drive.
 - Fresh Direct Grocery Bags
 - Six cases of water (12 ounce bottles)
 - Men's hoodies, fleeces, sweatshirts
 - Men's casual jackets / windbreakers (not sport coats)
- Men's sneakers

We are on Instagram!
Username: ryepresyouth

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

Send **Rev. JP** (<u>imarshall@ryepc.com</u>) either your cell-phone number or email.







Confirmation, Music Notes, Community Events



A new confirmation class is underway! The entire class met late last month to kick the year off and get to know each other a little better—a helpful exercise when the class of around 20 young people come from seven different schools! We will jump in the deep end this month with classes in the late afternoon on Sundays, October 3 and 17. Soon they will be wrestling with the deeper questions of the Christian faith: Who IS God? What is that Bible really about? How can this world both be so beautiful and so broken? Where do I fit in the larger story of what God is up to?

Please keep this year's class in your prayers throughout the months!

Classes:

October 3, 17, & 24 in the Westminster Room at 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.



by Jason Charneski

Chamber Music Concerts Resume on October 17

Due to the progress made in mitigating the spread and effects of COVID-19, Chamber Music at Rye Presbyterian Church will resume its offering of concerts! The first program of the 2021-2022 season will be given on Sunday, October 17, at 3:00 p.m., with piano quartets (piano, violin, viola, and cello) and more by Bach, Mozart, and Dvořák. More information is posted on the flyer printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Invite your friends and family members to join you -- \$20 for RPC-affiliated persons; students get in for free! These concerts offer us great music performed by many of the most talented and well-known musicians in the city and region. Come! You will be glad you did. *Note: COVID safety protocols will be observed for this event.*

Jason

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



The Great Lawn

Saturday, October 23, at 5:00 p.m. (note date change due to Rye-Harrison game conflict)

Special offering to benefit Pet Rescue Larchmont

PUMPKIN CARVING Sunday, October 24, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Great Lawn

Join us for our annual Pumpkin Carving event and enjoy an afternoon filled with delicious pizza, the carving of pumpkins, and great company!

Each family will gather out on the Great Lawn on provided and socially-distanced table cloths with their pumpkins and carving tools.

Costumes are welcome!

Please register on our website (https://ryepc.com/article/ pumpkin-carving-october-24/) so that we can be sure to have enough food and pumpkins.

Chamber Music at Rye Presbyterian Church

Ronald Arron, artistic director

presents

Piano Quartet









Jeewon Park, piano; Anton Miller, violin; Rita Porfiris, viola; Edward Arron, cello

Sunday, October 17, 2021 - 3:00 p.m

Bach: Sonata in G Minor, BWV 1029 Mozart: Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, K. 493 Dvořák: Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, op. 87

Admission: \$20 for RPC members and friends; FREE for students

to reserve your seats, please call Ronald Arron at 914-523-4646, or send him an email: ronarron17@gmail.com

COVID-19 mitigation and safety measures will be observed. + + + + +

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

Worship, Giving

Weekend Worship

As we move into October, 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. 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 will become a permanent feature of RPC. The installation of a permanent system in the sanctuary with multiple cameras, more microphones, and an upgraded sound system has been completed. 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. 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!



Sept. 26, Crucifer returns to the Sunday morning service.



The tech team at work streaming Sunday worship to homes!

Worship in the Sanctuary In Person

GUIDELINES

As promised, we continue to evaluate and adjust our policies as circumstances and guidelines change. 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 unvaccinated people and are highly recommended for the vaccinated.

Other than the masking change, our previous guidelines remain. For the full current update on Worship Guidelines, click: https://ryepc.com/article/updated-worship-guidelines-august-2021/).

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: rvepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/

Bulletins will also be available there.

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



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

To access, go to <u>ryepc.com/give</u> or scan the Qi right with your cell phone.

Please contact Maida Robinson: mrobinson@ryepc.com

if you have any questions or need assist.....

Bible Studies, Meetings, In Memoriam/Birth Announcements

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sundays, October 3 & 17, 8:00 p.m. in the Library with Zoom option

All are welcome to join in as we continue our Sunday evening reading of the Gospel according to Luke. We are nearing the end of this particular reading adventure, but new fellow readers are always welcome, especially as we decide where our study will go next! This month we will meet on Sundays, October 3 and 17, at 8:00 p.m. in the church Library with a Zoom option, if preferred. If you'd like to be on an email reminder list, let Dan Love know at dlove@ryepc.com.

Monday Morning Bible Discussion

Mondays, October 4, 18, & 25 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

This month, the Monday morning Bible Discussion group will set out a new course of study together, as we begin the Gospel according to Luke. It is written as the first half of a two-part work (Acts is the second half) that aims to set out "an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us." As Eugene Peterson puts it in his introduction in The Message, "Luke is a most vigorous champion of the outsider. He will not countenance religion as a club." But all who "have found themselves on the outside looking in . . . now find the doors wide open and welcomed by God in Jesus."

We will be meeting most every Monday at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom, but come when you can! This month we will meet on October 4, 18, and 25. If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, let Dan Love know at dlove@ryepc.com.

Women's Bible Study

Saturdays TBD

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



In Memoriam

Recent Passings in our Church Community

James Ryan Walsh, July 20 Ann DeStaebler, September 15, mother of Doug DeStaebler

Birth Announcement

Finley Gay Feeney, September 4, daughter of Blaire and Stewart Sweeney, and granddaughter of Gail and Stephen Feeney

OCTOBER

Church Office Closed on Monday, October 11, in observance of Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples' Day

Board Meetings

Deacons: Wednesday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom **Trustees:** Wednesday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m., off-site **Session:** Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study: Sunday, Oct. 3 & 17, 8:00 p.m., Library with Zoom option

Monday Morning Bible Discussion: Monday, Oct. 4, 18, & 25, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, TBD, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Adult Education

-Adult Education Conversations: Sunday evenings: Oct. 3, 10, 7:30-9:00 p.m., via Zoom; contact John Miller, <u>imiller@ryepc.com</u>, for Zoom info.

-How the Pandemic Has Changed Our World: Sunday mornings, 9:00 a.m., Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Rye Presbyterian Church

-In the News: Sunday evenings, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 24, Nov. 14, 12, 28, Dec. 19, via Zoom; contact John Miller, <u>imiller@ryepc.com</u>, for Zoom info.

Youth

Confirmation: Sunday, Oct. 3, 17, & 24, at 4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Connection: Mondays, Oct. 4 & 25, 5:30 p.m., Youth Room High School Youth Group: Sunday, Oct. 3, & Saturday, Oct. 16, service opportunities TBD Sunday, Oct. 24, 6:00 p.m., Vespers, Chapel

Music

Chancel Choir: Meet 9:15 a.m., sing at 10:00 a.m. service, rehearsal following service (11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Children's Choir: TBD

Youth Choir: Sundays after worship, dates TBD based on youth schedules.

Other Church Meetings

Blessing of the Animals: Saturday, Oct. 23. 5:00 p.m., Great

Chamber Music Concert: Sunday, Oct. 17, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m., Library. New Members Classes: Sunday, Oct. 17 & 24, 11:15 a.m., via Zoom

Stephen Leaders: Monday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

-Even Stephens: Monday, Oct.. 4, 5:00 p.m.,

-Prime Ministers: Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Sept. 2 via Zoom **Pumpkin Carving:** Sunday, Oct. 24, 4:30 p.m., Great Lawn

3Ts: Tuesday, 9:50 a.m., Oct. 19, via Zoom Contact <u>Jane Mickatavage</u> (914-967-8622) or <u>Nancy Steed</u> (914-328-9658).

Thrift Shop: Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Assembly Room. *Note:* No donations accepted at this time. **Worship & Music:** Monday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

Come join us at Rye Presbyterian Nursery School for the 2022-2023 school year! In-house registration will be held online from October 20 through October 22. All current students, new siblings of returning families, and church members should register at this time to guarantee their placement. All church members are part of our In-House registration. If you are a new family please email Co-Director Kristin Kumar at kkumar@rpnskids.org to set up a tour. Rye Presbyterian Nursery School offers morning and afternoon programs for two, three, four, and five-year-olds. Our morning and afternoon sessions have the same goals and activities at each of their respective age levels. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Our annual Parent Social was held on Friday, September 10th! The event took place under a tent on the Great Lawn! RPNS families were thrilled to come together again and celebrate our beautiful school! Delicious food, drinks, and a live band made for a great party!







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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