



Just in case you haven't had the pleasure of venturing north from Rye toward Connecticut in the last three years, the "Last Mile Reconstruction Project" around I-95 has been underway since the fall of 2018. The scope of the project has been impressive – from widening the interstate, revamping numerous bridges and exits, to building sound and sight barriers along the way. If all goes well, it should be wrapped up this fall.

I have always loved watching heavy machinery at work, and I have long marveled at how such a project gets planned, coordinated, and the work done – all while traffic continues through the area. I've been less impressed while sitting in traffic or careening through the concrete chutes going through the work zone, but nonetheless, it is a marvel to watch this massive piece of infrastructure work get done.

This fall, and in this season of "post-pandemic" or "late pandemic" life, it may be time for us to invest in our own version of infrastructure work here at Rye Presbyterian Church. But I don't mean work in stone and steel. I'm thinking more of the infrastructure of life as a community, and in particular a community of faith.

The bonds we share have been tested. A year and a half of life with limited contact with one another has taken a toll on our relationships. Yes, there has been Zoom and other ways of connecting – thank God for that. But the normal day-to-day, bumping into each other connections have been limited. All this in a community that, in the most normal of times, experiences a high level of turnover as people move in and out. I continue to hear of people who have moved from the area during this time, and even during Covid, we took in nearly 35 new adult members. Many of them haven't even been inside the building yet!

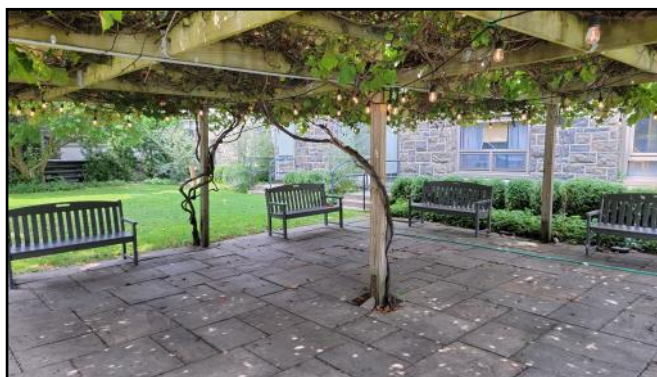
With all this, as "normal" continues to return, there is work to be done. The bridges and connections that bind us together as a community need our investment and intentional work. It will require our initiative to reach out to one another, especially to those we do not know. It will take energy to listen well, and courage to put ourselves out there as we engage with one another. It will take our patience and our going "the extra mile" as we take on the slow work of rebuilding, reconnecting, and making new relational inroads.

This month, it is our hope and current plan that Sunday School for our children will once again be a part of that infrastructure

work as we invest in building lives of faith in the children entrusted to our care. Those willing to take on that critical work as teachers should be in touch with Rev. Marshall to volunteer. You are needed! The fall will kick off with worship under the tent on the Great Lawn on September 12, followed by a picnic lunch. In addition, Adult Education and other committees will continue to create opportunities for reconnecting and engaging with one another. Starting on September 19, your pastors will be preaching a series of sermons that focus on the practices of building better relationships with one another by "cultivating courageous and caring conversations."

Throughout this newsletter, opportunities abound for all of us to be about the work of upgrading our infrastructure. I hope you will read on, and then step in to go the extra mile with one another as we work to strengthen this community of faith. Let the work begin!

Yours in faith,



*Grape Arbor receives an update - new benches and lights!*

## What's Inside?

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## Adult Education

Starting Sunday, September 19, we will begin a four-week series of evening programs on Zoom titled “I’ve been meaning to ask,” which will be interactive discussions enabling us to explore together:

- “Where are you from”—because everyone is beloved by God and has a story to tell, sometimes messy, other times beautiful, but always changing and forcing us to stay curious about what is to come.
- “Where does it hurt”—because we all hurt and need to acknowledge the hurts of others, in these times God draws close to us and enables us to feel compassion.
- “What do you need”—because we all have differing needs over time and God calls us to care for one another by being present with them.
- “Where do we go from here”—because open conversations can change us and God helps us make connections with each other if we continue the conversation.

At Sunday worship on those same Sundays, our pastors will preach on the subjects outlined above that are at the heart of the “I’ve been meaning to ask” program.

After this series concludes, we will begin a series of four Sunday evening programs, again on Zoom, using the curriculum of the “Wired Word.” These sessions take a news event of that week and uses it to enable a discussion of the light the Bible sheds on that event. Unlike when we used this program last year, we will use only one of the Biblical texts the curriculum suggests, so we can focus more clearly on the connection between the Word and the news story.

### Rye Presbyterian Church Adult Education Conversations

Join us on four Sunday evenings:  
Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10  
7:30 - 9:00 PM via Zoom

Contact John Miller, [jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto: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.



We will be trying a new approach to the 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning programs we used the last few years. This year we will have four special programs on “How the Pandemic has Changed our World.” Four local leaders will each address that issue in areas of their expertise:

- Dr. Eric Byrne, Superintendent of Rye’s Schools, will focus on Education on September 26.
- Dr. Jason Shuker, Associate Medical Director for Urgent Care at Westmed Medical Group, will speak to the impact on Medicine on October 17.
- Rev. Deborah Milcarek, General Presbyter of Hudson River Presbytery, will focus on the pandemic’s impact on Religion on November 14.
- Our own Jim Howland, a Managing Director of Morgan Stanley, will address the impact of the pandemic on Business on December 12.

Mark your calendars to be sure to attend these special sessions addressing a subject that has consumed much of our attention for the last year.

In addition to these exciting new offerings, we will continue programs that have been the underpinnings of Adult Education for years:

- Men’s Bible Study, led by Dan Love, about every other week at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings.
- Women’s Bible Study, led by Cynthia DeSantis, every other Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m.
- General Bible Study, led by Dan Love, every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.
- Three T’s, a general discussion group held on the Third Thursday at Ten (hence “3 T’s”), led by Nancy Steed and Jane Mickatavage.

We are excited to be able to offer this rich array of dynamic programs as the new church year begins this Fall.



### How the Pandemic Has Changed Our World Sunday mornings, 9:00 AM Sept. 26, 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



**September 26 – Education**  
Dr. Eric Byrne  
Superintendent  
Rye City School District



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



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



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



## Stephen Ministry, Bible Studies



### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

The last sentence of our weekly worship bulletin reads “We are a Stephen Ministry Church.” What does that mean? In the book of Acts, chapter 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. For more information, contact SM Awareness Coordinator Carol Love (914-536-9893 or [cloveny@optonline.net](mailto:cloveny@optonline.net)) or one of the RPC clergy.



### 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 ([dlevan@ryepc.com](mailto:dlevan@ryepc.com)).

### Women’s Discipleship Group

Wednesday Mornings  
beginning September 29  
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

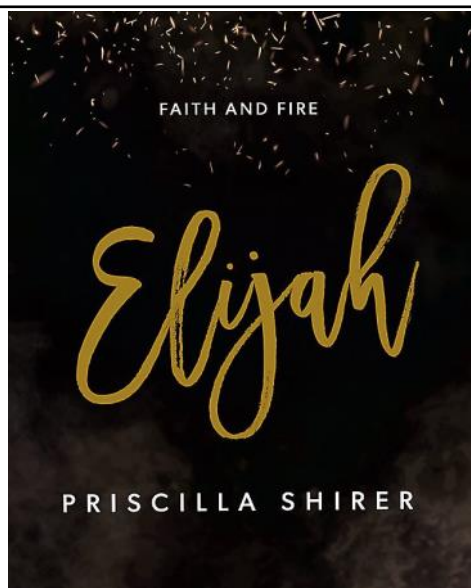
Please e-mail questions to:  
Alicia Baldwin

([alicia.baldwin@verizon.net](mailto:alicia.baldwin@verizon.net))

or

Courtney Bennett

([Courtneybennett910@gmail.com](mailto:Courtneybennett910@gmail.com))



### RPC FALL FESTIVAL

**SPECIAL WORSHIP & PICNIC**  
Sunday, September 12,  
10:00 a.m.

Chicken and ice cream will be provided.

If your last name begins with:

**A-J: Please bring a salad**

**K-R: Please bring a side dish**

**S-Z: Please bring a dessert**

*Food may be left in the kitchen  
before worship.*

Please contact Molly Boxford ([mboxford@gmail.com](mailto:mboxford@gmail.com)) if you have any

*Hosted by the Congregational Life Committee of the Board of Deacons.*

## Christian Education, Confirmation



**Our 2021-2022 Sunday School program kicks off on September 12!** Registration for infants to 8th grade attending our 2021-2022 Sunday School program is now up on our website (<https://ryepc.com/ministries/children/>).

Please register by **Friday, September 10**, to help us safely and effectively plan for the relaunch of in-person Sunday School!

This year we are 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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com).

### **Middle School Connection**

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

- **Wednesday, September 15, 5:30 p.m., Great Lawn:** Connection kicks off the school year with an in-person gathering out on the Great Lawn. We'll take time to catch up with one another, then play some games and pray together.
- **Wednesday, September 29, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms:** We'll gather down in the recently renovated Youth Rooms to catch up, play games, and reflect together!

Let **Rev. JP** ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) know if you'd like to be on the **parent 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** ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) either your youth's cell phone number or email

### **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, September 12, 6:00 p.m., Great Lawn:** High School Youth Group kicks off the school year with an in-person gathering out on the Great Lawn. We'll take time to catch up with one another, then discuss how we can support each other and serve our community during the school year.
- **Saturday, September 18, 10:00 a.m., Rye City Hall:** Join us as we partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace and other volunteers to help build beds for children in our community. The event starts at **10:00 a.m.** and goes to about **2:00 p.m.** We will meet at Rye City Hall. Please let **Rev. JP** - [jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com) - know if you plan to join us for this event!
- **Sunday, September 26, 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 ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)) 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!

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

### **Confirmation 2022**

If God is so good... why do bad things happen? What do all those strange stories in the Bible have to do with me? How can science fit with what is taught in church? Is God even real? This month, the confirmation class of 2022 will begin its exploration of these questions and many more as we explore the bible story and the life of faith together.

To begin the year, following worship on Sunday, September 19, there will be an Orientation Meeting for those considering Confirmation and their parents in Crawford Chapel. Not every ninth grader may be asking these questions or eager to take on extra work as high school begins. Yet this is a unique opportunity to explore the life of faith more deeply. All ninth graders and at least one parent are encouraged to come to the orientation regardless of eagerness, willingness, doubts or questions!

Again this year, the class will meet throughout the year, and will be active in many aspects of the church, including the traditional duty as Sunday crucifer.

This year we'll start our time together as a class with a gathering on Sunday, September 26 at 5:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room.

If you are in ninth grade or have a child who is in ninth grade, and have not received information regarding Confirmation, or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Love. You may register for the class on the Confirmation page of the church website:

<https://ryepc.com/ministries/confirmation/>

## Music Notes, Children & Youth Choirs



**From Jason Charneski**

### Join One of the Choirs

A new program year is the right time for you to join one of RPC's choirs. Flyers about the choirs (Children's, Youth, and Chancel) are printed on this page; please contact me ([jcharneski@ryepc.com](mailto:jcharneski@ryepc.com)) with your questions about the Chancel Choir. Contact Lisa Rawson ([lrawson@ryepc.com](mailto:lrawson@ryepc.com)) about the opportunities for children (grades 1-6) and youth (grades 7-12).

### Singing in the Time of COVID: Safety First!

Each person's safety and our larger community's well-being has been and continues to be the focus of the church's policies relating to how we function amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Group singing, as we have learned, is one of the activities that has been considered high-risk. Given our plan to have the choirs resume their ministries through song, I think it important for you to know what we will do to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID (and other microbes) for the foreseeable future.

First, in keeping with the church's policy about those welcome to sing in worship, anyone singing in any choir must be fully vaccinated. This means, at this point, that the Chancel Choir and the Youth Choir can get back to work. Unfortunately, it means that the Children's Choir will be delayed in resuming its work until those in the affected age group (grades 1 – 6; basically age 6 – 11) have been fully vaccinated.

Second, as a precaution (though the CDC's guidelines for vaccinated persons being able to sing in groups indicate otherwise), the choirs will rehearse and sing in worship in configurations that maintain distancing.

Third, the choirs will rehearse in spaces where distancing is accomplished easily and where there is induction of fresh air and good air circulation. At this point, those spaces are the chapel, the nave of the sanctuary, and the Assembly Room.

Fourth, we will sing while wearing masks if forthcoming data indicates the need for such in order to prevent exposure, asymptomatic infection, and possible transmission of variants of the virus that circumvent the protection offered by the vaccines. We await word on the likelihood of booster shots and a schedule to receive one or more.

Fifth, singers exhibiting any symptoms of illness (COVID or other) should stay at home. Stop the spread!

In conclusion, I offer immense thanks to the medical and science communities for the knowledge they have gained about the virus that causes COVID-19 and the quick development of vaccines that have come to provide a high level of protection from it. I am glad to have been able to write these words and to plan for a choir year that looks to be normal. As we know, anything can change; we are positioned to be able to adapt quickly.

*Jason*

### JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR



RPC's music ministry thrives because many volunteers contribute their time and talent. Might you have interest in singing in the Chancel Choir? If so, please read on!

**COVID-19 SAFETY NOTE:** All singers must be fully vaccinated. Distancing will be maintained at all times. Rehearsals will take place in spaces with fresh air induction and good air circulation. A mask mandate may be instituted if deemed necessary.

- The Chancel Choir, open to anyone who is a high school junior or older, sings each Sunday of the program year (mid-September through mid-June) and in services on Christmas Eve and Maundy Thursday.
- **September 19** is the first Sunday of the 2021-2022 program year on which the choir will lift its voice in worship.
- The usual Sunday schedule begins with warm-up at 9:15 a.m., continues with singing in the 10:00 a.m. service, and concludes with a rehearsal following that service (11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.).
- Ability to read music makes for ease of progress; but, those who do not yet know the "language" of music, yet are able to match and maintain pitch, are most welcome to join.
- Section leaders (professional musicians) assist and help to inspire all singers.

If interested, please speak with Jason Charneski, call him at 914-967-0842, ext. 16, or send him an email: [jcharneski@ryepc.com](mailto:jcharneski@ryepc.com).



### JOIN THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OR THE YOUTH CHOIR!

**CALLING ALL CHILDREN IN GRADES 1-6**  
3:30-4:15 p.m. on Thursdays

**CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 7 AND UP**  
Sundays after worship, dates TBD based on youth schedules

These choirs are accepting new members and welcoming back old ones for the 2021-2022 school year.

For more information about choir Covid safety measures, see Jason Charneski's article on this page.

**Questions about the year ahead?**  
Please contact Lisa Rawson, Director  
[lrawson@ryepc.com](mailto:lrawson@ryepc.com)





# Youth Mission Trip - 2021





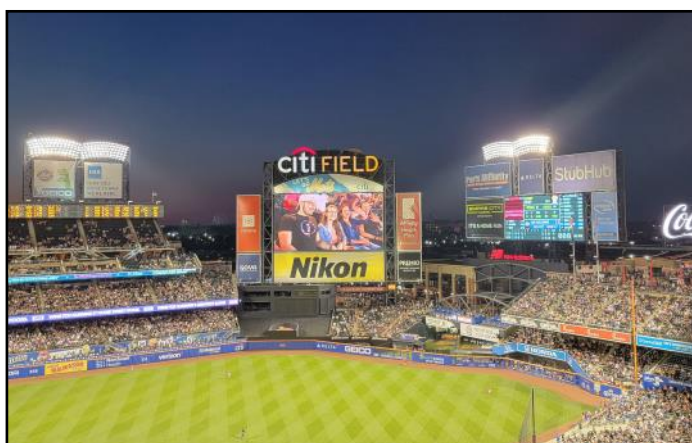
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## Youth Collaborative Mural, RPC at the Ball Game

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### Youth-Led Collaborative Mural

With our Session's approval, we will be hosting the youth-led collaborative mural throughout the month of September! Through this mural, the youth of our community seek to promote inclusion, kindness, and positivity.



**RPC AT  
THE BALL GAME  
Friday, July 30!**



## Worship, Giving

### Weekend Worship

As we move into September, 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!



Audrey Love's bike crew joining in for church at RPC from Missouri.

### Worship in the Sanctuary In Person

#### NEW 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/](https://ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/)

*Instructions on joining by Zoom and other platforms are on the church website:*  
[ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/](https://ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc/)  
*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 [ryepc.com/give](https://ryepc.com/give) or scan the QR Code to the right with your cell phone.

Please contact Maida Robinson:

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

if you have any questions or need assistance.





## Bible Studies, Meetings, In Memoriam

### BIBLE STUDIES

#### Men's Bible Study

Sunday, September 12

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

If you've been thinking about joining in on this time of figuring out how the bible speaks to us about life and faith, it's a great time to join this twice-monthly gathering. This month we will be resuming our journey through the Gospel of Luke. Out plan is to meet in person on Sunday evening, with a Zoom option available. If you'd like to learn more, or get email reminders about this ongoing study, please contact Dan Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com). This month we meet on Sunday, September 12, at 8:00 p.m. in the church Library.

#### Monday Morning Bible Discussion

Mondays, September 20 & 27

9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Beginning on September 20 at 9:30 a.m., the Monday Bible Discussion group will resume its weekly Zoom Gatherings. On our agenda this fall is to wrap up our exploration of Jesus' parables, and then take a deeper dive as we work our way through the Gospel of Luke. This month we meet on September 20 and 27. To get on the email reminder list, contact Dan Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

#### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will be back in October.

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



*Youth Room, freshly painted, awaits fall activities!*



*In Memoriam*  
Recent Passings in our  
Church Community

Janet Staley Howard  
On July 15

### SEPTEMBER

Church Office Closed on Monday, September 6,  
in observance of Labor Day

#### Board Meetings

**Deacons:** Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

**Trustees:** Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m., off-site

**Session:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

#### Bible Studies

**Men's Bible Study:** Sunday, Sept. 12, 8:00 p.m., Library with Zoom option

**Monday Morning Bible Discussion:** Mondays, Sept. 20 & 27, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

#### Adult Education:

*Adult Education Conversations:* Sunday evenings: Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10, 7:30-9:00 p.m., via Zoom; contact John Miller, [jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com), for Zoom info.

#### How the Pandemic Has Changed Our World:

Sunday mornings, 9:00 a.m., Sept. 26, Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Rye Presbyterian Church

#### Youth

**Confirmation:** Orientation, Sunday, Sept. 19, 11:00 a.m., Chapel; Sunday, Sept. 25, meeting in Assembly Room

**Connection:** Wednesday, Sept. 15, 5:30 p.m., Great Lawn & Wednesday, Sept. 29, 5:30 p.m., Youth Rooms

**High School Youth Group:** Sunday, Sept. 12, 6:00 p.m., Great Lawn; Saturday, Sept. 18, 10:00 a.m., Rye City Hall; Sunday, Sept. 26, 6:00 p.m., Vespers, Chapel

#### Music

**Chancel Choir:** First Sunday choir sings is Sept. 19.

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:** Thursdays, beginning Sept. 23, 3:30-4:15 p.m.

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

#### Other Church Meetings

**3Ts:** Thursday, 9:50 a.m., Sept. 16, via Zoom

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

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

**Prime Ministers:** Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., Sept. 2 via Zoom

**Mission & Outreach:** Wednesday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m., Library.

**RPC Fall Festival—Special Worship & Picnic:**

Sunday Sept. 12, 10:00 a.m.

The RPC Thrift Shop  
will open on Thursday, September 9,  
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room.

**THRIFT  
SHOP**

For further information,  
email: [ryethrift10580@gmail.com](mailto:ryethrift10580@gmail.com).

## Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

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

This June, we celebrated Traci Fiore's 25 years at RPNS! She was honored at our end of the school year faculty celebration.

Below is an article in the Rye Record highlighting Traci's 25 years at the nursery school:

Traci has been a valued teaching professional at RPNS since 1994 when she was asked by longtime family friend, mentor, and former RPNS Director, Cheryl Flood, to help assist with students in one of the preschool classrooms. That experience opened up her pathway into education and she pursued a full-time teaching position and an education degree that would further her passion for working with young children.

Traci shared, "Cheryl always believed in me and gave me an opportunity that changed my life forever. I did not only gain a love for teaching, but became part of a family that I could call my very own! Working for RPNS for over 25 years is something I am forever grateful for. I have so many memories that flash in and out that have helped me become who I am professionally and personally."

Throughout her 25+ years, Traci has seen positive change and growth within the nursery school program. She worked with all different preschool ages and learned to master the skill of classroom management and helping to scaffold effective communication between preschool children. She is very passionate about supporting her students and sees their potential to help them grow and develop. Anyone that knows Mrs. Fiore has felt her drive to support her students. Mrs. Fiore has worked with different teaching professionals throughout the years, but teaching with her current bosses, Margaret Sculti and Kristin Kumar, is one time that she will never forget!

Traci shared, "Mrs. Sculti and Mrs. Kumar were my teaching colleagues for many years. We were co-teachers that would finish each other's sentences! It was no surprise that they both ended up becoming the co-directors of the program and now they are my bosses! It is a special relationship we have since they know me so

well. They never let me get away with not challenging myself and we are always able to effectively communicate, and problem solve because of the mutual respect we have for one another. We all found each other here at RPNS and it has been a blessing to watch one another find their place in a building we call home."

Traci has led many emergent projects throughout her career. She supports the Reggio approach and fully executes it in her teaching style. She hears the children's voices and fuses them into the daily curriculum. One school year she even took her class into NYC to pursue a study on Grand Central Station and the NYC Public Library System. This past school year she worked with her current co-teacher, Jessica Fishman, to lead their classes in a study on mechanics and photography.

RPNS is so lucky to have Mrs. Fiore be part of the RPNS community. RPNS is looking forward to many more years with her being an integral of the program.



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

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

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

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

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

[Maida Robinson](#), Chief Administrative Officer

[Peggy Berretta](#), Administrative Assistant

[Denise LeVan](#), Pastoral Assistant

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

Alonso Osorio, Sunday Sexton

### **Rye Presbyterian Church**

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*We are a Stephen Ministry church.*