

While our building usually becomes a bit quieter during the week during the summer, that will not be the case this year. Some of you know that for years our church was home to the Ward Summer Learning Camp, named for our own Juanita Ward. For some years now, this camp has been housed with our neighbors at Christ's Church. Due to some building renovations there, the Ward Summer Learning

When I moved back here to the Northeast in the spring of 2008, it didn't take me long to learn that "church" is done differently here in the Northeast, versus my 23 years in Texas and my seven years of church work prior to that in California. Here, at least in many Presbyterian churches, Sunday School for children happens during worship. The upside is that it basically makes for a "one hour" Sunday morning experience for families. The downside is that it makes it harder to engage folks as Sunday School teachers and our children and youth don't get to have the full worship experience very often. The other significant difference that I noticed was that many folks here in the Northeast seem to not only go on vacations in the summer, but they also often take a "vacation" from church. I learned this in 2008 while serving the church in Scarsdale. In the spring we had great attendance and lots of excitement about there being a new pastor. By July and August, worship attendance was down by 40-50%! I wondered what I had done wrong. I hadn't done anything wrong, I just didn't know about this Northeast behavior regarding summer church attendance.

That being said, I would like to highlight for you some of the exciting ministries that will continue on throughout the summer. While our Saturday at 5 worship takes a break during the summer, both Sunday morning worship services continue on at their same times – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Join us! And remember, the sanctuary, thanks to the Imagine Initiative, is now air-conditioned.

Most weeks Summer Sunday School is offered during the 10:00 a.m. service. So there is something for your children. While our fantastic choir takes a break for the summer, our volunteer summer choir still offers you five more opportunities to sing – July 7, 21, 28 and August 4 & 11. This summer our youth will travel to New Orleans not once, but twice – June 30-July 6 and August 4-10, as they continue to extend the ministry of our church to those whose lives were changed by Katrina. Please pray for both of these groups as they travel and work on our behalf. On August 25, we will once again commission Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as we have done for the past several years.

Camp needed to find a new home for just this summer. We are glad that we can welcome the Ward Summer Learning Camp back to our facilities this summer from July 8 – August 2. The camp will be using a significant number of rooms and outdoor spaces during this time, so if you are planning any meetings at the church during the weekdays during these dates, please check with Peggy in the church office for room availability. But, more importantly, if you are around, please extend a warm welcome to our school-aged neighbors from Port Chester.

I welcome the summer months because they bring with them fewer night meetings which allows me to spend more time with my family. I want to invite you, when you are in town during the summer, to come and join your church family for worship. As I've said to folks on more than one occasion, "We're here all summer long. Join us!"

"I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

## What's Inside?

- Page 2:** Adult Education, Stephen Ministry
- Page 3:** Coming Home Graduation, WA Grant Awards Luncheon, Murdoch Award
- Page 4:** Christian Education
- Page 5:** Music Notes, Baby Box
- Page 6:** Imagine Celebration & Annual Picnic
- Page 7:** June Happenings
- Page 8:** Sundays in July & August
- Page 9:** July & August Schedule
- Page 10:** Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

## Adult Education, Stephen Ministry

### Adult Education's Exciting Plans for Fall/Winter 2019

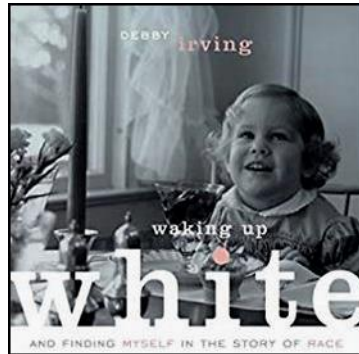
In June, having concluded a diverse, enriching group of programs during church year 2018/19, the Adult Education Committee wasted no time beginning to plan even more exciting offerings starting in the fall of 2019. Below is a preview of what we are considering to offer our church community for the church year 2019/20.



To start, Dan is proposing to lead a program every other Tuesday evening starting late September on "Everything You Forgot From Confirmation" (or

maybe never learned). *Each of the approx. 11 sessions will be a standalone, so continuous attendance isn't necessary.* You can drop in and out as your schedule permits, but we think it will be a rich re-introduction to our faith for members of all ages.

The other major evening program will be led by John and will focus on the issue of race in America. This will be a four-week discussion based on a book by Debby Irving titled "Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race." Parts of the book, along with other resources, will help us examine subjects like racism, our own feelings about the subject of race in today's America, and where this issue will lead us in the future in our changing society.



One of the reasons for this fall series is to help us develop the vocabulary and awareness to engage in a several-week bi-racial

discussion group, to be developed for the Spring "semester." We would work with an experienced facilitator and connect with a group of African Americans, drawn from nearby churches, about equal in number to members of RPC, who would be participating. We are hopeful that this sort of discussion can help us all experience how to communicate candidly and comfortably with anyone on a subject which is typically avoided by everyone.

On Sundays, we will continue our weekly 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. program based each week on the Scripture to be used in that morning's worship. Re-titled "Coffee and Conversation," it will also be expanded three times during the year to focus in detail on the three main directions of RPC's Mission and Outreach work—prison ministry, children, and underserved communities. Of course, we will continue to offer three Bible study opportunities, the "Three T's" discussion group, and the cancer support group.



We are considering two other ideas which may be developed during the year. One is to create a book with a working title of "RPC Prays." It would be composed of prayers submitted by members of the congregation and written by themselves or others. The prayers could be organized into themes and ultimately be made available to the congregation in book or loose-leaf format. Second, we are considering a program on divorce (or marital difficulties, more generally). The audience, content, leadership, and other details of this will need to be explored in more detail, but it is clearly an important and delicate subject.

*We urge you all to "Stay Tuned" for more details and specifics when the Fall/Winter 2019 brochure on Adult Education is published in early September.*

### Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?"  
One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

#### Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* the employer explains your job has been included in the recent downsizing.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you, your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives to provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed. Please contact SM Referrals Coordinator Tav Rogers (914-400-3568 or [tav@rogers.fm](mailto:tav@rogers.fm)) or one of the RPC clergy to learn more about the confidential care available through Stephen Ministry.



## Coming Home Graduation, WA Grant Awards, Murdoch Award

### Coming Home Celebrates Graduation

On Sunday afternoon, June 2, more than 50 people gathered in the Assembly Room to celebrate with the four graduates of our Coming Home program. The four who completed this 18-week life skills program are:

**Ian Gray, Alvin Rivera, Lawrence Simmons, and Pamela Zimba**

A special word of thanks to our dedicated mentors: Doug DeStaebler, Sue DeStaebler, Ariel Eckstein, and Lars Ernst.

Thank you also to this year’s leadership team: Kevin Bunch, Program Coordinator; Claire Hurst, Social Worker; Charles Lewis, Peer Facilitator; and Linda Otness, Meals Coordinator.



A deep word of appreciation from all of our participants to the many people who, under Linda Otness’ direction, helped to prepare, cook, and serve fantastic dinners week after week; and to the many people who helped “taxi” our participants from and to the train station – especially Bob Mickatavage, Heather Miller, and Davidson Gordon.

And a word of thanks to the many congregants who attended the dinners and helped to enrich the table fellowship each week. We averaged 25-30 people at dinner each Thursday evening. More than 70 church members were engaged in this ministry! Thank You!



Monday, June 10 . . .

### Women’s Association Grant Awards & Luncheon

**\$80,000 this year!**



The overcast weather, which necessitated moving our annual luncheon from the Grape Arbor into the Assembly Room, did not dampen the camaraderie as we enjoyed a wonderful luncheon and fellowship while honoring 19 Westchester organizations which serve women, children, and other under-served populations (click [here](#) for further information). The grants are made possible through the success of the Thrift Shop. Thank you to all of the volunteers and donors for a record year! The luncheon was a great time to see firsthand all the good work that our Thrift Shop does for our community. We appreciate the continued support of donations, volunteers, and shopping!

### Kim O’Connor Receives the 2019

### Richard E. Murdoch Award for Mission Service

Each year the Mission & Outreach Committee has the honor to select a member of our congregation who has contributed significantly to the community service and mission efforts of our church.

Kim O'Connor was selected with resounding enthusiasm! Kim has been a thoughtful



*Kim with daughters Hannah and Katherine, and husband, Ben Stacks*

leader of Mission & Outreach for many years. She has served as Chairwoman of Mission & Outreach, led the grants committee, and guided our mission focus through the Mission Task Force.

Kim is passionate about addressing the social and emotional issues of our youth and families. As a professional social worker in Rye, Kim has keenly aware of the challenges and needs. For decades, Kim has given her time to youth issues and has served on the Rye Youth Council board for many years. She currently serves on RyeACT and is a founder of the Healing Arts Collective. With these deep insights and connections, Kim has built many partnerships with community organizations. Most recently, together with Open Door Family Medical Center, she brought to RPC the Baby Box Project, which provides low-income parents supplies and parent education services.

The award was presented to Kim during worship on June 16. This surprise announcement brought a few tears to her eyes and delight to see her husband and daughters present to share the moment.

## Christian Education



This summer our children will engage two curriculums: *The Lord's Prayer: An Illustrated Curriculum* and *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation*. All children Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will engage these curriculums together as a multi-age group in the Westminster Room during the 10:00 a.m. service.

Through *The Lord's Prayer*, children will engage a verse-by-verse study of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9b-13 with the hope that it helps the children embody the prayer's message in their daily lives. Through *An Illustrated Earth*, children will focus on celebrating and taking care of God's creation. We will do this by engaging biblical stories that celebrate water, plants, food, and animals. It is our hope that this curriculum plants within our children a deep love for one another and all of God's creation.

Both curriculums come with their own take-home materials so families can join us in engaging the Lord's Prayer and celebrating God's creation together at home! Below are the themes and texts for each week:

### The Lord's Prayer:

#### An Illustrated Curriculum

- July 7:** Matthew 6:11  
(Praying for Today)
- July 14:** Matthew 6:12  
(Praying You, Me, Us, We)
- July 21:** Matthew 6:13  
(Praying When it is Difficult)

#### An Illustrated Earth:

#### Celebrating God's Creation

- July 28:** Genesis 1:6-10  
(Separation of the Water)
- Aug 4:** Mark 4:35-41  
(Calming of the Storm)
- Aug 11:** Exodus 16  
(Manna & Quail)
- Aug 18:** Mark 4:1-9  
(Parable of the Sower)
- Aug 25:** Genesis 1:20-25  
(Creation of Animals)
- Sept 1:** Jonah 1-4  
(Jonah and the Big Fish)

**The Flat Jesus Project:** We invite everyone to join in on the Flat Jesus Project this summer! Flat Jesus serves as a fun reminder that Jesus is always with us, every day and every moment of our faith journey! To be a part of the project, you can pick up a cutout of Jesus at the church. We invite you to take Flat Jesus with you on your summer adventures and take photos of your Jesus as he walks with you. If you wish to share your photos, please send them to Jean-Paul Marshall, [jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com).

**Summer Sunday School Teaching Opportunity:** We seek to guide and nurture children on their journey of faith throughout the whole year, even the summer! We are seeking out volunteers who wish to be a part of that work! Volunteers will help lead a lesson each Sunday for a multi-age group consisting of pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children. This summer, in particular, is a great time to teach if you are interested in learning more about the Lord's Prayer or have a passion for taking care of God's creation! Please prayerfully consider teaching at least one Sunday this summer! If interested in being a part of this work, please contact Jean-Paul Marshall, [jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com).



Connection, RPC's middle school youth group, helped those in need at "Dinner at Noon" at the Port Chester Carver Center on Saturday, May 18.

## Music Notes, Baby Box



### ***From Jason Charneski***

#### Summer Music Ministry Opportunities

**2019 Summer Volunteer Choir – Open to All Ages!** We hope you will choose to raise your voice in song as a member of the summer volunteer choir on any or all of the following Sundays in the 10:00 a.m. July 7, July 21, July 28, August 4, and August 11. We will meet in the chapel each of those mornings at 9:30 in order to learn and rehearse a simple piece of music that will complement the theme of the readings and sermon. The logistics are such that we do not wear robes, you can sit with your families or friends, and you sing from the chancel steps. Please let me know if you would like to participate: 967-0842, ext. 16, or [jcharneski@ryepc.com](mailto:jcharneski@ryepc.com).

**2019 Summer Instrumentalist Opportunities:** Do you play an instrument? If so, and you would like to play something in one or more worship services this summer (community service credit available for high school students), please let me know (967-0842, ext. 16, or [jcharneski@ryepc.com](mailto:jcharneski@ryepc.com)). How wonderful it is when God's people share their gifts, skills, and talents!

### Welcome to the Knock Intern in Sacred Music for 2019-2020



Come the first week of October, we will welcome Richard Gress as the Knock Intern in Sacred Music for the 2019-2020 program year. Rich, who graduated this spring from the Townsend School of Music at Mercer University (Macon, Ga.), will attend Yale and its Institute for Sacred Music starting this fall, working toward his master's degree.

Rich is a native of Newmarket, N.H., and comes to us with many years' experience – primarily as an organist – in service to the church. He looks forward to learning more about and having hands-on time with choirs and choral music. His non-musical activities include hiking, reading, and swimming.



### Baby Box Project

Thank you for your incredible generosity!

Approximately 1,500 newborn infant items were donated in the month-long Baby Box Project. Thanks to members of Rye Presbyterian, the Nursery School, and Community Synagogue of Rye and their Early Learning Center, we have supplied enough baby items to fill the hundreds of Baby Boxes given each year to new parents. Open Door Family Medical Center was overwhelmed with the support.

RPNS "Mother's Day Tea" for the Baby Box was a highlight of the effort. Our two-year olds took great pride in giving, too.



Rye Presbyterian Church was Open Door's Community Service Award recipient at this year's POWER UP event on May 9.

Kim O'Connor received the award and spoke about the long relationship with Open Door and how the recent Baby Box effort has deepened our connection to the health and wellness needs of families across Westchester County.

### Following is a thank-you from Open Door to RPC for our support of the Baby Box project.

*Dear Friends at RPC:*

*As we close out this successful season of partnership and good work between Open Door and RPC, we wanted to thank you for your shared commitment to helping those most vulnerable members of our community. The Open Door Baby Box Experience has been a critical project for our patients – a means of providing them with much needed newborn items and critical prenatal and pediatric education. You have taken this project on and integrated it into the life of your church community – so much so that we now have over 1,500 Baby Box items donated by church members, including much needed high-quality thermometers. We thank you for your continued, and very generous financial support, which helps support our programs that go "beyond the box" to provide the additional services our patients need.*

*Our doors are always open, and we hope you will take us up on the invitation to take a tour of one of our facilities, to participate in the Baby Box distribution day, or come for a visit. We look forward to continuing this very valued partnership.*

*In friendship,*

*Amy Wolfson (Chief External Relations Officer) and  
Jane Levy (Manager of Volunteer Programs)*

# Imagine Celebration & Annual Church Picnic



## June Happenings!

**Wednesday, June 3**—Connection, RPC’s middle schoolers, enjoy their year-end picnic.



**Sunday June 9** - NOLA prep meeting . . .  
With water balloons!



**Sunday, June 9**—Chancel Choir’s last Sunday before taking their summer break.



**Sunday, June 2**—  
Eddie Zheng, RPC’s first  
Knock Intern in Sacred  
Music, gave a recital in the  
RPC Sanctuary featuring  
music by J. S. Bach, Calvin  
Hampton, Olivier Messiaen,  
Florence Price, Louis Vierne,  
and Charles-Marie Widor.



## Sundays in July & August

### BIBLE STUDIES

#### July 7, 14, 21, and 28

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Sanctuary  
 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal / Chapel \*\*  
 9:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
*(Holy Communion on July 7)*  
 Summer Sunday School in Westminster Room  
 Children age 4 through 5th grade attend  
 worship through Children's Message.
- \* July 7: Summer Brunch following 10:00 a.m. worship  
 \*\* July 14: Summer Choir does not meet

#### August 4, 11, 18, and 25

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Sanctuary  
 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal / Chapel (Aug. 4 & 11)  
 9:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
*(Holy Communion on August 4)*  
 Summer Sunday School in the Westminster Room.  
 Children age 4 through 5th grade attend  
 worship through Children's Message.

During July and August, following 10:00 a.m. worship,  
 please join us for coffee hour in the Grape Arbor.  
*(Westminster Room in event of rain.)*

#### YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS COMMISSIONING

On Sunday, August 25, at the 10:00 a.m. service we will commission young adults serving in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. This program is a one-year service opportunity for young adults from 19-30 years to deepen and develop their faith while serving in communities of need around the United States and the world.

To learn more about this program, go to website:  
[www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/).



Please keep all those journeying to New Orleans this summer in your prayers! A first group of 20 high schoolers were there in June. A second trip of five youths, along with Jean-Paul and Susie Marshall, will be traveling during the week of August 4-10.

#### NOLA Instagram Updates

Want to know what goes on during our NOLA mission trips? Follow our Instagram account, **user name:** ryepresyouth, to see some highlights of our trips.

### Reminder

This summer, while away enjoying vacations and family summer activities, a reminder that . . .

- You can catch up with the latest sermons online:  
<http://ryepc.com/worship/sermons/>
- You can give online: <http://ryepc.com/give/>

#### Men's Bible Study

**Sundays, July 21 and August 4, 8:00 p.m., in the Library**  
 Over the summer, the men of Sunday night will continue their discussion and fellowship as we enjoy our way through the Gospel of Luke. We will meet at 8:00 p.m. in the church Library on the following Sundays: July 21 and August 4. If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, please contact Dan Love – [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

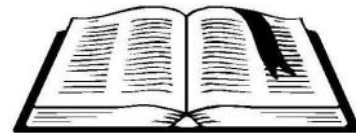
#### (Wednesday) Morning Bible Discussion — On the Move!

This summer we will pause for the months of July and August, but we look forward to regathering for overview of the books of the Old Testament starting in September. While we have met on Wednesdays for the past 20 years or so, we are moving to Mondays at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested, please be in touch with Dan Love – [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

#### Women's Bible Study

**Women's Bible Study is taking a break for the summer.**  
 We will start back up in September when a warm welcome and hot coffee will await!

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





## July & August Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs



Beginning Monday, July 1, through end of August, the church office will be open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS WILL BE CLOSED ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, THURSDAY, JULY 4.**

### WORSHIP AND STUDY

#### Worship on Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

**Prayer Gatherings:** Sundays in the Library at 9:40 a.m.

**Summer Sunday School:** July 7, 14, 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25; September 1 in the Westminster Room.

**Men's Sunday Bible Study:** Sundays, July 21 and August 4, 7:30 p.m., Library

**Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion:** Taking a break for summer—starts back up in September.

**Women's Bible Study:** Taking a break for summer—starts back up in September.

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

### OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

**3 Ts:** Tuesdays, July 16 and August 20, 10:00 a.m., Library

#### Stephen Ministry:

Continuing Education and Supervision: Mondays, July 8 and August 5, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Stephen Leaders: Mondays, July 8 and August 5, 6:00 p.m., Conference Room

**Summer Sunday Brunch:** Sunday, July 7, following 10:00 a.m. worship under the Grape Arbor

**Thrift Shop:** Closed until September 12

### OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

**Mr. Westchester/Al-Anon Group:** Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Library

## THRIFT SHOP NEWS

**The Thrift Shop is closed for the summer (reopens September 12).**

Donations will be accepted during the summer.

**Please Note:** Due to storage constraints, we will not be accepting books, floral glass vases, drapery, or electronic equipment this summer. Children's books will be accepted again in September. Drop off downstairs on the left hallway.

Any questions, contact

[Suzanne Davies](#).

*The Thrift Shop's Annual Volunteer luncheon, hosted by Sally Tobin.*



## Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

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

During the last week of school, all of our four- and five-year-old students participated in moving up ceremonies that we call "Rainbow Ceremonies." Rainbow Ceremonies have been a part of RPNS history for over 40 years. Many years ago the rainbow was chosen to be the symbol of the RPNS moving up ceremonies because rainbows exist for a moment in time when there is the perfect combination of elements. Each beautiful color in the rainbow is different from the next, but when the colors come together, they create something incredibly special. Each child in each class is unique. During the children's time at RPNS they come together as friends and create something as incredibly special as a rainbow. Just like a rainbow only lasts for a brief time, their experience as a preschooler is a small, but significant, moment in their educational journey. Congratulations to all our RPNS graduates!



### Rye Presbyterian Church Staff

[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

### Rye Presbyterian Church

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[www.ryepc.com](http://www.ryepc.com)

*We are a Stephen Ministry church.*