
*Summer Sunday School has concluded, and Sunday School for 2026-2027 will begin on September 13.
Childcare is available for children four years old and younger on the first floor of the Education Wing.*

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE FOR ORGAN

Meditation on "Promise"

tune by Natalie Sleeth, 1986;
arr. Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GREETING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

PEALING OF THE BELL AND SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*Holy God, you instill in us courage, character, and clarity, in our hour of need.
Give us the grace to step into the moments when we need to rise up and speak.
Hold us in the palm of your hand when our feet falter.
Steady our hearts and show us what it means to live into your sacred purpose and calling,
for just such a time as this. Amen.*

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather this morning, from all the particular circumstances of life:

**People: from our specific homes, neighborhoods, families, jobs, roles,
questions, aches, and hopes.**

Leader: We gather on this August morning, seeking something greater than
ourselves, that God might make our lives matter.

People: We gather, awaiting a word that will encourage and inspire us.

Leader: We gather in prayer and song, passing the peace and sharing a smile.

**All: We gather, O God, hoping to hear from you what we need to go on.
Come, let us worship the Lord!**

✦ *please stand as you are able*

✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who moves beyond our understanding—even when you are not named, we turn to you in confession. We admit that at times we shrink back from responsibility—out of fear, doubt, or reluctance. We get scared to step into new roles that might risk our own comfort, status, or ease. Forgive us, God.

(Silent prayers of confession are offered.)

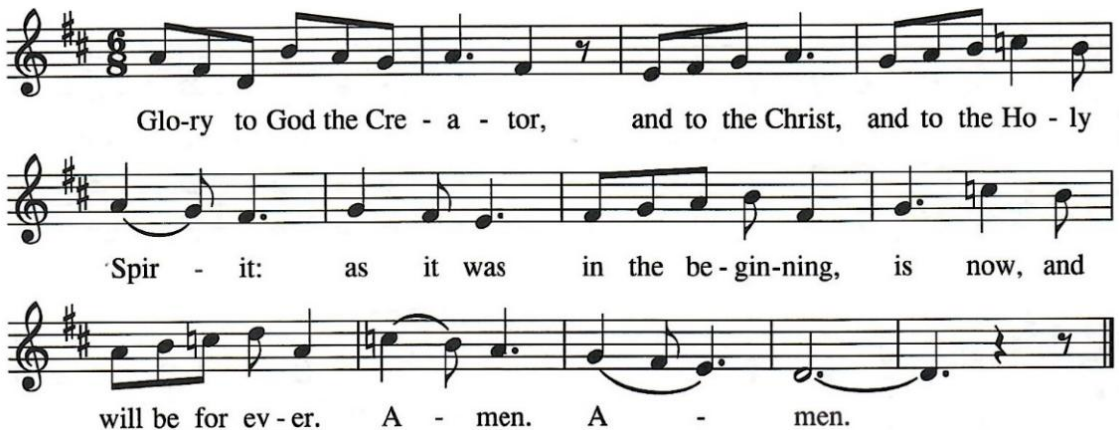
Thank you for trusting us with chances to be brave, and for opportunities to speak up for those who are mistreated or maligned. Pour your courage into us, Lord. Send your Spirit to embolden us, that we might prayerfully discern when to act, and when to wait. Give us the grace to live fully into our lives, and the fortitude to lean into your calling—for just such a time as this.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

✦ GLORIA PATRI

Ronald A. Nelson, 1986



Glo-ry to God the Cre - a - tor, and to the Christ, and to the Ho - ly
 Spir - it: as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and
 will be for ev - er. A - men. A - men.

— 3rd/4th century Latin; trans

COMMISSIONING OF ANNE A. HALLOIN TO THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Summer Sunday School has concluded, and Sunday School for 2026-2027 will begin on September 13.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sally Adler, *lay reader*

FIRST READING

Verses from Esther, ch's 2 and 4
(Pew Bible, p. 445)

At the conclusion of each reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Verses from Esther, ch. 4
(Pew Bible, p. 446)

SERMON

"Esther: For Such a Time As This"

Rev. Pattison

THE RESPONSE

✧ HYMN 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Promise

✧ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from The Presbyterian Church USA, Brief Statement of Faith)*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Please visit ryepc.com/give/ to give online.

If you do not have your offering with you today, "gift cards" are in the pews so that you may participate in this portion of worship by placing one in the offering plate.

MUSIC FOR ORGAN

Andante from Sonata No. 6 (op. 65)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

✦ DOXOLOGY (HYMN 606)

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

– Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING FORTH

✦ HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondd

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE FOR ORGAN *(All are invited into the chancel to listen to the postlude.)*

Fugue in G Major, BWV 576

attrib. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour with refreshments will be held outside: in front of the main sanctuary doors.

In the event of inclement weather, Coffee Hour will be held in the Chapel Narthex.

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Barbara Cummings, Joe Montalto, Kathryn Stack, and Terence Stack, *ushers*.

IN MEMORIAM

Jean DeSantis, August 12, 2026. Mother of CJ DeSantis.

OFFICE HOURS

RPC's summer office hours are 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

RPC's standard office hours will resume after Labor Day.

SUMMER STAFF UPDATE

Anne A. Halloin's last Sunday with is today, August 23.

WOMEN IN THE HEBREW BIBLE **SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

**"Half of the world are women. The other half are their children."
— Efu Nyaki**

Have you ever wondered how many women's stories are included in the Bible? Not just one-off mentions of wives and daughters, but whole narratives, plot twists, lessons, and laughs? With both halves of our world so inextricably shaped by women, surely women shape holy scripture. And every story centered on women can't help but include and speak to men as well. Cari will be preaching the next two Sundays on Hannah and the Witch of Endor, continuing our summer sermon series.

Do Not Be Afraid by He Qi, artwork courtesy of www.heqiart.com



8/23 Esther
8/30 Hannah
9/6 Medium of Endor

Welcome to Rye Presbyterian Church

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you are a guest today, we welcome you and hope you are enriched and inspired by this time of worship. To learn more about the ongoing life of the church, please go to ryepc.com/im-new/ and fill out the welcome form online.

If you or a family member need to step out of the sanctuary during worship, please feel free to do so. There is live audio from the service in the narthex at the back of the sanctuary and live video in the church library.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Pre-K through 5th Grade)

Beginning Sunday, September 13

Sunday School is held on Sunday mornings during the worship hour.

Children begin the morning in worship with their families and, following the Children's Message, are dismissed to their Sunday School classrooms.

To register your child for Sunday School, and to learn more, please visit:

ryepc.com/sunday-school-registration/

CHILDCARE (4 Years Old and Younger)

Sundays, before worship, on the first floor of the Education Wing

Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers is available to care for young children while parents attend worship. Childcare is available every Sunday morning.

Participating children may be dropped off prior to the beginning of the worship service.

To register your child for Childcare, and to learn more, please visit:

ryepc.com/childcare-registration/

RAINBOW BAGS

To help children feel welcomed and engaged during worship, Rainbow Bags – filled with crayons, books, and coloring pages – are located in boxes at each sanctuary entrance door.

Please return Rainbow Bags following worship.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

The sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop assistive listening system.

To access the system, please switch your hearing aid setting to "T" (telephone).

GRACE NOTES NEWSLETTER

Pick up one of our full-color monthly church newsletters, available at every sanctuary entrance: includes photos, updates, articles, and devotions from pastors.

It is also available digitally through email, along with our website's resources page at

ryepc.com/grace-notes-newsletter/.

CREDITS

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Meditation on "Promise"

Tune ©1986, arr. ©2016 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower (Promise)

Text and Music: Natalie Sleeth

Text and Music © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188

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Gloria Patri: Glory to God the Creator

Music: Ronald A. Nelson

Music © 1986 The United Church of Christ. All rights reserved.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, August 25

9:00 a.m. Walk & Talk Tuesdays – Outside in front of the Sanctuary doors

Wednesday, August 26

10:00 a.m. Chapel Yoga – Chapel

3:00 p.m. Summer Bible Study: Philippians – Westminster Room



UPCOMING EVENTS

To learn more, visit ryepc.com/about-rpc/events/

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: PHILIPPIANS

Wednesdays, from 3:00-4:30 p.m., in the Westminster Room



Join Rev. Cari for an in-depth Beth Moore study through the book of Philippians. One of the best-loved letters of Paul, written from prison, this short book packs a powerful message of joy, unity, and hope amid hardship. We'll be exploring *"The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ: A Study of Philippians,"* co-authored by Beth Moore and Melissa Moore. RSVP by emailing Cari at cpattison@ryepc.com. Each weekly meeting includes video session, discussion, and prayer, gathering in-person only through September 9. The required workbook is available online for \$20: lproof.org/philippians.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Beginning on Sunday, September 13 (Pre-K through 5th Grade)



Sunday School is held on Sunday mornings during the worship hour. Children begin the morning in worship with their families and, following the Children's Message, are dismissed to their Sunday School classrooms. To register your child for Sunday School, and to learn more, please visit ryepc.com/sunday-school-registration/. We ask that all children who plan to participate in Sunday School register, regardless of how frequently they expect to attend. Having up-to-date information for each child is important for attendance, communication, and safety. If you have any questions, contact Kristin and Margaret at directors@ryepc.com.

CHILDCARE REGISTRATION

Continuing every Sunday (4 Years Old and Younger)



Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers is available to care for young children while parents attend worship. Childcare is available every Sunday morning on the first floor of the Education Wing. Children may be dropped off prior to the beginning of the worship service. To register your child for Childcare, and to learn more, visit ryepc.com/childcare-registration/. Even if your children have already been attending childcare, we ask that all who plan to participate during the year be registered so that we have the necessary safety information. If you have any questions, please email Kristin and Margaret at directors@ryepc.com.

TEACHING FAITH TO CHILDREN

Seeking Sunday School Teachers

Do you have a heart for nurturing the faith of the children? We are putting together Sunday School Teacher teams for this coming school year and are looking for adults who can **volunteer once a month** to lead our children in Bible stories, crafts, prayer, and games. Lessons and schedules are sent ahead of time, and materials are prepared in the classroom before you arrive, so that your teaching may be easy, engaging, and fun! Interested or have questions? Reach out to Margaret and Kristin at directors@ryepc.com.

INTERIM STAFF

To learn more, visit ryepc.com/about-rpc/interim-staff/



Rye Presbyterian Nursery School's Co-Directors Margaret Sculti and Kristin Kumar have stepped up as our new Interim Co-Directors for Sunday School and Children's Ministries while our Search Committee continues their work. Additionally, Eric Birk will join the staff in late September as Interim Assistant Organist for the 2026-2027 program year.

RPC FALL WORSHIP & PICNIC

Sunday, September 20, at 10:00 a.m., on the Great Lawn

We will worship outside (weather permitting) under the tent on the Great Lawn.
Chicken and ice cream will be provided.

Please bring either a side dish or a salad to share.

Food may be left in the kitchen before worship.

Hosted by the Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons.
Contact Tom Ausfahl with questions at tausfahl@gmail.com.

MISSION PARTNER PROFILE: MEALS ON MAIN ST.

Sunday, September 20, during the Fall Picnic



Meals on Main St.'s Executive Director, Jon Haseltine, will be here with one of their meal trucks at our Fall Picnic following worship on Sunday, September 20. Meals on Main St. is a local organization in Port Chester that our church is proud to sponsor, as it serves thousands of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Come climb aboard the truck and see what they're all about! Jon will be happy to answer questions and share a bit about this vital local service. Learn more about our mission partner at mealsonmainst.org.

ALL-CHURCH PHOTO

Sunday, September 27, following worship, outside the Sanctuary

Join us on Sunday, September 27, for our after-church, all-congregation photo! For the first time since 2018, we're gathering one and all for a first-class photo shoot with Tom Young. It won't take long, and it won't be the same without you there! As worship concludes, we'll walk together and gather just outside the Sanctuary. In case of rain, we'll reschedule for the following Sunday, October 4.



Rye Presbyterian Church 2018 All-Church Photo



ONGOING EVENTS

To learn more, visit ryepc.com/about-rpc/ongoing-events/

CHAPEL YOGA

Wednesdays, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., in the Chapel

Cari Pattison is a certified yoga instructor (RYT200), and is offering a Level 1 Vinyasa flow class on Wednesday mornings. Weaving scripture into the basic class structure, the class gives us an opportunity to stretch and strengthen our bodies, breathe into a posture of prayer, and deepen our relationship with God. Mats are available to borrow, along with other props. We encourage you to come five minutes early for setup. All are welcome, including beginners! To RSVP, or to learn more, please email Cari at cpattison@ryepc.com.

WALK & TALK TUESDAYS

Concluding Tuesday, August 25, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., in front of the Sanctuary Doors

Facilitated by Cari Pattison, this series of weekly morning walks opens with scripture and a theme for the day and closes in prayer. We conclude next Tuesday rain or shine! We welcome the company of strollers and good leash-walking dogs. If you have any questions, please email Cari at cpattison@ryepc.com.

YOUNG MOMS' BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Sunday, September 13, from 8:45-9:45 a.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room

This group is for moms with young children who are looking for support, encouragement, and fellowship with other moms. Childcare is available! If you'd like to be on the email list, or if you'd like to learn more, contact Madison Walsh at madisonlichliterwalsh@gmail.com.

SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB

Beginning Sunday, September 13, following worship, in the Church Library

We are pleased and excited to announce the first scheduled meeting of the Senior Social Club on September 13, in the church library, right after worship. We'll kick off with a meet and greet, and light refreshments will be provided. Our second meeting is planned for October 25. In conjunction with the formation of the club, Cari will be offering a chair yoga class once each week starting in October.

MEN'S SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, September 13, at 8:00 p.m., in the Church Library

If you've considered engaging the bible to see how it speaks to us about life and faith, this is a great time to join this twice-monthly discussion group. This month, we will be resuming our journey through the Gospel according to Matthew, and in particular, the heart of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. We meet in person on Sunday evenings at 8 p.m. in the church library with a Zoom option available. This month, we will meet on Sundays, September 13 and 27. If you'd like to learn more or get email reminders about this ongoing study, contact Dan Love at dlove@ryepc.com.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE DISCUSSION

Beginning Monday, September 14, at 9:00 a.m., on Zoom

Beginning on September 14, the Monday Bible Discussion group will resume its weekly Zoom gatherings. Like the Men's Study, we are currently reading the Gospel according to Matthew. As author of *The Message*, Gene Peterson wrote: "Matthew tells the story in such a way that not only is everything previous to us completed in Jesus, we are completed in Jesus. Every day we wake up in the middle of something that is already going on, that has been going on a long time: genealogy and geology, history and culture, the cosmos – God." It's a great time to jump in! We will meet this month on September 14, 21, and 28. To get on the email reminder list, contact Dan Love at dlove@ryepc.com.

THRIFT SHOP

Opening on Thursday, September 17, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



The Thrift Shop is reopening soon! For more information on donations, shopping procedures, and drop-off times, please visit ryepc.com/ministries/thrift-shop/, or scan the QR Code above. To get in touch, and to learn more, please email the shop at RyeThrift10580@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Beginning Tuesday, September 22, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., in the Church Library

Please join us on Tuesdays starting September 22 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the church library as we begin our next study, *Walking in the Spirit's Power*. If you have any questions or would like to be added to our email list, please contact either alicia.baldwin@verizon.net or courtneybennett10@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome!

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Daniel Love, *Co-Pastor*
dlove@ryepc.com

The Rev. Cari Pattison, *Co-Pastor*
cpattison@ryepc.com

Anne A. Halloin, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*
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Kristin Kumar, *Interim Co-Director of Sunday School and Children's Ministries*
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Margaret Sculti, *Interim Co-Director of Sunday School and Children's Ministries*
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Junior Morales, *Head Sexton/Building Manager*
amorales@ryepc.com

Alonso Osorio, *Sunday Sexton*

*We are a Stephen Ministry church that offers a one-on-one caring ministry to those in need.
If you need assistance from your pastors, deacons, or a Stephen Minister, please call at (914) 967-0842.*

*If you are experiencing an acute crisis, you can call or text 988 and you'll connect with
a mental health professional through the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.*

GIVING AT RPC

Online donation options are available on our giving page: ryepc.com/give/.

Contact Maida Robinson at mrobinson@ryepc.com with any questions.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the church.

