



# GRACE NOTES

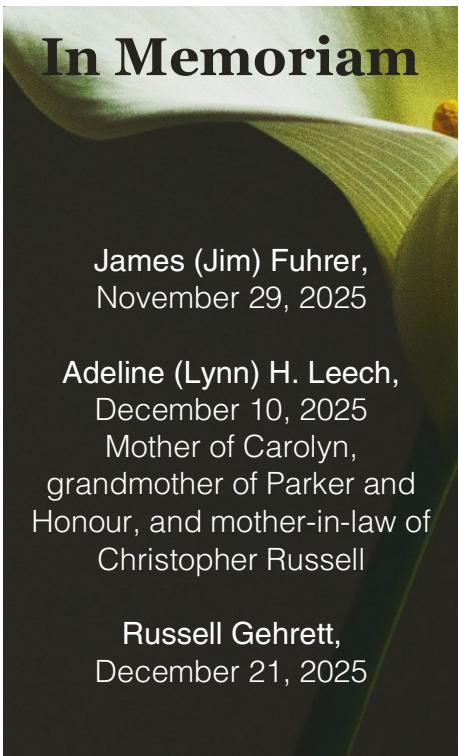
Rye Presbyterian Church • January 2026 • Vol. 264



# Opening Special Worship

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## Sunday Evening Worship

Sunday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m., in the Crawford Chapel  
[read more on page 8](#)

## Ordination and Installation of Officers

Sunday Morning, January 25

## Children's Communion Workshop

Saturday, January 31, from 10:00-11:15 a.m.  
[read more on page 7](#)

## Commissioning Stephen Ministers

Save the Date! Sunday Worship, February 1

On Sunday, February 1, eight members from the RPC Caring Connections training will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers during the 10 a.m. worship service: Claudia Asgeirsson, Lindsey Furnary, Julianne Laverty, Connie McBroom, Andrea O'Meara, Hollis O'Rorke, Susan Parish, and Caroline Wallach.

Tess Rafferty, who took both the RPC Caring Connections Training and the Stephen Leader Training, will be commissioned as a Stephen Leader.

Please come that morning to show your support for these skilled and compassionate individuals who will generously serve our congregation over the next few years.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 1, following worship

## Sunday Evening Worship

Sunday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m., in the Crawford Chapel  
[read more on page 7](#)

# The Opening Word

26 years ago, it felt like an auspicious moment in history to move from 1999 into the year 2000 with a new millennium before us. While many in the world fretted about whether our computers could handle the change, the leadership of the church decided to mark the occasion with the carving of the tympanum above the steeple door facing the Post Road. Since the construction of the sanctuary in 1870, that steeple tympanum had remained uncarved - a bare block of stone awaiting inspiration and the right timing to make a permanent change to the church. (Scavenger Hunt alert: one uncarved tympanum remains on the church building!)

After much discussion, a sculptor was found and the design was chosen - an angel sounding a trumpet and opening the door to the future - a future bright with hope and possibilities. Little did we know that 9/11 was on the horizon, soon to alter history and the state of our world.

Yet as people of faith, we remain a people of hope. As we have just celebrated in the Christmas season, we are reminded that no matter what life and history bring, the future remains in God's good hands. The light dawns in the darkness, and the darkness can never overcome it.

Over 25 years later, as we enter 2026, our church is beginning the next chapter of its story. We have come through the pandemic, and then a time of transition with John Miller's retirement and JP Marshall's return to Texas. Anne Halloin stepped into the role of our Interim Director of Children & Youth Ministries and has capably filled that role over the last year and a half while we awaited the results of the Co-Pastor Nominating Committee's work.

One year ago, on Christmas Eve, the search committee received the joyful news of Cari Pattison's acceptance of RPC's offer for her to join the team as Co-Pastor. While there has been much good over the past 25 years, it feels like a new and exciting beginning in the life of this church. It is as if that angel is once again opening the door to a new and very hopeful future for our life together, and our ministry and mission as the people of God.

Now that Cari and I have had nine months to find our footing as the new Co-Pastor team, we look to the future with great excitement and hope. Though it is not without challenge. We have recently received word that Anne Halloin, after entering into an inquiry process with Session to explore ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, has decided to begin full-time seminary study in the fall of this year. With that, the RPC Session has begun work on a search process to find either our next associate pastor or a highly-qualified non-ordained person to lead our children and youth ministries. We envision returning that role to a full-time position to further develop our multifaceted ministry to the many children, youth, and families of this church.

To make this next step, and to help push open that door to the future, we need your help. Next week, you will be receiving your stewardship mailing for 2026. Your stewardship committee and church leadership ask you to seriously consider your giving for this new year and new beginning. As we all know, costs continue to rise, but beyond keeping up with inflation, we hope to continue expanding our ministry with increased mission in the local community, more opportunities for worship, and a broader ministry to all members of our congregation.

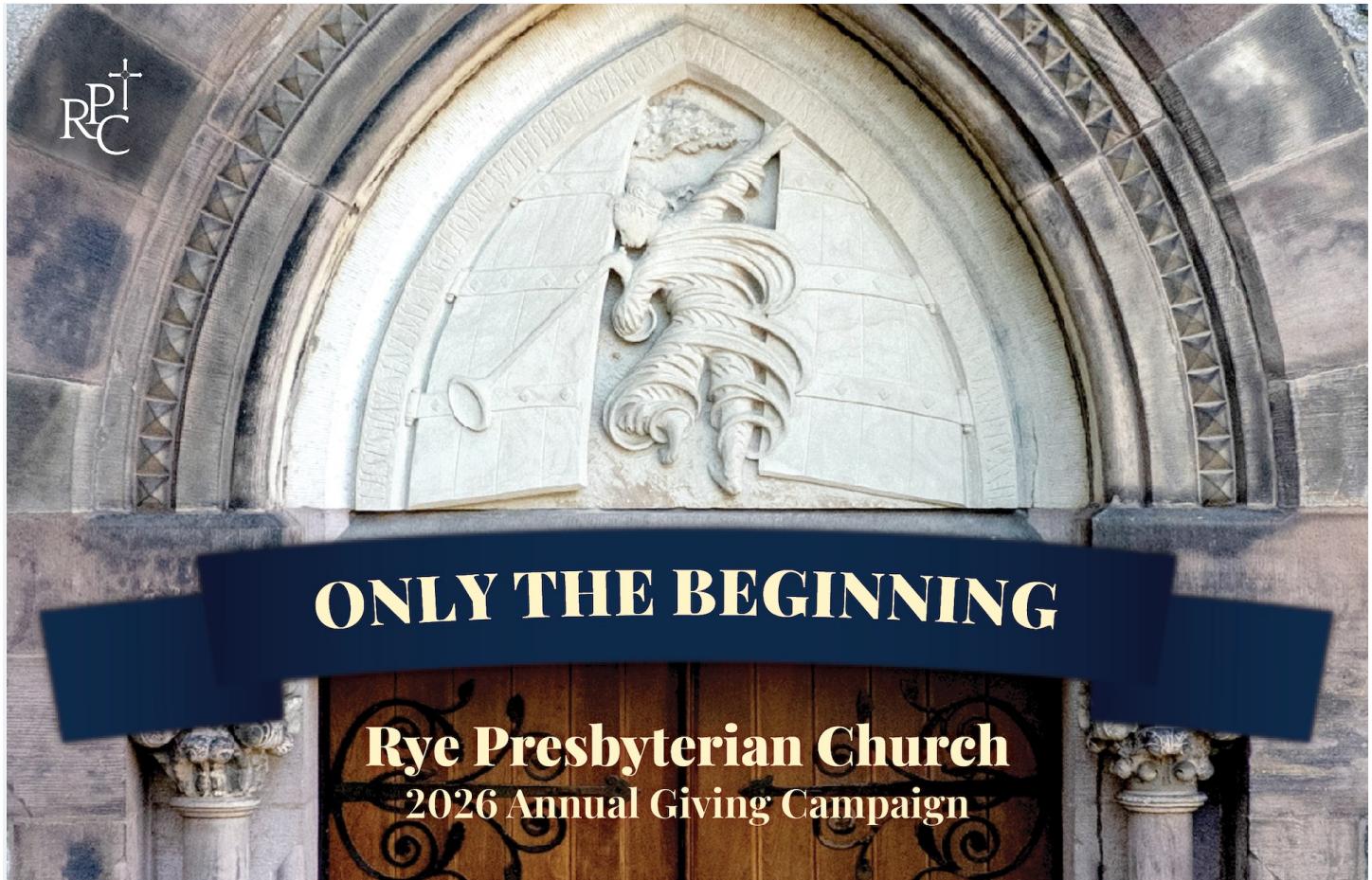
As it will say on your pledge card, we invite you to prayerfully consider the following: To help with our plans for the future, please consider increasing your pledge this year. If you give at a level you need to maintain, know that your continued support is appreciated. If you have not pledged in the past, we ask you to help us plan for the future by making a pledge this year.

Together we grow in faith, understanding, generosity, and service as disciples of Jesus Christ. Together we step through the door into a bright future.

It is only the beginning.



# 2026 Stewardship



## ONLY THE BEGINNING 2026 Annual Giving Campaign

### Commitment Sunday - January 25

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO BE A PART OF THIS NEW CHAPTER IN THE COMMUNITY, MISSION, AND MINISTRY OF RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

If you are unable to attend on Commitment Sunday,  
you can mail in your pledge card or pledge online.

# Announcements

## Coming Home 2026

Coming Home is an expression of our long-standing prison ministry at Rye Presbyterian Church. Through it, we seek to empower those who are returning to the community following incarceration.

Congregants can serve as dinner cooks and hosts, volunteer as mentors, or join in our weekly Thursday night dinners in the Westminster Room - making a real difference in the lives of formerly incarcerated persons. If you're interested in serving in any of these roles, or finding out more information, stay tuned for our forthcoming orientation session in January (date TBD). Our program begins in earnest on Thursday evening, February 12, and will conclude with graduation on Sunday, June 7.

For more information, or to better understand the philosophy of this ministry, please contact our RPC Coming Home Liaison and Dinner Coordinator Douglas Carey, or Pastor Cari Pattison, Minister Liaison to Mission and Outreach. You may reach out to Doug at [poningoearthcare@gmail.com](mailto:poningoearthcare@gmail.com). Cari may be reached at by email [cpattison@ryepc.com](mailto:cpattison@ryepc.com), or by phone at 914-967-0842 x14.

## Chapel Yoga

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

Cari Pattison is a certified yoga instructor (RYT 200), and is offering a Level 1 Vinyasa flow class on Wednesday mornings. Weaving a bit of 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. Bring a mat if you have one; mats are also available to borrow, along with other props. All are welcome, including beginners! To RSVP, or to learn more, email [cpattison@ryepc.com](mailto:cpattison@ryepc.com).

## Rye YMCA Community Update on the All Souls Project

Sunday, January 11, following worship,  
in the Westminster Room

Rye YMCA CEO Sabrina Murphy will meet with interested RPC members on Sunday, January 11, following worship, to share the Y's plans for a full-day, licensed child care center at the former All Souls Church in Port Chester. The meeting will be held in the Westminster Room.

Previously owned by Rye Presbyterian Church, the All Souls building was sold to the Rye Y in July of this year after extensive talks around our mutual goal of providing affordable child care in Port Chester, a child care desert. The Rye Y is a highly-regarded provider of child care programs and has developed plans to fully renovate the building to serve up to 103 infants and young children.

Join us to learn more about this exciting project!

## Thrift Shop

Thursdays, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For more information on donations, please check the church website. You can also email the shop at [RyeThrift10580@gmail.com](mailto:RyeThrift10580@gmail.com).



# Book & Bible Studies



*Old Books*, Catherine M. Wood

## Men's Sunday Evening Bible Study

Sundays, January 11 and 25, at 8:00 p.m., in the Library and via Zoom

We invite you to join and participate in our ongoing fellowship and conversation. We are wrapping up our work through the stories of Genesis, and planning our next move. To learn more, and to be on the email reminder list, contact Dan Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

## Monday Morning Bible Discussion

Mondays, January 5, 12, and 26, at 9:00 a.m., via Zoom

A new year is upon us, and we are newly into the Gospel of Matthew and the Sermon on the Mount – Jesus' inaugural address. All are welcome to join this weekly discussion. If you'd like to be on the email reminder list, contact Dan Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

## RPC Women's Discipleship Group

Tuesdays, from 1:00-2:25 p.m., in the Library

Please join us in the RPC library on Tuesdays from 1:00-2:25 for book study and discipleship. Feel free to jump in anytime! We're reading *Life Lessons from John: When God Became Man*, by Max Lucado.

All are welcome! Please let Courtney Bennett or Alicia Baldwin know if they can add you to the email list (at [courtneybennett910@gmail.com](mailto:courtneybennett910@gmail.com) and [alicia.baldwin@verizon.net](mailto:alicia.baldwin@verizon.net) respectively.)

## Moms' Bible Study

Sundays, from 8:45-9:45 a.m., in the 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 to learn more, please contact Madison Walsh at [madisonlichliterwalsh@gmail.com](mailto:madisonlichliterwalsh@gmail.com).

# Children & Youth

## Childcare

For Children 3 Months Old — 3 Years Old

Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers is available to care for your young children while parents attend worship services. Childcare can be found on the first floor of the Education Wing.

[ryepc.com/ministries/children/](http://ryepc.com/ministries/children/)

## Sunday School

For Children Age 4 — 5th Grade

Sunday School is held Sunday mornings during worship. To register your child, please visit the registration page on our website.

[ryepc.com/ministries/sunday-school-registration/](http://ryepc.com/ministries/sunday-school-registration/)

## Children's Communion Workshop

Saturday, January 31, from 10:00-11:15 a.m.

A warm welcome to the Lord's Table

With children coming from Sunday School to participate in communion, this is a great opportunity for them to learn more about the sacrament, and for you to grow in your faith together.

Children in second through fifth grades are welcome to come with a parent to this special workshop. Together, we will explore the church, the meaning of this special meal, and how we celebrate it here at Rye Presbyterian. Space is limited, so please sign up by contacting Rev. Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

## Middle School Connection

All 6th-8th graders are welcome at RPC's Middle School Connection!

We spend our time catching up, playing games, and deepening our spiritual lives. We hope your youth can join us as we are reminded again and again that we are not alone. We are connected in so many ways to one another and our loving God!

Meetings on Wednesdays, January 7 and 21,  
5:30 – 6:30 p.m., in the Youth Rooms

## Confirmation 2026

Meetings on Sundays, January 11 and 25,  
5:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room

Jesus: his teaching, his way of life...but what is that last week all about? And can someone *please* explain what the Holy Spirit is?



# SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

## CRAWFORD CHAPEL ✶ WINTER

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RPC's Crawford Chapel is adjacent to the Sanctuary

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**JANUARY 11, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**Evening Prayer and Baptism Renewal**



**FEBRUARY 1, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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These monthly services, each approximately 40 minutes in duration, provide an opportunity to worship at the close of the day.

The intimacy of the chapel, coupled with its warm acoustics and decorative flexibility, enables clarity and resonance in the sung and spoken word.

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Activities will be available for children in Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade in the Library

# Worship and Giving



## Call for Sunday Helpers

We welcome those who would like to assist in worship on Sunday mornings by joining the team of people who read scripture, usher, or serve communion. If you are interested in doing so on an occasional basis, please contact our chair of the Worship and Music Committee, Carl Friedrich: [carlrfriedrich@gmail.com](mailto:carlrfriedrich@gmail.com).

## Sunday Chancel Flowers

Each week flowers adorn our sanctuary and provide an uplifting reminder of the goodness of God and the beauty of God's creation. Please consider honoring the memory of a loved one or recognizing a special occasion for a \$100 donation. The flowers are a blessing to all attending the service, in the sanctuary as well as online. We will acknowledge your donation in the church bulletin. To make arrangements, please visit our website: [ryepc.com/worship/flowers](http://ryepc.com/worship/flowers).

## Giving at RPC



Online donation options are available on our giving page, at [ryepc.com/give/](http://ryepc.com/give/) and through the QR Code. If you have any questions, please contact Maida Robinson at [mrobinson@ryepc.com](mailto:mrobinson@ryepc.com).

*Your generosity makes all that you see here in Grace Notes possible!*

## Sunday Worship

Join us each week for Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. Instructions for online worship via Zoom or YouTube are on the church website: [ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc](http://ryepc.com/worship/worship-at-rpc)

Previous sermons, bulletins, and livestreams can be found online on our sermons page: [ryepc.com/worship/sermons/](http://ryepc.com/worship/sermons/)

## Email Updates

RPC Weekly Updates – Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.  
Worship Reminders – Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.  
Contact [mcrawley@ryepc.com](mailto:mcrawley@ryepc.com) to subscribe.

Children & Youth Ministries Monthly Newsletter  
Contact [ahalloin@ryepc.com](mailto:ahalloin@ryepc.com) to subscribe.

## Website Updates

RPC Website – Latest News  
[ryepc.com/about-rpc/latest-news/](http://ryepc.com/about-rpc/latest-news/)

RPC Website – Ongoing Events  
[ryepc.com/about-rpc/ongoing-events/](http://ryepc.com/about-rpc/ongoing-events/)

## Social Media

RPC Facebook – [Rye Presbyterian Church](#)  
RPC Instagram – [@ryepres10580](#)

# New Members - Fall 2025



## Sally Adler

two decades in Rye  
far off sails, bridges, contrails  
our microcosm

Sarah, Sam, Hannah  
me, such a lucky mother,  
along for the ride

my favorite place  
Squam - blue sky,  
green firs, white clouds  
Peace and loons abound

caring dad/stepdad  
my husband Dan  
builds buildings  
and loves racket sports



## The Anderau Family

Caroline and Tom moved to Harrison this summer from Park Slope, Brooklyn. Caroline grew up in New York City, and Tom is from Connecticut. They have been attending Rye Presbyterian for the past few months and love the strong sense of community at the church. Their 8-month-old son, Connor, enjoys smiling and sitting in the pews with his parents.



## Tess Rafferty

Tess grew up in Mamaroneck and is currently restoring a historic beach cottage in Rye. Tess is in private practice as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and works with both individuals and couples through a relational and spiritual lens. Tess loves being in nature - she is a Certified Forest Therapy Guide, and on the weekends, you can often find her learning something new at Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture or venturing upstate to the Catskills or Adirondacks. In her spare time, Tess enjoys knitting and needlepoint, hanging out with her dogs Finn and Louie, and adding new hobbies to an already very-long list. Tess is currently training to serve as a Stephen Ministry Leader, teaches Sunday School at RPC, and is actively involved in the local recovery community, which includes volunteering at hospitals and correctional facilities.

*New Members - Fall 2025 continues on the following page*



## The Rich Family

Chris and Mary Catherine Rich, have three children—James (5), Annabelle (5) and Emma (5 months). They just moved to Rye from Brooklyn, and they are excited to join RPC's beautiful community. When not working or at school, they love spending time together as a family, hosting friends, enjoying the outdoors, and exploring the many shops, restaurants and activities available in our new town. "We are looking forward to meeting many of you and your families!"



## The Seter Family

Erin and Chris recently moved to Harrison after meeting and living in Manhattan. They were married at Rye Presbyterian in 2023 and are now parents to 7-month-old Bobby. Chris grew up in Harrison and Erin grew up in Wayne, NJ. Erin is a nurse and spent the past eight years working at NY Presbyterian Weill-Cornell. Chris works in investment management. Our interests include music, NY sports, and golf (though parenting is how we spend most of our time these days!)



## The Sheresky Family

Brooke and Kenny Sheresky have deep roots in Rye. Both grew up on Milton Point and were married by Dr. John Miller at Wainwright House in 2019. On top of that, Brooke was a member of one of Reverend Love's confirmation classes. They moved to Greenwich in 2020 after living in Manhattan for five years. They have a son, Teddy (2.5 years) and a daughter, Charlotte (5 months). Brooke works in executive search at a venture capital firm and Kenny works in wealth management. He also volunteers at Silver Hill Hospital, speaking with patients in early recovery who are battling addiction. The Sheresky's are extremely excited to be involved with the community at Rye Presbyterian.



## The Smith Family

Aubrey and Brian Smith are the proud parents of twins, Beckett and Cole, 11 years olds at RMS, and little sister, Hazel, who just turned 4, is a preschooler at RPNS. The Smiths arrived in Rye in 2019 and have immersed themselves in life on the water - boating at AYC and fishing whenever they can! Brian is a Managing Director at Evercore in the Healthcare group, and Aubrey is an independent consultant (and, community volunteer). The family looks forward to taking part in this wonderful community, and enriching the spiritual lives of their children.

# Special Thanks



## Sanctuary Decorators

We thank all of our wonderful Sanctuary Decorators for putting us in the Christmas Spirit: Karen Beatty, Ashley Ginnings, Mindy Grigg, Krysta Holland, Nancy Kennedy, Julianne Kizer, Sarah McGill, Pam Moyer, Roger Moyer, Sarah Snell, Maren Tutor, Whitney Tutor, and Cindy Young. We give special thanks to Junior Morales for all of his incredible assistance, especially for his first year with us at RPC!



## Christmas Pageant Volunteers

Our Christmas Pageant would not have been possible without the exceptional efforts of our many volunteers: Amanda Askew, Taylor Clair, Christie and David Greear, Lauren Ferguson, Jamie Gehrett, Ashley and Mike Ginnings, Lori Haffey, Julianne Kizer, Stephanie and Edward Lamanna, Parker Lee, Kady Majeski, BJ Goergen Maloney, Megan Monaghan, Fallys and Wisdom Ngalauka, Sue Parish, Jessica and Jason Prager, Tess Rafferty, Jennifer Reddington, Katie Reilly, Chelsea and Andrew Singer, Meryl Stemberg, and Meredith Waltman. We also thank Anne A. Halloin and Jason Charneski for their guidance and support all throughout the pageant.



## Christmas Eve String Quartet

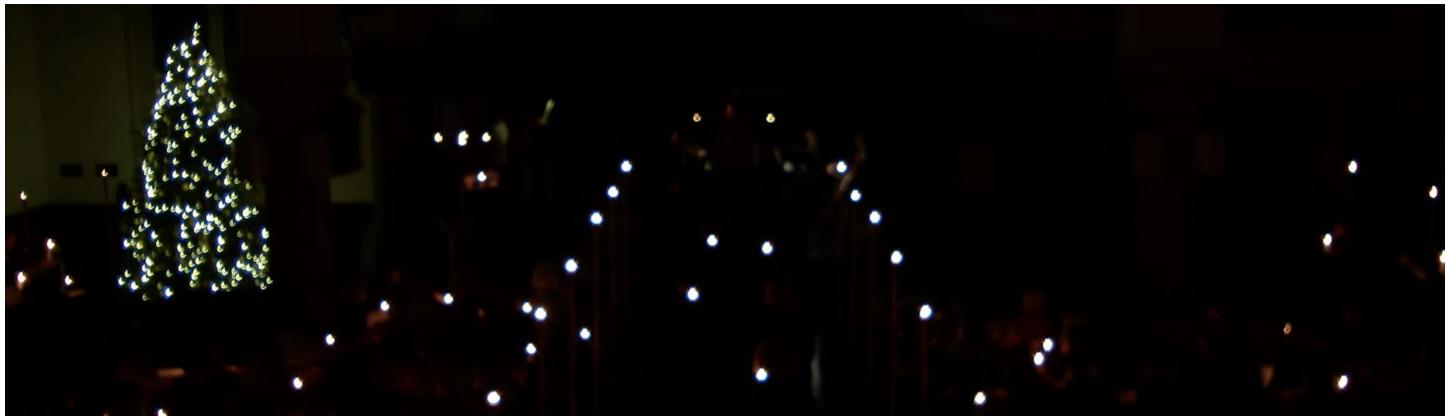
The string quartet at the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service was made possible by the generosity of Susan and Daniel Mahoney and their children, Melissa and Derek, in loving memory of Susan's parents, Marion and Alvin H. Berndt, and their beloved son and brother, Ryan Berndt Mahoney.



## Between Service Volunteers

We thank Daya Carunia and Steve Loveless for keeping everything running smoothly between our Christmas Eve Services.

# Christmas Eve Worship



# Christmas Tree Lighting



# Advent Activities



Gingerbread House Decorating Party



The Live Nativity Cast



Sunday Evening Worship



Christmas Carolers



Live Nativity

# Christmas Pageant



# Christmas Pageant



# Pageant Behind the Scenes

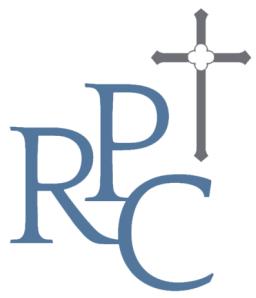


# Rye Presbyterian Nursery School



Greetings to the Rye Presbyterian Church Community  
from Kristin Bassett Kumar

RPNS was so happy to host our annual Holiday Caroling Party again in December! We raised money for our scholarship fund, and the families had such a great time! There was a petting zoo, a trackless train, a breakfast café, music with the children's band "Songs for Seeds," ornament decorating, and photos with Santa! We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas, and we are excited for the New Year!



# GRACE NOTES

## Church Staff

<u>The Rev. Daniel Love</u>	Co-Pastor
<u>The Rev. Cari Pattison</u>	Co-Pastor
<u>Anne A. Halloin</u>	Director of Children and Youth Ministries
<u>Jason Charneski</u>	Director of Music and Organist
<u>Maida Robinson</u>	Chief Administrative Officer
<u>Peggy Berretta</u>	Administrative Assistant
<u>Max Crawley</u>	Administrative Assistant for Communications
<u>Aileen Lynch</u>	Office Assistant
<u>Junior Morales</u>	Head Sexton/Building Manager
<u>Alonso Osorio</u>	Sunday Sexton
<u>Haniel Neves</u>	Knock Intern in Sacred Music

## Rye Presbyterian Church

882 Boston Post Road, Rye, New York 10580

914.967.0842 / [www.ryepc.com](http://www.ryepc.com)

We are a Stephen Ministry church that offers 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.