

# GRACE NOTES

Rye Presbyterian Church • February 2026 • Vol. 265



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# Opening Word



*[The Lord says], "They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace." (Jeremiah 6:14)*

Dear Church Friends,

We enter February on the heels of winter storms and snowdrifts, slogging through sub-freezing temps while our dogs dodge salt on the sidewalks. And around us loom questions about the wounds in our nation, and what will make for true peace.

As clergy friends of mine return from Minneapolis and colleagues across the country report on their cities and churches, I find myself wondering, "What do we do? In our own region, where is the wound? What does it look like to love our neighbor here – and what is most needed?"

Maybe you're asking the same thing.

*The Opening Word continues on the next page.*

## In Memoriam

John Cunningham, January 6, 2026

Helen Hild, January 8, 2026

Richard Littlejohn, January 27, 2026  
Nephew of the late Carol Norton

# The Opening Word

*The Opening Word begins on the previous page.*

In some ways, the answer is timeless: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). We don't have to invent some radically new approach to living out our faith than the small day-to-day choices to act fairly, kindly, and with humility.

But the times we live in call us not to shrink from the longstanding practice of the Reformed Christian tradition to be fully engaged citizens of the world. We are called to care deeply about the common good and advocate for the wounded and oppressed.

*[Thus says the Lord] "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7)*

God calls us not just to pass the peace on Sunday mornings, but to look around New York City, Westchester, Greenwich, and beyond – and ask, "Where is the wound? Where is real peace lacking? How can we be a voice for the silenced and share with the suffering?"

It may feel like a small thing: packing meals with Food to Grow On, cooking a dinner for Coming Home (ministry with formerly incarcerated persons), teaching Sunday school to our children, or helping with the market at The Carver Center or Meals on Main (local Port Chester organizations serving immigrant populations and those with food insecurity). All these and more have upcoming opportunities for us to show up and serve.

It can feel like such a small thing: to call a Congress person and leave a message, to write a letter, or march in a protest. Maybe you, like me, ask, "How do I know if this is the right use of my time, energy, money, and attention? How do I know whether this will make any difference?"

That's where we turn to a power greater than ourselves. We reflect alongside scripture and prayer and community to find a rubric for reordering our priorities.

*Thus says the Lord: "Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16)*

This spring in the season of Lent, we'll be standing at the crossroads and asking for the ancient paths, the good way to walk in. On Tuesday nights starting February 3 (in the library and on Zoom), we'll dive into *Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become like him, Do as he did*, by John Mark Comer.

We'll ask what it means to become an apprentice of the Rabbi Jesus, to add a new level of intentionality to our spiritual formation. Comer writes, "There is a Way of life laid down by Jesus himself, and if we give ourselves to it – and ultimately to him – it will lead to the life we all most truly crave."

Whether you're available for the group study or not, I hope you'll consider reading along. This isn't an exercise in "learning more religious information." It's an invitation to transform our lives, and by extension – to better participate in the transforming work of God in the world around us.

On Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel, we enter the pilgrimage of Lent together with an Ash Wednesday service. I hope you'll consider coming. As the ashes of death are smudged on our foreheads, we acknowledge our fragility as humans, and commit ourselves to spiritual practices that shape us more and more into the image of Christ.

See you in church,



# 2026 Stewardship



## **Pledge Commitment Sunday** **Rescheduled for Sunday, February 1**

Thank you for your commitment to be a part of this new chapter in the community, mission, and ministry of Rye Presbyterian Church! Pledge cards can be mailed or delivered directly to the church office. Alternatively, you can pledge online at [ryepc.com/stewardship-2026/](https://ryepc.com/stewardship-2026/) by following the link or scanning the QR code.

Your Stewardship Committee:

Sarah Barringer, Young Kim, Dan Love, Cari Pattison, Scot Stevens,  
Chris Winston, Avery Woods, and Grace Yoon Kilroy

# Special Worship

## Stephen Ministry Commissioning

February 1, during 10:00 a.m. Worship

Our newest Stephen Ministers will be commissioned On Sunday, February 1, our during our 10 a.m. worship service. Stephen Ministers are members of our church who undergo extensive training, as well as ongoing education and supervision, in order to provide distinctively Christian caregiving to members of RPC and our broader community. Andrea O'Meara, Caroline Wallach, Claudia Asgeirsson, Connie McBroom, Hollis O'Rorke, Julianne Laverty, Lindsey Furnary, Sue Parish, and Tess Rafferty will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers, and Tess will also be commissioned as a member of the Stephen Leader team.

A Stephen Minister is there to listen, and to be present with you during those times when there are no words to say. If you or someone you care about could benefit from confidential weekly visits with a skilled, compassionate, Christian companion, contact our referral team Mary Versfelt ([mdversfelt@gmail.com](mailto:mdversfelt@gmail.com)) and Becky Ruegger ([rhuegger@aol.com](mailto:rhuegger@aol.com)), or reach out to Pastor Dan or Pastor Cari anytime. They are all available to answer any questions you may have regarding the healing work of the Stephen Ministry!

[ryepc.com/ministries/stephen-ministry/](http://ryepc.com/ministries/stephen-ministry/)

## Jazz Sunday

February 8, during 10:00 a.m. Worship

Our annual Jazz Sunday worship service will take place on February 8. The music will be offered by the Chancel Choir and a combo of piano, drums, bass, and saxophone, under the leadership of Jeremy Fletcher (who also is one of the choir's professional singers). A highlight will be a new choir anthem by Dr. Fletcher, "What No Eye Has Seen," a setting of 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 (the lectionary Epistle lesson for the day), as a Bossa Nova! In addition, Dr. Fletcher will provide jazz harmonizations for the hymns. Come to worship God with new music, well-known words, and eager spirits! *See/share the flyer on page 10!*

## Worship Calendar

Pledge Commitment Sunday  
Sunday, February 1, 10:00 a.m.  
*see page 4*

Stephen Ministry Commissioning  
Sunday, February 1, 10:00 a.m.

Ordination and  
Installation of Officers  
Sunday, February 8, 10:00 a.m.

Jazz Sunday  
Sunday, February 8, 10:00 a.m.  
*see page 10*

Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, February 8, 11:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday Service  
Wednesday, February 18,  
7:00 p.m. in the Chapel  
*see page 12*

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 8, following the 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service, in person and via Zoom.

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation of Rye Presbyterian Church is called for Sunday, February 8, following 10:00 a.m. worship, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom. We will receive the 2025 annual report, hear a brief presentation of the 2026 budget, act on the terms of call for the pastors, and act on a nomination for the Board of Trustees.

– John Shuck, Clerk of Session

# Book & Bible Studies



*Old Books, Catherine M. Wood*

## Men's Sunday Evening Bible Study

Sundays, February 1 and 22, at 8:00 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom

With Genesis now behind us, we are jumping ahead to another beginning - this time to the start of the New Testament with the Gospel according to Matthew! All are welcome as we read and learn together. Contact Dan Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com) for more information and to be on the reminder list.

## Monday Morning Bible Discussion

Mondays, February 2, 9, and 23, at 9:00 a.m., via Zoom

All are welcome to our ongoing reading of the Gospel according to Matthew. The Sermon on the Mount is almost over, but there's plenty more to read and discuss! Please contact Dan Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com) for more information or to be on the reminder list.

## 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 p.m. 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 you would like to be on 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

Select Sundays, 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 to learn more, please contact Madison Walsh at [madisonlichliterwalsh@gmail.com](mailto:madisonlichliterwalsh@gmail.com).

# Upcoming & Ongoing Events

## Lenten Book Study

Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m., in the Library  
and via Zoom, beginning February 3

Looking to deepen your spiritual practice? How do we grow as Christians, and truly "walk the talk"? What does it mean to be formed into the image of Christ? These are some of the questions explored in John Mark Comer's recent book, *Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become like him, Do as he did*. We will meet for six evenings, starting on February 3, skipping February 17, and concluding on March 17.

Led by Co-Pastors Dan and Cari, this will be a reading and discussion based group with the goal of supporting one another in living in the way of Christ. You're invited to purchase the book on your own and read up through page 31 before our first gathering. Kindly RSVP to [cpattison@ryepc.com](mailto:cpattison@ryepc.com) to let us know you'll be participating, and if you'll need the Zoom link.

## Chapel Yoga

Wednesdays, from 10:00-11:00 a.m., in the Chapel  
(Excluding February 18)

Cari Pattison is a certified yoga instructor (RYT 200), 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. Bring a mat if you have one; mats are also 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, email [cpattison@ryepc.com](mailto:cpattison@ryepc.com).

For more information about these events and more, please visit  
[the Upcoming Events and Ongoing Events pages on our website.](#)

## Coming Home 2026

Dinner is open to church members by RSVP  
Thursday, February 12, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Coming Home is an expression of our long-standing Prison Ministry at Rye Presbyterian Church. 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. Coming Home begins on Thursday evening, February 12, and will conclude with graduation on Sunday, June 7.

For more information, please contact Douglas Carey at [poningoeearthcare@gmail.com](mailto:poningoeearthcare@gmail.com), or Pastor Cari at [cpattison@ryepc.com](mailto:cpattison@ryepc.com).

## Thrift Shop

Thursdays, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,  
in the Assembly Room

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

## Thrift Evening Sale

Wednesday, February 11, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.,  
in the Assembly Room

# Youth Programs

## 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 that we are not alone. We are connected in so many ways to one another and to our loving God!

### Middle School Connection Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.,  
in the Youth Rooms. Dinner's included!

### Serving Dinner with Coming Home

Thursday, February 12, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.,  
in the RPC Kitchen

Middle schoolers, friends, and family members are invited to the Rye Presbyterian Church Kitchen to help prepare dinner and serve it to participants of Coming Home. We hope you'll stay for the dining experience as well!

### Ash Wednesday Gathering

Wednesday, February 18, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.,  
in the Youth Rooms

We will be holding a special devotion for Ash Wednesday, discussing the meaning of the liturgical season before going to join the evening service together. Dinner will be provided!

## High School Youth Group

All 9th-12th graders are welcome at  
RPC's High School Youth Group!

We gather at least twice each month to build community and faith through fellowship, prayer, discussions, and service! Meetings are held on Sundays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Youth Rooms.

### Go-Kart Racing

Saturday, February 7  
7:00 p.m. Meeting in the RPC Parking Lot

7:45 – 11:00 p.m. at the RPM Raceway:  
600 West Ave, Stamford, CT 06902

Join us for an adrenaline filled Saturday night at the RPM raceway! No driver's licenses required to drive these electric go-karts. Cost is \$30 per person. Please register with Anne A. Halloin at [ahalloin@ryepc.com](mailto:ahalloin@ryepc.com).

### High School Youth Group Dinner

Sunday, February 22, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., Youth Rooms

### Dinner and Evening Service

Sunday, March 1, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., Youth Rooms

For the first hour, we'll enjoy dinner and fellowship in the youth rooms. Afterwards, we'll head to the Crawford Chapel for evening worship together.

## Confirmation 2026

Sunday, February 1, at 5:00 p.m.  
in the Westminster Room

Sunday, February 8, at 4:00 p.m.  
in the Westminster Room, starting one hour earlier  
than usual to leave room for the Super Bowl.

# Children

## Childcare

For Children 3 Months Old — 3 Years Old

Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers is available to care for young children while parents attend worship. 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/)

## Winter Sing 2026

Wednesday Afternoons, for Children

All children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are encouraged to come to the Westminster Room on Wednesday afternoons, through March 25, from 4:15 – 4:45 (snack available at 4:00) to learn and sing a variety of songs of faith, be creative with them, and move about to the rhythms contained therein! *See/share the flyer on page 11!*

# New Members

## New Member

## Welcome Discussions

Sundays, March 1 and 8,  
following worship, in the RPC Library

Lent is here – a season of intentional practices and deepening faith. Whether you have been coming to Rye Presbyterian for a long time or are new to the church, maybe this Lent is the time for you to take a further step into the life, community, and mission of the church.

All those interested in exploring what it means to be a member of the church are invited to take part in the upcoming New Member discussion sessions. We will meet on Sundays, **March 1 and 8**, immediately following worship, in the church library. Childcare will be available as needed.

In these classes, we will explore what it means to be a Presbyterian in general, and then what it means to actively live out our faith together as a part of this particular church.

In addition to the Sunday classes, for those choosing to join the church, there will be a meeting with the leadership of the church on **Sunday evening, March 15, at 7:00 p.m.** This is a time to meet the officers of the church and for the Session to welcome the group to official church membership. Recognition of the new members as they join the church will take place during worship on **Sunday, March 22.**

To attend the discussions, and especially if you will need childcare, please RSVP to Peggy Berretta in the church office at [pberretta@ryepc.com](mailto:pberretta@ryepc.com) or 967-0842. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to either of our Co-Pastors. Dan Love can be reached at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com), and Cari Pattison at [cpattison@ryepc.com](mailto:cpattison@ryepc.com).



# JAZZ SUNDAY

**February 8, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Worship**

Jazz Sunday is offered by a quartet of instrumentalists, under the leadership of Jeremy Fletcher, and the RPC Chancel Choir.

A highlight will be “What No Eye Has Seen,” a new anthem by Dr. Fletcher.



# WINTER SING 2026

for Children in Kindergarten through Grade 5



**Wednesdays, through March 25**

**(no session on February 18)**

**4:15 – 4:45 p.m. in the Westminster Room**

**(snack available at 4:00)**



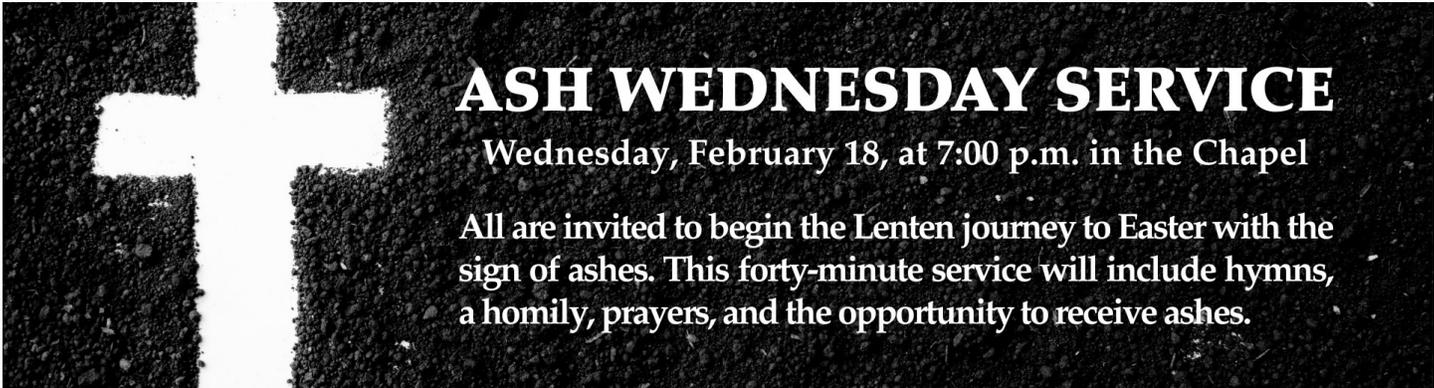
Children are invited to join Mr. C. to sing and move about, all the while learning about how the ideas presented in what we sing relate to Bible stories, Jesus' words, and the broader Christian faith.

So that he might be able to prepare appropriately, please let Mr. C. know if your child plans to attend:

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



# Evening Worship



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel

All are invited to begin the Lenten journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This forty-minute service will include hymns, a homily, prayers, and the opportunity to receive ashes.

## SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP CRAWFORD CHAPEL

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RPC's Crawford Chapel is adjacent to the Sanctuary

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**MARCH 1, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**  
Evening Prayer for Lent

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

Activities will be available for children  
up 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: [carlfriedrich@gmail.com](mailto:carlfriedrich@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 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 [mrcrawley@ryepc.com](mailto:mrcrawley@ryepc.com) to subscribe.

Children & Youth Ministries Monthly Newsletter

Contact [ahalloin@ryepc.com](mailto:ahalloin@ryepc.com) to subscribe.

## Website Updates

RPC Website – Upcoming Events

[ryepc.com/about-rpc/events/](http://ryepc.com/about-rpc/events/)

RPC Website – Ongoing Events

[ryepc.com/about-rpc/ongoing-events/](http://ryepc.com/about-rpc/ongoing-events/)

## Social Media

RPC Facebook – [Rye Presbyterian Church](https://www.facebook.com/RyePresbyterianChurch)

RPC Instagram – [@ryepres10580](https://www.instagram.com/ryepres10580)

# Officers Retreat



Current and incoming elders, deacons, and trustees gathered to learn about the many facets of RPC, a little friendly-ish competition, and envisioning of our next steps as a church.

# Middle School Connection



# YMCA Presentation



Rye YMCA CEO Sabrina Murphy shared the Y's plans for a full-day, licensed child care center at the former All Souls Church in Port Chester.

# Winter at Rye Presbyterian Church



# Rye Presbyterian Nursery School



Greetings to the Rye Presbyterian Church Community  
from Kristin Bassett Kumar

We were thrilled to continue the beloved RPNS tradition of the Horse and Carriage Rides. Each class enjoyed a special ride with their teachers and classmates around the parking lot. The joy and excitement were contagious, creating lasting memories. After the ride, each class warmed up inside with a special treat of hot chocolate and mini marshmallows. We are blessed to offer this special winter experience for our students!



# GRACE NOTES

## Church Staff

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

[The Rev. Cari Pattison](#) Co-Pastor

[Anne A. Halloin](#) Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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

[Maida Robinson](#) Chief Administrative Officer

[Peggy Berretta](#) Administrative Assistant

[Max Crawley](#) Administrative Assistant for Communications

[Aileen Lynch](#) Office Assistant

[Junior Morales](#) Head Sexton/Building Manager

[Alonso Osorio](#) Sunday Sexton

[Haniel Neves](#) 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.