

2023 Annual Review



Left and top photos: Fun at the congregational Getaway at Camp Koinonia.
Right: Outdoor worship.



St. Paul's Church

761 King Street Rye Brook, NY

2023 Embers

In May the pandemic was finally over and we ended our mask mandate. In some ways things feel like they're back to normal but in other ways things are still recovering. Schools are still reporting lower attendance and academic performance. Churches are seeing a decrease in attendance, especially young families. I find myself feeling nostalgic for the weekly zoom check-ins; they were a strong connection, a time to check in and share news.

Worship

We had our second annual Emanuel Nine commemoration, this year including Joan Grangenois-Thomas talking about the history and issues surrounding the Charleston shooting and also Juneteenth. The previous week we had Rev. Kym McNair from Our Sister's Place preaching, and she did an excellent job talking about Christian notions of love in a world of violence and poverty. We welcomed our friend Rev. Stephanie Duzant back to our pulpit. Rev. Becca Seeley returned to talk about Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education and a number of us took part in their Trivia Night Fundraiser. Our Deacons have been leading us and also offering prayers for healing.

Fellowship

We had our congregational Getaway at Camp Koinonia and it was wonderful. It is a beautiful camp and Laurie and Evan provided great leadership.

Weekly Yoga is going well and is a great blessing.

Leaders and Volunteers

What amazing flowers we had all around our church this year thanks to Dave and the Sunday School children. Thanks to all our Altar Guild members, worship assistants, ushers, and Russell our zoom usher. Thanks for our CCC Advisory Committee, meeting monthly and having a retreat and board training. Thanks for all the work for the clothing shed.

Thanks, Deacon Philip, for helping lead worship, helping with CCC Advisory Committee and for bulletin art. Laurie has completed her internship. All her various tasks expanded into serving as Council President. Thanks, Laurie, for another great installment on Journey Through the Bible.



Bishop Egensteiner visited the CCC during a day of meetings at St. Paul's

Our Director, Medina Telesco, has been with our Child Care Center for ten years.



The Fall Fling was postponed twice due to weather!



Community Partners

For a number of Sundays, we ended with us all saying, “As we leave we will continue to remember: The Church has left the building.” We seek to bring the community in and go out into the world to love and serve. With our flexible space we now have two blood drives annually. We have a freezer that is stocked by Meals on Main; take a meal and let the office know.

Blind Brook asked me to help with School-SPIRIT: a one-day, student-focused program which engaged students, teachers and community members in identifying issues impacting their school and developing and implementing solutions to resolve those issues.

Much thanks to Donna and everyone who helps with Food2GrowOn. Thanks to our confirmands and others who delivered food and hats to Carver.

Rabbi Goldberg and I had two pulpit exchanges. His suggestion for a look at Passover and Holy Week proved to be a good one. We also spoke at our respective services during Thanksgiving. For a second year we did

a series on the Psalms, this time in-person. We did our PrideWorks presentation which went very well. We co-sponsored a panel discussion with author and commentator Father James Martin with congregation KTI. We brought together select High School kids from BB and PC to work on a project for the community celebrating Juneteenth together with the NAACP and the PC Historical Society. This quartet also came together for a second annual Indigenous People’s Celebration.

Pastor on the Road

I attended the ELCA Triennial Rostered Ministers Gathering in Phoenix, AZ. These are always reunions of sorts for pastors I’ve known over the years and lots of inspiring worship and informative workshops.

I joined up with NY Renews to lobby in Albany for funding for Climate legislation.

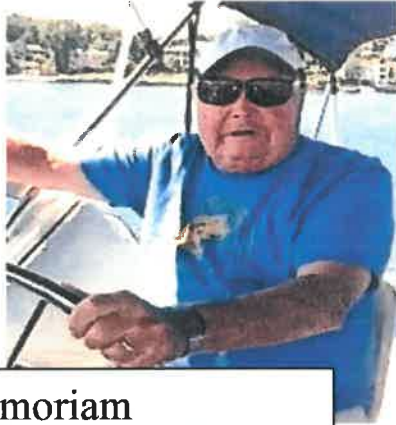
I offered a prayer at the Port Chester Fire Chiefs swearing-in, the annual memorial in Lyon Park and the Annual Fire Department Inspection in addition to wakes for members.

Coming Up Sign Up for our MLK service project in collaboration with Congregation KTI - Sunday January 14th 11am

2023 Milestones

Pastor Sharon Israel Pike

Art Schmitt



In Memoriam



Service: God's Work. Our Hands.

<  **Jim O'Hanlon**
16h · 🌐

Thanks to everyone who helped at Carver Center today including Donna Smith who is a dedicated volunteer with our Food 2 Grow On program and so much more.



Kristin has been working in our Child Care Center for 20 Years!



Gay Straight Alliance fundraiser



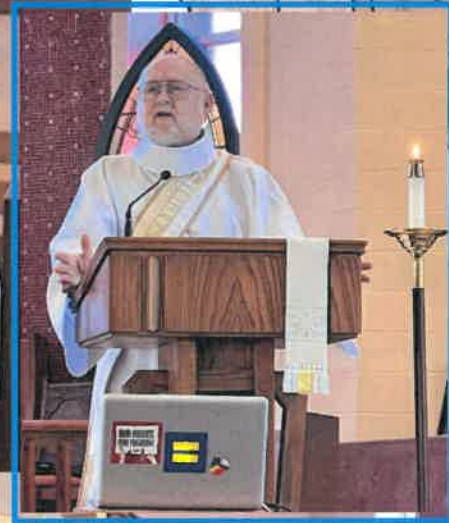
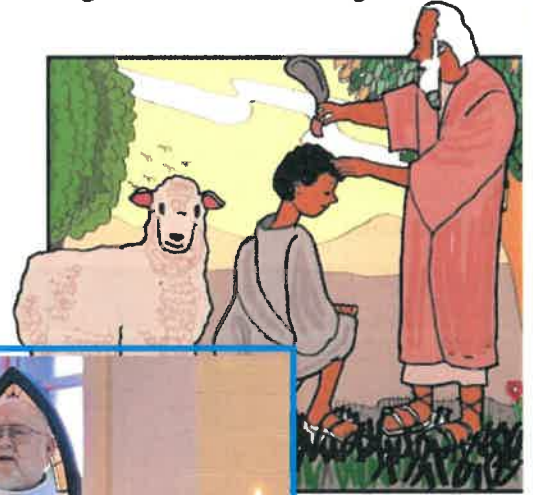
Interfaith Pride Car Wash
Benefiting Center Lane

Thank you to all of our clothing shed volunteers who handle the sorting twice a week. We are providing a service to our neighbors and reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfills.

Worship



And they anointed David King over Israel.



Education, Advocacy and Engagement



Second Annual Interfaith & Community Celebration of Indigenous Cultures.



This Pride Month Mural titled "Change Makers" – was a youth project and has been traveling around the community.
pryede.myshopify.com/pages/2022-mural



Deacon Philip & Rev. Dr. Martha Cruz

Save the Date
Child Care Center
benefit
Dinner & Auction
Friday, March 22 at 7pm
at Coveleigh in Rye

Yoga

Every Tuesday at 3pm
Every Saturday at 11am
Alternate Thursdays at 7pm

Sunday Dec 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent
10am

Christmas Eve

Candlelight service 5pm

St. Paul's

761 King Street

Rye Brook, New York 10573