



Love & Foolishness Amid the Ashes

As a recent USA Today article suggested, Christian couples might celebrate their love this month with smudges of ash on their foreheads and a prank or two could infiltrate Easter egg hunts. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14, Valentine's Day. And Easter is on April 1, also known as April Fool's Day. It's a quirky calendar coincidence that hasn't happened since 1945.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the traditional season of Lent, a 40-day period that leads to Easter and has its roots in Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. It is a period of reflection, prayer, and penance. Easter marks the day of Jesus' resurrection.

Yet, as Christians, we always live between two calendars. We celebrate a new year at the end of November or in the first week of December when we begin a new church liturgical year. Folks are confused when pastors insist on green paraments for the first week in July, not red, white, and blue. We set aside this holy season of Lent for solemn study and reflection, and to the rest of the world it remains six ordinary weeks between Valentine's and April Fool's Day.

How then should we observe this season? What does Lent have to do with lovers and fools? Since the answer to every question in a children's sermon is either "love" or "Jesus," maybe that one's easy. But is Lent for fools?

The Apostle Paul would suggest that it is: "The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong..." (I Corinthians 1:18, 27)

This season and its stories set us apart, put us on a different timeline. We spend our days worshipping a God in love with weakness; following a foolish savior, even to the cross.

And so as we begin our Lenten journey on Valentine's Day, may we remember that Christ's journey from the wilderness to the cross was one of love, for you, for me, and for all the world.

And as we end the Lenten journey and celebrate Easter on April Fool's Day, may we remember that what to some seemed like a foolish or idle tale, for us, as Christians, is what gives us hope and joy as we celebrate Jesus' and our resurrection to new life!

Happy Valentine's Day! Blessed Ash Wednesday! Happy April Fool's Day! And Blessed Easter!

Presenting The Rev. Jean-Paul Marshall



Jean-Paul Marshall was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, January 14, at his home church, First Presbyterian Church of Mesquite, Texas. In attendance (pictured above), John Miller, Susie and Jean-Paul, and Elizabeth and Andrew Parks with their daughters, Alexandra, Caroline, and Ainsley.

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Adult Education

The Adult Education Committee has developed an exciting series of programs for the winter/spring 2018 “semester.”

Sunday Mornings 9:00 to 9:45 AM. Something new is on the docket for this time period. Every week (except holiday weekends) we will use a lectionary-based guide to explore the scriptural texts that will be used in worship that morning.

SPECIAL EVENING EVENT: On February 11, we will screen part 2 of *13th* in the Westminster Room from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This program is open to the community, so invite your friends and neighbors.

LENTEN SERIES: Aging Well. Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., led by Dr. Miller. Whatever your age, mark your calendar for this important exploration of preparing for aging.

We will also present two evening sessions in March during Lent on “*My Song is Love Unknown: A Survey of Music for Holy Week*,” led by Jason Charneski.

Further information on the above programs can be found on this page.

BOOK STUDY: Dan Love will lead a book study on *The Gift of Failure* by Jessica Lahey, which focuses on the critical school years when parents must learn to allow their children to experience the disappointment and frustration that occur from life’s inevitable problems so that they can grow up to be successful, resilient, and self-reliant adults. **Dates:** Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24; May 1, 7:30 p.m., in the Library.

We hope you will join us at as many of these exciting events as possible.



Lenten Studies

Aging Well: A Theological Perspective

Tuesdays, February 13, 20, March 6, 13, 20,

7:30 p.m. in the Library

(No class February 27)

This five-week study will use a monograph by the same title along with the book *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. We’ll explore the aging process from a theological viewpoint and how we can prepare ourselves as we face the winter of our lives. John Miller will facilitate this group. Please contact him at jmiller@rvepc.com to let him know you will be attending.

My Song is Love Unknown:

A Survey of Music for Holy Week

Mondays, March 5 and 19,

7:30 p.m. in Crawford Chapel

Jason Charneski will lead us in an exploration of music for Holy Week, specifically the many hymns, anthems, and solos that testify to the events and the conversations of that week being a love story demonstrating God’s grace.

We will sing. We will listen to recordings. And, we will share in discussion about the texts and the music, all in preparation for our own walk this year with Jesus from outside the gates of Jerusalem to the hill at Calvary. Please contact Jason at jcharneski@rvepc.com to let him know you will be attending.

SUNDAY MORNINGS TO JUNE 10
9:00-9:45 A.M., WESTMINSTER ROOM

(THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON THE FOLLOWING
HOLIDAY WEEKENDS:
FEBRUARY 18, APRIL 1, MAY 27.)

Rye
Presbyterian
Church

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for Winter/Spring
Brochure

Opportunities
For Adult Education
And Spiritual Growth
Winter/Spring
2018



FEASTING
on the WORD.

How does your faith formation and worship integrate with your knowledge and experience of the world? Adults see the world through the filter of life experience and life transitions. Adults enter Bible study and worship with this variety of views. *Feasting on the Word* engages adults in a deeper exploration of biblical texts.

This lectionary-based study will be facilitated by both staff and church members as we explore the scriptural texts that will be used in worship each Sunday. Faith is enhanced when the Scriptures read and proclaimed in worship are expanded on during our studies together.

Each session is a stand-alone session, so participants can join the study at any point. Education and worship can be mutually supportive in helping God’s word come alive in the Sunday morning experience.



February 11
7:00-9:00 p.m.,
Westminster Room
(Part 2)

Ava DuVernay’s powerful documentary *13th* introduces the words of the thirteenth amendment of the United States Constitution: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” *13th* argues that although slavery was abolished in 1865, this clause legally embedded and allowed a form of enslavement into American institutions. *13th* is a historical survey that directly links slavery to today’s prison-industrial complex. The film traces the 150-year-old history of race, incarceration, and disempowerment of minority communities in America. By the end of the Jim Crow era and the Civil Rights movements, the U.S. saw an end to legal segregation. What followed was a more surreptitious form of racial control as open violence and discrimination were replaced by the racially-coded rhetoric of “law and order” and the “war on crime.”

(Film not rated, but does include some graphic scenes and images of violence.)

Coming Home, Solarize Program, Stephen Ministries



“COMING HOME” PROGRAM IS COMING BACK!

Thursdays, February 8—June 3
Dinner from 7:00-8:00 p.m.
All are welcome for dinner in the Westminster Room

This 18-week program pairs RPC congregants with the formerly incarcerated to help them transition back to their communities.

Coming Home provides life skills, goal-setting, and sharing personal stories in a safe and supportive community.

Our first week for congregants to participate will be on Thursday, February 8. For that night only, dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., followed by our guest speaker, our own Lee Woodruff.

Our Coming Home ministry offers various volunteer opportunities:

- **Mentors**—congregants who are paired with participants, supporting, encouraging, and journeying with them through the program.
- **Guest Speakers**—presenters are needed to teach networking, job-searching, and other skills.
- **Cooks and Hosts**—each evening begins with a meal prepared and served by RPC congregants who share table fellowship before the program begins.

For more information, contact Charles Lewis, Program Coordinator, at charleslewis2357@gmail.com or at 929-441-0659; or Pastor John Miller at jmiller@rvpc.com, or at 914-967-0842.

Funding for the third year of this ministry is coming from generous gifts made to the Imagine Initiative.

Imagine



HRP Green, a faith-based partnership in Hudson River Presbytery dedicated to raising awareness and action around environmental and climate change issues, invites you to an informational meeting on Monday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room to learn more about their proposed Solarize program. The Solarize program is designed to make solar installations more accessible and affordable in a selected area through pre-vetted and competitively selected installers. The Solarize Our Congregation campaign will be available to Hudson River Presbytery churches, people who attend Presbyterian churches, members of nesting churches, and others who are connected to Presbyterian congregations (church staff, people associated with groups within churches, etc.) within the Hudson River Presbytery. Come and learn more about this environment and money saving program.



stephen
MINISTRY.



Stephen Ministries and Rye Presbyterian Church offer a simple and powerful way to care for people who are grieving.

Journeying through Grief is a set of four short booklets to send to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one.

Author Kenneth C. Haugk writes in a warm, caring style, with short, easy-to-read chapters. He walks alongside the reader through the grief journey, sharing helpful insights about grief, biblical truths, and stories that provide comfort and reassurance. Each book focuses on what the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in grief—offering understanding, empathy, compassion, and hope.

If you would like to learn more about providing this type of support to someone in need, please contact RPC Clergy, [Dan Love](#) or [John Miller](#).

Music Notes, Chamber Music at RPC, Connection prepares for Empty Bowls



From Jason Charneski

An Invitation:

Join the Chancel Choir for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter

Here's an opportunity for those who have interest in giving the old college-try to singing in the Chancel Choir or for those whose schedules and commitments preclude singing with the group on a weekly basis: Consider joining us for Palm Sunday (March 25), Maundy Thursday (March 29), and Easter (April 1). All voice parts are welcome, as is anyone of the age of high school junior and older. If you are interested in adding your voice to the music for these meaningful services, please speak with me, call me (914-967-0842, ext. 16), or email me (jcharneski@rvepc.com).

Jason



Chamber Music at Rye Presbyterian

Ronald Arron, artistic director

Sunday, February 25, 2:30 p.m.

Dvořák, Schubert, and Schumann Piano Quartets



Jeewon Park, piano; Anton Miller, violin; Rita Porfiris, viola; Edward Arron, cello

For more information, or to reserve seats, please contact Ronald Arron at ronarron@optonline.net or 914-523-4646

(\$20 for RPC members; \$40 general public).

Brown University a cappella group "The Higher Keys" performed at RPC on Thursday, January 18. RPC member Judson Ellis is a member of the group.



Middle School Connection prepares for Empty Bowls



Christian Education, Confirmation, Communion Workshop



Sunday School

February will be an exciting mix of lessons for Sunday School as we wrap up our Epiphany season and enter into the season of Lent! For the rest of the Epiphany season, we will continue studying different moments in Jesus' ministry and how we are called to participate in his ministry today. Halfway through the month, we enter the season of Lent, a time that calls us to examine our hearts and re-center our lives in Christ. Our focus will turn towards God's signs of covenant and blessing stretching across the sky, echoing through the generations, pouring from the heavens, and calling throughout the nations. We will read stories such as the story of Noah's Ark and the story of Abram and Sarai, both stories that will help us rediscover God's love at work amidst the brokenness of our world.

Below are the focus texts of each week. We encourage parents to set some time during the week, maybe around the dinner table midweek, to read the texts together and discuss what is going on in the stories. It is a good way for the children to get acquainted with the biblical stories, allowing them to approach the stories more in-depth as they get older. It is also a great way for families to develop spiritual practices at home. To encourage this, we are looking into materials that families can use at home!

February 4: Mark 1:29-39

February 11: Mark 9:2-9

February 18: Genesis 9:8-17

There will be no Sunday School this Sunday. Children will be welcomed in the Westminster Room for enrichment activities.

February 25: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

The children will join Lisa Rawson for Singing Our Faith during Sunday School this Sunday.

Contact [Jean-Paul Marshall](#) with any questions.

Middle School Connection

RPC's Middle School Youth Group is open to all 6th-8th graders.

Wednesday, February 14, 6:15 p.m.
Dinner together in the RPC Youth Rooms followed by the Ash Wednesday service.

YOUTH GROUP High School Youth Group

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

Wednesday, February 7,
 6:00-7:30 p.m.: Coming Home Prep
 The RPC Kitchen

We will be meeting in the kitchen to prepare a meal together for the Coming Home program that will be held the following Thursday. We will learn how to cook a recipe together and discuss the importance of the Coming Home program held by our church.

Thursday, February 8,
 5:00-8:30 p.m.: Coming Home Dinner
 RPC Westminster Room/Kitchen

We will help serve the meal of the evening and share table fellowship with the participants and mentors attending the program that evening. This is a great way for the youth to participate in one of the church community's ministries!

Sunday, February 25,
 6:00 p.m.: Rock Climbing
 Meet at RPC

We will meet at the church to go Rock Climbing at The Rock Club in New Rochelle.

INSTAGRAM!

The Instagram account for the youth group has been started up again! The account will be used to keep followers up-to-date on upcoming events and to post pictures from the various events held throughout the year. Here is the username for the account: ryepresyouth.

GroupMe!

We are setting up a GroupMe group message for the high school youth group! Just like the Instagram account, this will be used to keep everyone up-to-date on upcoming events and as a way to RSVP to certain events. If you are a high school student who wants to be a part of this group, please email your name and phone number - jmarshall@rvepc.com.

Confirmation 2018

Sunday, February 11
Presbyterian? Why bother?"
 4:00 p.m. (M-Z) and 5:00 p.m. (A-L)
 Westminster Room

Sunday, February 24
"What's my part?"
Vocation and Personality"
 4:00 p.m. (A-L) and 5:00 p.m. (M-Z)
 Westminster Room



COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 3, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

The body of Christ? What is that all about?
And what exactly is in that cup??

If your child or children have been curious about the Lord's Supper, this is a great opportunity for children to learn more about it, to be officially welcomed at the communion celebration of the church, and for you to grow in your faith together.

On Saturday, February 3, from 1:00-2:30 p.m., children in the second through fifth grades are welcome to come with a parent to this special workshop. Together we will explore the meaning of the sacrament and how we celebrate it here at Rye Presbyterian.

Space is limited, so please sign up by contacting [Rev. Love](#).

Weekends in February, Bible Study

Saturday, February 3

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, February 4

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

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room

9:15 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal / Chapel

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship & Communion in the Sanctuary
Youth Choir sings
Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

11:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting / Sanctuary

Saturday, February 10

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, February 11

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

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
Sunday School

-Children attend worship through children's message.

4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (M-Z) / Westminster Room

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (A-L) / Westminster Room

7:00 p.m. Adult Ed Movie: *13th*, part 2 / Westminster Room

8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

Saturday, February 17

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, February 18

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

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
No Sunday School—Enrichment Activities
-Children attend worship through children's message.

Saturday, February 24

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, February 25

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

8:40 a.m. Prayer Gathering / Library

9:00 a.m. Adult Education / Westminster Room

9:30 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal / Chapel

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
Sunday School
-Children attend worship through children's message.

2:30 p.m. Chamber Music at RPC / Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (A-L) / Westminster Room

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (M-Z) / Westminster Room

6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group / Meet at RPC to go rock climbing.

8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study / Library

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

Sundays, February 11 and 25, at 8:00 p.m. in the Library

All are welcome to join in as we continue this study of the Book of Psalms. Contact [Dan Love](#) for further information.

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion

Wednesdays, February 14 and 28,
at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

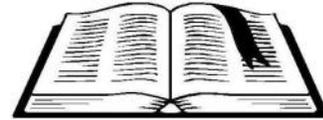
Come wander with the Israelites in Exodus. Contact [Dan Love](#) if you'd like to be on email reminder list.

Women's Bible Study

Saturdays, February 3 and 10, Library

Please join the Women's Bible Study twice monthly on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Library. A warm welcome and hot coffee await!

For further information, contact [Cynthia De Santis](#).



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 4,
following 10:00 a.m. worship.

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation of the Presbyterian Church in the Town of Rye is called for Sunday, February 4, following 10:00 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary. A brief summary of year-end reports will be followed by the presentation of the 2018 budget and acting on the terms of call for the co-pastors. Any new business must be docketed with the Clerk of Session by February 1.

- Doug DeStaebler, *Clerk of Session*

Ash Wednesday Services

February 14, 2018

12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Crawford Chapel



February Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDINGS CLOSED ON PRESIDENTS' DAY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

BOARD MEETINGS

Deacons: Wednesday, February 28, 7:30 p.m., Library
Trustees: Wednesday, February 14, 7:45 p.m., Westminster Room
Session: Wednesday, February 28, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

WORSHIP AND STUDY

Worship on Saturday evening:

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m., February 3, 10, 17 & 24

Worship on Sunday:

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

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday Services: February 14, 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Prayer Gatherings: Sundays in the Library at 8:40 a.m.

Adult Education:

Sundays, 9:00-9:45 a.m., Westminster Room:

Feasting on the Word: February 4, 11 & 25 (*no class on February 18—Presidents' Day weekend*)

Special Event: Viewing of Ava DuVernay's documentary, **13th** (part 2), Sunday, February 11, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Lenten Study: Aging Well: A Theological Perspective, Tuesdays, February 13, 20, (*no class February 27*), March 6, 13, 20, 7:30 p.m., Library

Sunday School: Regular Sunday School on February 4, 11 & 25; Enrichment Activities on February 18

Confirmation: Sundays, Westminster Room, February 11 (M-Z at 4:00 p.m., A-L at 5:00 p.m.); February 24 (A-L at 4:00 p.m., M-Z at 5:00 p.m.)

Men's Sunday Bible Study: February 11 & 25, 8:00 p.m., Library

Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion: February 14 & 28, 10:00 a.m., Library

Women's Bible Study: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., February 3 & 10, Library

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

YOUTH

Boy Scout Troop #2: Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Connection: Wednesday, February 14, 6:15 p.m., Youth Rooms, dinner together followed by Ash Wednesday service.

High School Youth Group: Wednesday, February 7, 6:00 p.m., RPC Kitchen;

Thursday, February 8, 5:00 p.m., Coming Home dinner;

Sunday, February 25, 6:00 p.m., meet at RPC to go Rock Climbing

MUSIC

Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.; Thursday, February 1, 7:30 p.m.

Children's Choir Rehearsal: Thursdays, 3:45 p.m., Choir Room

Youth Choir Rehearsal: Thursdays/Sundays TBD

OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, February 4, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

3 Ts: Tuesday, February 20, 10:00 a.m., Library

Chamber Music at RPC: Sunday, February 25, 2:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Coming Home: Thursdays, beginning February 8, (6:00 p.m. on Feb. 8 only); from February 15 on at 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Mission & Outreach: Wednesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m., Library

Stephen Ministry:

Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, February 6, 5:30 p.m., Library

Continuing Education and Supervision: Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Thrift Shop: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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

Helping Hands: Thursday, February 15, 10:00 a.m., Kitchen & Assembly Room

Rye Presbyterian Nursery School



Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

One afternoon one of our four-year-old classes received a large, bulky manila envelope addressed to the school. The return address told them that it came from Midland Elementary School.

The class opened the envelope and counted 17 individual envelopes inside, each one addressed to a different student in the class.

Each child had a pen pal from Midland Elementary School's first grade! The children took turns opening their envelopes and having their letters read to them. Then, each



child worked one-on-one with a teacher to write a note back. They remembered the letter format: we begin with the word "Dear" and end with "From" or "Love" and sign our name. The class talked about starting the mes-

sage with a greeting, answering the questions that the first graders asked in their letters, and thinking of questions to ask their pen pals in return.

Our four-year-old students wrote back to the first graders using inventive spelling. This is a phonological way of spelling. Teachers stretch out each word so that the children can hear the different letters sounds in the beginning, middle, and end of the word. The children then write the letters of the



sounds they hear. Inventive spelling is an important step in the direction of reading because it leads to decoding.

It is always rewarding when we can take the learning happening in the classrooms at RPNS out into the community. This class had the opportunity to connect with a whole class of first graders in our community! It is always our goal as teachers to making literacy a meaningful, authentic, and purposeful part of the curriculum. In the case of these pen pals, writing was so purposeful, as it was a means for the children to communicate with the first-grade class. Every child in the class anxiously waited for his or her turn to write back and did so with so much care and attention.

It was so wonderful to see the excitement over writing!



[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*

[Nancy Lavalle](#), *Staff Assistant*

[Denise LeVan](#), *Pastoral Assistant*

[Juan Velasquez](#), *Head Sexton/Building Manager*

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