

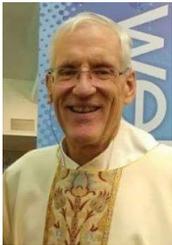


His Faithful Followers

A publication of Rush United Methodist Church

May 2024

A Note from Pastor Todd



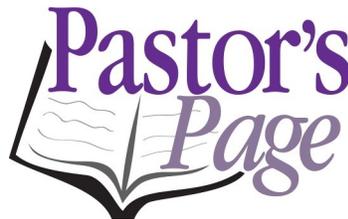
Dave Letterman used to have a Top Ten list on his late show each evening. Since I am days away from retirement, I'm thinking about the top ten events or epiphanies from my life and call.

1. Ordination to Word, Sacrament, Order, Service. It began with God's call. I answered. The United Methodist Church affirmed my call to ordained ministry and passed to me the keys to the Church. Preach the word of God. Celebrate Holy Baptism and Communion. Guide the Church according to our Holy Spirit led Book of Discipline. Serve the flock assigned by the Bishop. That's my job description. The ordained are responsible. I strive to take the stewardship of the Church seriously, professionally, and with great care.
2. The Holy Spirit works through more than the Church. The first ten years of ordained ministry, I spent climbing the professional ladder, identified by appointment to larger churches, bigger salaries, serving on more prestigious conference committees. To what end? I asked myself. I took a little more than a year's leave to rediscover my call. Thus began my reorientation, serving community not-for-profit organizations that touched my life, resulting in systemic change for the better in the communities I served.
3. The intersection of Theology and Disability became a rich source of spiritual growth and pastoral development when our son, Christian, was born with autism. People with disabilities are created by a loving God in the near perfect image of God, yet, most individuals with disabilities and their families are repulsed by the Church. I've spent the past 20 plus years working on this issue, serving on the board of Wayne ARC for about ten years. If there is room at the table for my son and our family, there is room for you, too. Inclusiveness matters, and should be intentional.
4. Aging, Alzheimer's disease, and the Church. Lots of older people attend church, but we do a lousy job caring for one another in the twilight years of life. My mother, mother-in-law, numerous aunts and uncles all suffered from one form of dementia or another. Caring for an aging loved one takes a herculean effort by care partners, family, friends, and professionals. I served on the Board of Directors of the Rochester Presbyterian Home for many years and led the educational effort of the Alzheimer's Association as an appointment beyond the local church. Be God's

grace and love to seniors every moment of every day. Care givers are my super-heroes!

5. Addiction, and recovery. God has called me to lead people to healthy, loving lifestyles, anchored in faith and discipleship. Frankly, a lot of parishioners through the years have been addicted to alcohol or street drugs or struggled with mental health concerns. I've driven many to detox and rehab. I've prayed for health and wellbeing without ceasing. Addiction and challenges with mental health without professional intervention is a dead-end ally. Get people assistance, peer and professional support, access to jobs and housing. People get better, find stability, and are miraculously restored. It has been a privilege to serve the past twenty or so years on the board of Finger Lakes Area Counseling & Recovery Agency (FLACRA). We've grown to over 500 employees distributed throughout the Finger Lakes, providing addiction and mental health services to thousands, including my own family.
6. Invest in Campus Ministries. It was a campus minister who looked me in the eye and asked me where God was calling me. God changed my live through his intervention. Young adults are full of spiritual potential, exploring their brave new world. The church on campus is essential for providing guidance and support during these formative years. I've been blessed to be a part of Genesee Area Campus Ministries the past twenty years, serving the Protestant community at the University of Rochester,

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and, most recently, on the campus of Rochester Institute of Technology.

7. The Church gets Camping right. Summer Church camp was formative in my Christian development and is a transformational experience for thousands of children and youth in the Church today. Church camp builds community, demonstrates love, teaches Jesus, becomes a creative outlet, and builds confidence in life and faith. I know it is expensive, but the investment in our children and youth is worth every cent. Send EVERY kid to Church camp!
8. Mission. I'm a better disciple of Jesus because I went on mission trips to Nicaragua and Guatemala. I didn't want to go, but felt compelled by the Holy Spirit. I was afraid of flying into a communist county, serving in an environment of violence and crime. Single mothers and children depended on me, and the team who brought me. Five trips to central America changed my life. Love. Love neighbors. Nowhere is the love of God more visceral than serving on short-term mission trips.
9. Confidentiality. People tell me things. They own the information, so it is not mine to share without permission. "Know people's history better than they know it themselves" was advice I learned early on. Knowing has given me greater understanding. I often cannot respond or defend myself, to my frustration. The insight I've been given is that ministry is messy. We are a community of sinners, striving to be saints. The balance between paranoia and trust can be razor thin. Consequently, my circle of relationships outside the ordained is very small. I'm not complaining. It is just my experience that the lack of social relationships makes more valuable the relationships I have and hold with colleagues. I've been blessed with a strong collegial support network.
10. My wife, Cynthia, and family, Nicholas and Christian, are a rock, whose love and support have been essential to the success of my call and ministry. They eclipse all the above items, with the exception of my call. They've been the stabilizing balance when I've become unbalanced. Each are truly God's gift of grace and love to me, for which I am eternally thankful.

There is much I've gotten wrong. Yes, the Church is flawed and none of us get it right all the time. By God's grace and loving hand, I've received the blessings of walking with Christ all my life, serving his kingdom, and inviting others to join me on the journey. When I sing "Amazing Grace" I mean it with all my heart and soul. God's grace has been amazing, for which, I am eternally grateful.

God loves you, and so do I-

Todd

Spring Super Sale

The Spring Super Sale is Saturday, May 4 from 9AM – 3PM, half price from 1 – 3PM. Sign-up sheets are on Eagle Island in the lobby. The deadline for bringing items for this sale was Wednesday, April 24. Please continue to put clothing in the St. Pauly Shed, household items, toys, games, puzzles, books, etc. can be put downstairs in the hall after the sale.

We continue working Wednesday mornings at 9:00 sorting and pricing newly donated items.

Thank you,
Cindy



Super Sale

May RHAFT Collection

Rush Church will be collecting donations in May for the Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal (RHAFT). During this time of uncertainty, RHAFT is very busy distributing food to families in the Rush-Henrietta area.

RHAFT gratefully accepts all non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products, and paper goods. However, the following items are especially needed: 100% Juice: bottles, boxes, packs; Jello and Pudding; Boxed Potato Flakes, Minute Rice, Hamburger Helper, Canned Chicken (large), Mayo and Condiments; Coffee: instant and ground (no K-cups); Fresh Vegetables; Canned Meat/ Fish Products: Ham, Spam, Tuna, etc; Fruits: cans, jars, packs, etc; Toiletries/Bar Soap/Paper Goods.

You can bring items to the church Monday – Friday from 7AM – 5PM and leave them in the box in the vestibule or on Sundays and put them in front of the Communion Table. We will see they are taken to the center.

Cash donations are also appreciated for perishable food items such as meat and milk. Please make your check payable to Rush United Methodist Church, write in the memo area "RHAFT" and mail it to PO Box 49, Rush, NY 14543 or deliver it to the church. A check will be sent to them at the end of the month.

The need for emergency supplies of food, especially protein, personal hygiene products and paper goods is constant. Thank you for your continuing support of our community's emergency food cupboard.



Food Collection

The Ministry Support Team

Special Music

If you are interested in providing special music on Sunday mornings, especially during the summer, please let Kellianne Williams know. We are happy to hear your gift to and from God. Klkw1212@gmail.com or (585) 507-1996.



Ladies' Lunch Bunch

The Ladies' Lunch Bunch is a time of fellowship for women in our church community who are single, widowed, divorced, or separated – or who just may need an opportunity for a good meal and conversation! They meet the first Monday of each month, at 12:30pm, in the church Fellowship Hall. The next month's luncheon is scheduled for Monday, May 6.

If you would like to join Pastor Todd for lunch this month, please let Barb Kingsley, or Cindy Gray know. Reservations are not required, but it's helpful to have a rough idea of how many are coming, in order to know how much food to prepare. If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please call Cindy Gray at 585-362-6206 or contact her at cgtgray1039@gmail.com.



Church Fellowship Special Mother's Day Second Sunday Brunch

On Sunday, May 12, enjoy a cup of coffee, a cookie and conversation then stay for our Special Mother's Day Second Sunday Brunch. Serving begins around 11. Enjoy a meal without having to fix it yourself, meet families you haven't met before and get to know others better. A per adult donation of \$1 or \$2 is appreciated but not necessary. Offered are child-friendly options. This will be a special celebration of Mother's Day.



Board of Trustees

Our Rush Church building is 27 years old (!), and there is always an ongoing list of maintenance jobs to do, both big and small. Some of these include lawn mowing, gardening, painting, and "fix -it" odd jobs. If you are interested in learning how you can help keep our church building strong, safe, secure, and attractive; or if you would like to become a part of the planning team for this important committee, please contact Cindy Gray (cgtgray1039@gmail.com) or Geoff Furman (furman@rochester.rr.com). The next Board of Trustees meeting is Monday, May 13 at 7PM.



Peace with Justice Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday is traditionally celebrated on Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost), which this year is May 26. One of The United Methodist Church's six special Sunday offerings, Peace with Justice Sunday supports annual conference ministries as well as global denominational work.

The offering received for Peace with Justice Sunday is divided in half. Half is used in The Upper New York annual conference and half supports the ministries of the General Board of Church and Society. Peace with Justice Sunday funds are used through United Methodist channels to:

- relate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the church, communities and the world in which members live;
- bring the whole of human life into conformity with God's will; and
- show that reconciliation involves personal, social and civic righteousness.

Peace with Justice Sunday is an opportunity for United Methodists to highlight the Social Principles that are an integral part of our Wesleyan heritage. Special envelopes will be on Eagle Island near the offering plates.



Family Fun Community Picnics

Family Fun Community Picnics are Back! We are excited to announce that we are planning to resume our community picnics, beginning Wednesday, May 29, at 5:30PM. Mark your calendars now. This is always a wonderful time of good food and fellowship in our church pavilion (weather permitting!). Hot dogs, baked beans, chips, beverage, and tableware are provided. You are welcome to bring a dish to share: salad, side dish, or dessert – **but it is not necessary!** Your presence is what we are looking for. Everyone is welcome, so tell your friends and neighbors to come, picnic with us, and enjoy the fellowship.

We need helpers!
If you love to cook over a grill, or want to help set up and/or clean up for the picnics, we have a job for you! This is a wonderful way for us to share with our community. Please consider being a part of these picnics. See Cindy Gray or you can reach out at cgtgray1039@gmail.com, or call the church office.



Rochester Refugee Resettlement Webinar

On Thursday, May 9 at 6:00PM United Methodist of Upper New York is providing a virtual webinar to learn how those in the Rochester area can partner with community organizations to welcome refugees. Register here <https://unyumc.zoom.us/j/7tZcpd>. See Leon Perkins for more information about Rochester Refugee Resettlement.

Erma Mae Perkins

“Compassion flows from our becoming more aware of the human needs around us. Real awareness far exceeds the capacity of either information or rational analysis to effect lasting inner change.” Trevor Hudson, A Mile in My Shoes



High School Senior College Scholarship

Each year, Rush United Methodist Church awards a scholarship for graduating high school seniors who are pursuing further education at an accredited college or university. This scholarship is a way for Rush United Methodist Church to bless graduates on their journey of higher education. The recipient of the scholarship for 2024 will be acknowledged during worship on Sunday, June 23.

The scholarship of \$1,000 is given to a graduating High School senior who is an active member at Rush United Methodist Church.

The selection of scholarship recipient is based entirely on the candidate's written application. The Scholarship application is available on the church website, www.rushumc.com under “Links” or on Eagle Island. The deadline to submit a completed application via email is Tuesday, June 11, 2024.



High School and College Graduate Recognition

High School and College graduates will be recognized on Sunday, June 23. If your student is graduating from high school or college, please fill out a Graduate Profile Form that is on the church website under “Links”. The completed form can be either emailed to barbara.kingsley@rushumc.org or dropped off at the church office. This information will be included in the July newsletter.



Calling All Golfers!

PromiseLand's Chipping for Children golf tournament will be held on July 21 this year. Flyers for registration are in the lobby or you can see Kellianne. We also need sponsors and donations for raffle prizes. The golf tournament is one of PromiseLand's major fundraisers. The proceeds will go toward program improvements including our toddler playground expansion. Thank you for your support.



Kellianne Williams
PromiseLand Child Care Director
6200 Rush-Lima Rd
Rush, NY 14543
(585) 533-2475

Vacation Bible School

Our Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 26 and 27, 9-3pm! I am looking for people to help out with gathering donations, publicity, volunteering to help during the event, providing lunch and more! Please contact me for ways to support our VBS ministry. You can register to volunteer electronically now at VBSPro Registration. Sign up for kids to attend VBS will open on April 27. You can also register at the VBS Link on the church webpage and there will be paper registration sheets in the lobby by May 5.

This year I am excited to once again open VBS up to preschool aged kids. This group will rotate to the different stations separately from the other groups and have modified activities at their age level. They will all still participate in our opening and closing activities with the other groups.

Be sure to help spread the word and let me know if you have any questions.

Alethea Coulter
Children's Ministry Director/VBS Director



Be a VBS Volunteer!

Nature is Calling!

Our Rush Church building is surrounded by beautiful green and growing things – and they all need tending. This means that we have lots of opportunities to enjoy nature, while helping keep our church grounds neat and healthy. We have flower gardens and vegetable gardens, both large and small. Some are already planted and just need regular upkeep; some need new plantings. Some of them have become completely overgrown – and need love! Whatever your ability or experience level, we need you!

If you would like to adopt a garden area, either alone or with a team, or just want more information about the Rush Church landscape projects, please contact Cindy Gray at cgtgray1039@gmail.com.



Lawn Mowing and Maintenance Volunteers

IT'S LAWN MOWIN' SEASON AGAIN!!! We have a small but dedicated group of volunteers and a variety of mowers to choose from. Are you interested in mowing or helping with maintenance? We can use the help. You would be surprised how relaxing an hour on the zero-turn is. Just don't get stuck in the mud.

HOW IT WORKS: The lawn is broken up into sections. We typically have preferred sections but cover for each other as necessary. It ends up being weekly-ish if you are a full-time mower. We coordinate scheduling by text. We have preferred days and times, but weather can throw us off. We do our best to cover for each other and get around the weather.

MOWERS: We have 3 mowers based on your comfort level - Ex Mark commercial zero-turn for the big stuff, push mower for the little stuff, garden tractor (tires a flat but this won't stop us) for the medium stuff. Where do you fit in?



TEMPS: Can't mow all the time? Can you fill in in a pinch? July is always difficult. Can we keep you on a temp list?

MAINTENANCE: Perhaps you can help with oil/filter changes or blade changing/sharpening. Keeping track of hours on the zero-turn would be valuable. We have 5 or so 5-gallon gas cans that need to be kept filled. (Best if you have a trailer to move these all at once.)

WEEDWHACKERS: We haven't always kept on top of this. Perhaps this is your calling. The church has a weedwhacker or use your own. CHAIN SAWS: Do you have one? Can we put you on a list? Our trails along the creek can be very messy and can always use some attention.

TRAINING: Would you like to try the zero turn? I am always available by email, phone, or text.

Geoffrey Furman 585.410.1363 or furman@rochester.rr.com

PAUMCS Annual Conference

I attended the 41st Annual Conference of the Professional Administrators of The United Methodist Connectional Structure (PAUMCS) that was held at the DoubleTree Hotel Downtown Memphis, TN on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 4, 5 and 6. The Tennessee Western Kentucky Chapter of PAUMCS served as the conference host.

Those attending the conference worshipped, learned, and networked with other church professionals from across the denomination.

The theme of the conference was "Bind Us Together" We were invited to learn and experience how spiritual rights and civil rights are bound together. Our eyes were opened as we went back in history and learned more about the tumultuous and inspiring period of change. Through many movements today, and our steadfast prayers, we passionately believe that human rights and social justice will one day be bound together.

Our first speaker was Dr. Ashley Boggan. She is the General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History. In this role, she ensures that the UMC understands its past in order to envision a more equitable future for all Methodists. Dr. Boggan spoke on John Wesley's theology and the beginnings of Methodism. Our second speaker was Todd Cox, a higher education professional and a Gallup-Certified CliftonStrengths® Coach. I completed the CliftonStrengths® assessment prior to attending the conference. My five top strengths are: Consistency, Responsibility, Relator, Learner, and Harmony. During the conference, we learned how to use these natural strengths to better accomplish our various tasks and work relationships. Our third speaker was Clara Ester, a deaconess of the UMC. Clara spoke on the Civil Rights struggle in Memphis, TN, and the south. She was with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 when he was



assassinated. In the afternoon we went on an In-Person Guided Tour at the Civil Rights Museum. Our last speaker was Dr. Cynthia A. Bond Hopson. Her talk was on being positive, living life to the fullest, believing in God, yourself, others and to always expect great things from others.

We also worshipped, celebrated Holy Communion, ate meals together and had time for reconnecting with former friends and making new ones. These were all an important part of the conference.



The mission focus was United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, Memphis, "Soul Force Initiative", which calls for cooperation among all religious bodies, non-profit agencies, local community groups and law enforcement.

PAUMCS is excited to announce the 2025 Annual Conference will be held at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, Louisiana, April 3, 4, and 5, 2025

Established in 1982, the PAUMCS organization fosters individual growth, professional development, and spiritual enrichment for its members around the world. To learn more about the organization and certification as a church professional, visit www.PAUMCS.org.

I have learned and grown in confidence and leadership skills during the 29 years I have been involved with PAUMCS and with your encouragement and God's help will continue to do so.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference each year. I praise God for all of you.

Barb Kingsley



PAUMCS

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST
CONNECTIONAL STRUCTURE

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party for the Church and Community



Easter Sunday Memorial Plants



Lawn Clean up—



Before

After



April Second Sunday Brunch



April Winter Fellowship Community Supper



Pastor Todd and Benjamin



Mission and Outreach News

“Most of our brothers and sisters in Christ in the developing world live in grinding poverty. And in the midst of this stands the Church Of Jesus Christ in America, with resources, knowledge, and tools unequaled in the history of Christendom.”



The Hole in the Gospel by Richard Stearns

RUMC has many opportunities to respond to Jesus' instruction for us to act for “the least of these brothers and sisters of mine.” Here are a few.

1. The hungry: See Diane Van Lare if you would like to address the hungry of Rush-Henrietta. Dan and Kathy Kingsley coordinate Turkey Dinner. Donated food goes to RHAFT.
2. The thirsty: Gary Prok works with Water for South Sudan.
3. The stranger, the naked: Many hours are devoted to the Super Sale which recycles junk into treasures providing clothes, linens, furniture for refugees and people who cannot afford to shop at the mall or on Amazon. Cindy Raymond is the contact person for this ministry.
4. The sick: Pastor Todd or I can provide information on those from the congregation in need of visits, food, prayers. We also provide support for AIDS patients and orphans in South Africa by raising funds, visiting and taking supplies to Zululand Hospice and Musa weNkosi.
5. The prisoner: Richard Nereau work at the Industry School with incarcerated youth.



Stearns writes that if we make \$25,000 a year we are in the 90th percent of richest people in the world of which 93 percent do not own a vehicle.

I am so grateful for our connection with the missions in South Africa. I wish every Christian church in the US had a personal relationship with our brothers and sisters in the developing world. May we do our part in repairing “the hole in the Gospel.”

“Let’s not get tired of doing good, because in time we’ll have a harvest if we don’t give up. So then, let’s work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity, and especially for those in the household of faith.” Galatians 6:9, 10

Erma Mae Perkins,
Lay Leader, Missions and Outreach
ermaperkins@me.com

Baptisms of Francesca Marie and Michael Robin Aquino

On Sunday, March 31, we celebrated the Baptisms of Francesca Marie and Michael Robin Aquino. They are the children of Mario Aquino and Ciara Candello. Francesca was born on October 16, 2019 and Michael was born on January 24, 2023. Francesca’s sponsors are Heather Principino and Zac Candello. Michael’s sponsosns are Emily Binnert and Nick



Binnert. Please welcome Francesca and Michael and their family into this family of Christ called the Rush United Methodist Church.



Reception into Membership

On Sunday, March 31, we received Paula L. Frank into full membership of Rush United Methodist Church



by Profession of Faith. Please welcome Paula into this family of Christ called the Rush United Methodist Church.

Prayer Concerns

Bob Faugh, at Wesley Gardens for rehabilitation
 Pastor Todd, recovering from knee replacement surgery
 Raymer Ottman, surgery at Roswell Park Cancer Center on Monday, April 22
 Ray Smith, is recovering from a stroke and emergency surgery, Strong Memorial Hospital
 The United Methodist Church and General Conference
 Those recently diagnosed with Covid
 Allison, health and strength
 Rush UMC as we enter into a period of transition with Pastor Todd retiring June 30
 Rev Kyle Rohrig as he prepares to move the Rush
 Those in our congregation who are suffering with loss, illness, or deteriorating health
 Aggressive diplomacy that will lead to peace and justice for Palestinians and Israelis
 Israel and the conflicts around the world
 The Jewish people
 Difficult marriages
 PromiseLand Childcare
 School Districts, Parents and Students
 Families and friends of those affected by continued gun violence and mass shootings
 Friends and members to return to in person worship at Rush UMC
 Those struggling with addiction and alcoholism
 Peace to come to our troubled land
 Government Leaders
 For justice and health care to be deployed equally and evenly among all people
 End to racism and inequality
 Musa weNkosi Orphanage and Zululand Hospice
 Our Bishop and Clergy and Lay leaders
 Hospice Houses near and far
 RHAFT and FISH
 A Meal & More Soup Kitchen and homeless served by them
 Staff and Young Men at State School at Industry
 Small Businesses
 Hospital and Nursing Home Staff – stay healthy and strong to tend to the needs of patients and residents
 Help us all to remember that in these times as always Jesus is with us, we're not alone
 Prayers for our youth to find themselves and God in the process
 Families affected by Alzheimer's, cancer and other terminal illnesses
 Parents of New Drivers
 Those looking for employment
 Employers looking for people to hire
 Super Sale now and future
 Our homebound and ill
 Elderly parents, youth, teens, young adults, those suffering from chronic pain, mental health problems depression and addiction
 Our children, youth and church family
 For all marriages and families
 Violence in places of Worship
 Campus Ministries
 All Volunteers who go on Missions
 UMCOR
 Refugee resettlement project and resettlement families
 Injustice in the USA
 City of Rochester

RCSD and Board
 International Students
 Members in Military
 Those who are incarcerated
 People with disabilities, anxiety disorders, and depression
 For people to get along and not be so divided in America!!
 Colleges around the country

Ruth Baldoni
 Mary Anne Brice
 Ernie Harrington
 Jim Hughes
 Kevin Kinnally
 Hubert Koloseike
 Dave Smith

Jean and Walt Banker
 Mary Callerame
 Louise Harris
 Lynne Jacobs
 Bessie Luft
 Gisela Rice
 Betty Stover

Members of our armed forces and reserves, especially those associated with our church family:

Phillip Banker
 Ben Frederick
 Steven Kurvach
 Isaiah Montana
 James Rice
 Bryan Simpson
 Matthew Simpson
 Marcus Sydow

Jason Bello
 Michael Kurvach
 Jason McKnight

Please help the church staff keep the prayer list current by informing us of any changes.



Birthday Celebration

Jean Banker will be celebrating her 99th birthday on May 31, 2024. Cards would be welcomed and appreciated. Her address is: 1445 Rush Henrietta Townline Rd., Rush, NY 14543.



Bereavement

Louise Miller and family, death of her brother-in-law, John Miller on Monday, April 1



Praises

Baptism on March 31 of Francesca and Michael Aquino
 Don Barrett is now home recovering from his fall and surgery
 Paula L. Frank received into Membership
 Noah Hunt recently turned 13
 May Birthdays and Anniversaries



Rush United Methodist Church

Analysis of Revenues & Expenses Summary Actual

March 2024

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD (This Year)	Budget TD (This Year)
Revenues			
Other Income/ Parsonage	\$1,338.28	\$7,749.78	\$2,574.99
Offerings	\$12,768.11	\$55,138.00	\$48,781.00
P/L & HCS Reimbursement	\$1,511.66	\$4,534.98	\$4,437.48
Total Revenues	\$15,617.94	\$67,422.76	\$55,793.47
Expenses			
Board of Trustees	\$3,093.19	\$23,274.96	\$11,875.02
Education	\$0.00	\$84.00	\$349.99
Insurance	\$3,470.41	\$4,509.14	\$3,355.17
(1) Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Expenses	\$732.83	\$2,224.97	\$2,232.13
Clergy Salaries	\$4,983.24	\$14,949.72	\$14,949.69
Lay Salaries	\$6,991.76	\$20,705.00	\$19,960.71
Clergy Benefits	\$4,153.63	\$13,091.93	\$13,347.03
Ministry Team	\$247.04	\$942.79	\$937.48
Other Program Expenses	\$195.83	\$366.03	\$215.99
Utilities	\$3,508.13	\$9,738.87	\$6,165.01
PromiseLand	\$52.92	(\$4,947.08)	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$27,428.98	\$84,940.33	\$73,388.22
Net Total	(\$11,811.04)	(\$17,517.57)	(\$17,594.75)

1. Shared Ministries: \$0.00 paid to end of April

Capital Reserve Fund

Balance as of April 25, 2024:
\$58,228.89

Building Contingency Fund

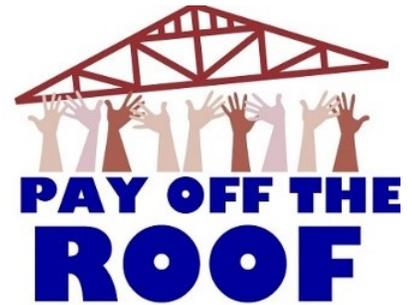
Balance as of April 25, 2024:
\$5,082.46



FINANCE REPORT

Roof Replacement Loan Repayment

	Date Paid	Amount Paid	Balance
Opening Balance			\$31,892.10
Interest at 3.25%			\$1,036.49
Loan plus Interest			\$32,928.59
Payment #37	01/20/2024	\$250.00	\$32,678.59
Payment #38	02/15/2024	\$250.00	\$32,428.59
Payment #39	03/13/2024	\$250.00	\$32,177.59
Payment #40	04/15/2024	\$250.00	\$31,928.59
Payment #41			
Payment #42			
Payment #43			
Payment #44			
Payment #45			
Payment #46			
Payment #47			
Payment #48			
Year End Payment from additional donations			
	Total Paid	\$1,000.00	



Capital Stewardship Campaign Update

As of Wednesday, April 24, we have received \$269,200.00 or 53.84% in pledges towards our \$500,000.00 goal. Of the amount pledged, we have received \$145,569.21 of which \$22,716.23 has been spent on fabric to reupholster the sanctuary chairs, for the materials and installation of the carpet and baseboard in the lobby, sitting area and halls and for repairs to gutters. Five thousand six hundred twenty (\$5,620.00), not pledged, of this total has been designated for an electronic sign. Pledges continue to be accepted. Even if you haven't made a pledge, donations to the Capital Stewardship Campaign are gratefully accepted.



Now that tax season is over:

- *Did you wish that you had lower taxable income?
- *Were you unable to itemize your deductions?
- *Are you 70^{1/2} or older?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA may be the answer! A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a transfer of funds directly from your IRA custodian, made payable to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity. These distributions can also count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMDs) for the year. Not only are you blessing the charity with the gift, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Lowering your taxable income may reduce the impact of certain tax credits and deductions like Social Security and Medicare.

Things to consider:

You must be 70^{1/2} or older to be eligible to make a QCD.

For a QCD to count towards your current year's RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.

You do not have to itemize in order to take a QCD. The amount of the QCD is not taxed, however you cannot then claim this distribution as a charitable deduction.

You must receive the same type of acknowledgement of the donation as you would need if you were to itemize.

Remember, any funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, and which you then give to charity do not qualify as a QCD.

If you have questions, talk to a member of the Finance Ministry Team. Please talk to a tax advisor or your custodian for help making a specific determination of whether both your IRA and charity qualify for QCDs.



Grace Choir Presents:

Let's Just Praise the Lord! The Songs of Bill and Gloria Gaither

to be presented on

Friday, June 7, 2024 at 7:30PM
Park Ridge Free Methodist Church (Greece)
&

Friday, June 14, 2024 at 7:30PM
East Bloomfield United Methodist Church

Both concerts are free and open to the public. GRACE Choir is community Christian choir with members from 18 different local churches. To keep informed of upcoming concerts and rehearsals, please follow Grace Choir on Facebook.



Safe Sanctuary

Thank you to everyone who took the time to come to our training on April 13. We had 8 individuals go through the training either for the first time or repeat. I appreciate everyone's commitment to safeguarding our children, youth, and vulnerable adults by completing this important training.

As of this year, the district is requiring anyone who has previously taken the training to re-do it periodically. From the chairperson, "the training will no longer be a one and done, but instead we will be asking people to retake the training at least every 5 years. The reason for this change is because we feel that this is too important of a topic, and we hear too much about abuse in the churches. So we want to make sure this training is always in the forefront of the minds of our churches."

The district will be hosting a Zoom training on May 4, August 3, and November 2. Cindy Gray and I will be planning an in-person training for early Fall. More information will be coming, but if you are interested in any of these trainings, please contact me. I can get you the appropriate information to sign up.

Thank you,

Alethea Coulter
Children's Ministry Director



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The mission of the Rush United Methodist Church is "to live and share the love of Jesus."

Our vision is "to be more like Jesus."

Our missional priorities are "excellence in worship; ministries for children, youth, adults and families; and mission and outreach"

OUR MISSION, VISION and



PRIORITY STATEMENTS

