

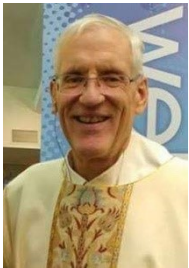


# His Faithful Followers

A publication of Rush United Methodist Church

February 2024

## A Note from Pastor Todd



It is official. I will be retiring from active pastoral ministry, effective June 30, 2024. In my petition to the Bishop I wrote, "My thirty-eight years of appointed, ordained ministry have been a blessing, filled with grace and beloved colleagues, parishioners, and friends. I recognize the enormous privilege and amazing grace that has been extended to me. Thank you."

What this means for Rush UMC. You will be appointed a new pastoral leader, effective July 1, 2024. The Bishop will work through our District Superintendent, Suzanne Block. She will meet with our Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Leadership Team to discuss our options.

A few observations, from this lame duck.

1) Rush UMC is a community of faith filled with generous, loving, disciples of Jesus Christ, whose potential is yet to be fully realized. God has already given the people of Rush everything sufficient to thrive and grow in the next era of the church. Major capital replacement projects are winding down. Now is the opportunity to invest in the people and programs that will propel this church forward. We are blessed with good people and wonderful families. Don't underestimate yourselves!

2) Give yourselves credit. You endured the pandemic of 2020-2023. Many communities of faith did not. There are a lot of churches that are struggling. While it looks and feels different, worship attendance and participation are about the same as they were before the pandemic. We just have one half of the congregation gathering online each Sunday. New opportunities and challenges are ours for the claiming if we want to nurture and grow every aspect of our worshipping community. You are up for the challenge!

3) Our leadership team is strong, yet our bench is thin. The minimum criteria for serving as a church leader is found in our membership pledge: Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church and support its ministries with your prayers, presence, gifts, and service?

Our Town Hall meetings have clearly affirmed that we are United Methodist and the Rush church intends to stay that way. Regardless of where General Conference or the denomination goes, we will follow because we have come to believe that our leaders are faithful disciples of Jesus Christ led by the Holy Spirit. We follow United Methodist doctrine and polity (as found in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church) because we believe the General Conference delegates are selfless servants fulfilling God's will. We stand proud of our United

Methodist Church and the rich history of discipleship that it has availed, beginning with John Wesley, continuing to this day. Own it, beloved Rush, and be thankful.

Effective church leaders support the ministry of the church. Divisiveness distracts and destroys. It is okay to disagree behind closed doors, but when a decision is made, it is done with a united commitment and common mission. Discernment is required for the nomination and election of effective church leaders. Asking for volunteers to fill positions is a recipe for disaster. Don't settle for minimum standards or the least common denominator. Expect great things from church leaders and you won't be disappointed.

Effective church leaders pray for the health and well-being of the church, for the church to be Spirit led, for our

worship to be vibrant and creative. We pray for our neighbor in need, then follow up with our support. We pray for those of a troubled, angry heart, and seek their divine transformation. We pray for the sick and dying, for the visitor and guest, for the immigrant and their family, for our students and our shut-ins. We pray for justice, then take up the cause. Those who fail to pray and fail to care should not be considered for leadership positions.

Effective church leaders show up. Attendance and

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## FROM THE PASTOR

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participation in worship matters. It keeps one spiritually healthy and serves as a role model for other individuals and families. Workdays? Leaders show up with coffee and donuts, cleaning supplies, weed whackers, and a tool belt. Lunches, dinners, receptions? Leaders take charge, organize, and implement successful efforts. Fund raisers? Bake! Golf! Leaders pour coffee and sweep up and mop up after everything is done. Leaders fill out and return surveys and pledge cards before anyone else.

Effective church leaders give, and give generously, until it hurts. Yes, I'm talking about giving time and talent. I'm talking about money, too. We are the church; we are in it together! Each gives according to what and how much God has given you. The 10% tithe is a starting goal. You can do it. I know you can because my family and I tithe. Giving should involve sacrifice, giving until you feel the pinch, giving until you know that you must give up something in return. Then, and only then, has giving to God become a priority in your life. Effective church leaders don't cut, they contribute to the success of our parish.

Effective church leaders do not govern, they are first and foremost servants of all. They make it a priority to serve Jesus Christ and his Church, to serve the members of our parish, to serve the people in the community in which we reside, to serve our neighbors beyond the horizon. Service implies a commitment to transparency, accountability, and good stewardship of our resources. Service above self is the value and standard that all church leaders should be held accountable to.

4) For the second time in five years, I believe the members of the Rush UMC need to invest in a full-court press finance campaign. The 2024 budget, passed by your Leadership Team, can be found on the church website, under the resources tab, click on documents, scroll down and click on "Proposed Budget 2024".

Giving remains strong, though has started to fade. Pandemic relief money has ended, and we are carrying forward from 2023 only a small reserve that isn't going to last long. Expenses rise at the rate of the Cost of Living. The number of individuals or families ("Giving Units" in stewardship speak) has declined and needs to be increased to stem the flow and keep the church strong. Our choice: give more, or get more people to give, or, both of the above?

Non-designated, pledged giving is best. It reflects trust and confidence in church leadership to use the funds wisely, according to our General Operating Procedures for Finance (found on our website, on the Resources tab, under policies). Designated gifts are best only when they support the mission and vision of the congregation. If they don't, they should be returned (with encouragement to redirect the proposed gift to better support the church).

5) You have the A-Team for staff. Barb, Kellianne, Alethea, and Spencer are simply the best church staff possible. They tirelessly work for your benefit. Each is held to the highest standards, and each performs above expectations. Each is a blessing to you and serves as an effective resource for the parish. Did I say the staff are great?!!!

Now, for some encouragement.

Pray for our District Superintendent, Suzanne Block, and Bishop, Hector Burgos. They are filled with the Holy Spirit and will lead the Rush UMC through this period of transition. Suzanne and I have met, and we have discussed the transition thoroughly. Both the Bishop and Superintendent have your best interest at heart. Work with them, and God will work through them and others for our direction, strength, and vitality.

Pray also for your forthcoming pastor, and their family, whomever they may be. They will need your support, prayers, and acts of kindness. Roll out the red carpet! Show them what Rush can do! Be enthusiastic because enthusiasm is contagious. Listen and watch for the Spirit to speak and act through their observations, thoughts, and leadership. You will be a great team, just as you have been a great team for me.

I'll be around after July 1<sup>st</sup>, but I will no longer serve as your pastor. I'll continue to nurture friendships but will defer pastoral requests to your new shepherd leader. We will continue to reside in the area (40 Belltower Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534), so I'm confident we will say hi at Wegmans or Walgreens. After a year, or so, I may pop in for a visit now and then, but I will always defer to your new pastor. I thank God that our ministry paths joined together for a time, and that we are both better for it.

God loves you, and I will always love you, too.

With pastoral love,

*Todd R. Goddard*

The Rev. Todd R. Goddard, Pastor



## Safe Sanctuary

The Upper New York Annual Conference adopted a resolution and created a Safe Sanctuaries® policy to reduce the risk of abuse and exploitation of children, youth and vulnerable adults. "The Minimum Standards are mandatory and apply to all local churches/charges, district and annual conference ministries, and those who serve within". The Safe Sanctuaries policy of the Rush Church is the Minimum Standards and is listed on the website under Resources. It is imperative that we have enough people willing and trained in these standards so that we can effectively run any ministry in the church that involves children, youth and vulnerable adults. The next district training via Zoom is on February 3, 9-12:30pm. This is the link for the registration: <https://uny-ss-basic-feb3.eventbrite.com/>. Please let me know if you are planning on attending the Zoom training. I am also looking to do in-person training at the church in March or April of this year. If you would be interested in participating in that, please contact me so I can add you to my list.

Thank you for considering and supporting the vital ministries of our church.



Alethea Coulter  
[alethea.coulter@rushumc.org](mailto:alethea.coulter@rushumc.org)



## Adult Learning Opportunity: Disciple "Fast Track"

Disciple Bible Study was first introduced in 1987, and millions of people world-wide have participated in the study. However, the concern was that the length of the original course was prohibitive to many people. Disciple Fast Track was written to provide a thorough introduction to the Bible, but in almost a third less time.

We are offering the opportunity to be part of this study, beginning Tuesday, February 20, if there is enough interest. Options are either Tuesdays at 10:15am, or Tuesdays at 7:00pm. Meetings would be at the church, and last approximately 75 minutes for each session. The Old Testament study will be first, and will last 12 weeks. A New Testament Disciple study would then begin in the fall. Please note that this is a commitment of time: besides the 75 minutes each week, there is about 3 – 4 hours a week of independent study and preparation.

Please join us for an information meeting about this learning opportunity, on Sunday, Feb. 4, following the 9:30am service. Or contact Cindy Gray at [cgtgray1039@gmail.com](mailto:cgtgray1039@gmail.com).



## Ladies' Lunch Bunch

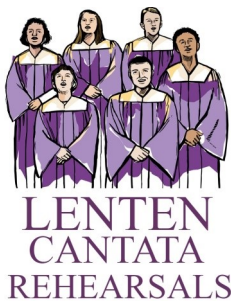
The Ladies' Lunch Bunch is a time of fellowship for women who are single, widowed, divorced, or separated. They meet the first Monday of each month, at 12:30pm, in the church Fellowship Hall. This month's luncheon is scheduled for Monday, February 5.

If you would like to join Pastor Todd for lunch this month, please let Barb Kingsley, or Cindy Gray know. If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please contact Cindy Gray at [cgtgray1039@gmail.com](mailto:cgtgray1039@gmail.com), or call her at 585-362-6206.



## Choir Update

It feels like we just finished the Christmas Cantata but it's time to look ahead to our Lenten Cantata! The Lenten Cantata will be held on Sunday, March 24. We will start rehearsals for the Cantata on Wednesday, February 7. Our dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, March 23 at 9:00am. If you've been thinking about joining the choir, now is a great time to join and sing a joyful song unto the Lord! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Kellianne Williams (choir director) at [klkw1212@gmail.com](mailto:klkw1212@gmail.com) or (585) 507-1996.



## Board of Trustees Update

The members of the Board of Trustees are busy working on a large variety of projects that encompass the whole of the church building. From leaky faucets to electronic signs, we are researching, planning, and fixing things. The new boiler is working hard, and new HVAC units will be in place before the heat of summer. The lobby carpet looks great, and reupholstering the sanctuary chairs is one of the next big projects. If you would like to help with this, please contact Cindy Gray or Cindy Raymond.

The trustees meet monthly, on the first Monday, at 7:00pm at the church. If you are interested in learning more about what we are doing, please contact Cindy Gray at [cgtgray1039@gmail.com](mailto:cgtgray1039@gmail.com). Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5.



## Second Sunday Brunch - Mardi Gras Event!

Mark your calendars, and plan to join us in the church Fellowship Hall for a Mardi Gras celebration! Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday" and reflects the practice of eating rich, fatty foods before the beginning of Lent. It is traditionally known as Pancake Day. We are going to celebrate Mardi Gras this year at our Second Sunday Brunch, on Feb. 11, which is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent – and we are going to do it by eating pancakes and playing games! Our Mardi Gras event will begin immediately following the 9:30am church service and everyone is welcome. The menu is pancakes (plain, chocolate chip, and blueberry), breakfast sausage, fruit, beverages, and dessert, (with a strawberries and whipped cream topping option to celebrate Valentine's Day). Just bring your appetites and *Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler* (let the good times roll)!



## "Souper" Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 11, we will be collecting cans of Soup for "Souper" Bowl Sunday. Large soup kettles will be in the lobby near the kiosk to put can (s) in. Of course, other nonperishable food items, especially protein, are welcome as well. Financial donations can be made payable to Rush UMC and mailed or dropped off at the church. This is an annual food drive sponsored by our youth.

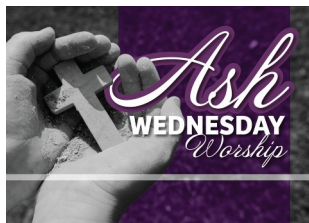


## Ash Wednesday

All are welcome to attend and participate in Ash Wednesday worship on Wednesday, February 14, signifying the beginning of Lent. It is a season to spiritually prepare ourselves for the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

We will begin at 6:30PM outside the church kitchen door. We will burn last year's dried palm branches, reducing them to ashes for use during worship.

Our service will begin at 7:00PM in the church sanctuary. Ashes will be imposed on the forehead of the willing, with the words "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" and Communion will be served.



## Community Memorial Service

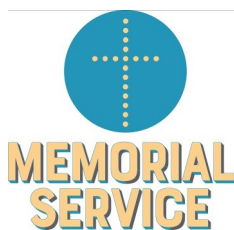
Going into our 12<sup>th</sup> Year Accompanying Our Neighbors Who Have Died Without Family or Resources

Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 2:00 pm  
Peace of Christ at St. Ambrose Church  
25 Empire Boulevard  
Rochester, NY 14609  
Corner of Empire, Culver and Clifford

*All are welcome.*

Sponsored by GRCC—FaithinActionNetwork  
For more information:  
(585)254-2570  
grcc1@frontiernet.net

GRCC—Faith in Action Network has organized a number of pastoral leaders to preside and attendees to be present for burial services for people who have died without family or resources. We will be celebrating this Annual Memorial Service for people we have accompanied this past year and celebrating all involved in this tender service. Please share this invitation widely.



## Winter Wednesday Community Family Supper

Mark your calendars, and plan to join us in the church Fellowship Hall for a Fiesta Supper on Wednesday, February 28, from 5:30 – 7:00pm. We're serving "Make your own Tacos" and Cheese Quesadillas, with a side of fruits and veggies. Beverages and tableware are provided – just bring your appetite. This is a great way to connect with PromiseLand families and members of the church. Bring your family and your friends; come for a laid-back evening of fellowship and fun. Board games and activities will be available!



## Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendars Now!

The Nurture Ministry team meets monthly to find ways to strengthen and encourage the Rush Church congregation as well as our surrounding communities. We all recognize the fact that food, fellowship, and fun are great ways to bring people together.

St. Patrick's Day Putt Putt Event: On Saturday, March 16, from 2:00 – 4:00pm, Rush Church will host a putt-putt golf event with an extra dimension. Participants are encouraged to wear green, the crazier and more fun the better, with prizes given for several different categories. *We are in need of several more putt-putt holes. If you are a creative builder, and would like to participate, please contact Cindy Gray at [cgtgray1039@gmail.com](mailto:cgtgray1039@gmail.com).* More information will be provided in the March newsletter, but for now make sure you plan to be here and start planning your best leprechaun-type costumes!



Solar Eclipse Bash: On Monday, April 8, the Rochester area will be in position for some of the best viewing of this incredible event. Rush Church is going to host a party, open to the community, to be part of this opportunity. Schools are closed that day, so this will be a family-oriented event, with food and games, as well as the chance to learn more about what is happening. The Nurture committee is still working on the planning for the event, and if you would like to be involved, please contact Cindy Gray or Michelle Prok. Check next month's newsletter for more information.



## Chili Cook-off and Second Sunday Brunch

Save the date and get your best Chili recipe ready for our Second Sunday Brunch and Chili Cook off on Sunday, March 10. Bring your best chili and compete to be the Chili Champion. Get your crock pot, Dutch oven, or whatever you have to cook it in ready! They'll be plenty of power outlets available. If you don't have a chili recipe or are not a fan of chili, come anyway, there will be other food items available. Please bring a large batch of your chili so all who attend have a chance to sample each one.

This is a time for fellowship and a meal. Meet families you haven't met before and get to know other families better. Enjoy a meal without having to fix it yourself! The suggested minimum donation is \$2, as all of the proceeds will go to Youth activities. See you March 10.





# Rush United Methodist Church

## Analysis of Revenues & Expenses Summary Actual

### December 2023

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	Budget TD (This Year)
<b>Revenues</b>			
Other Income/ Parsonage	\$10,402.88	\$35,078.86	\$19,227.50
Offerings	\$22,539.67	\$206,792.81	\$210,750.00
P/L & HCS Reimbursement	\$1,632.12	\$18,097.86	\$17,867.46
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$34,574.67</b>	<b>\$255,969.53</b>	<b>\$260,442.46</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Board of Trustees	\$2,068.37	\$38,002.38	\$39,670.00
Education	\$135.52	\$789.29	\$1,250.00
Insurance	\$2,431.75	\$12,161.75	\$10,350.00
(1) Mission	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$500.00
Office Expenses	\$1,262.73	\$11,995.85	\$11,900.00
Clergy Salaries	\$4,838.06	\$62,894.78	\$62,895.00
Lay Salaries	\$6,272.99	\$72,982.44	\$75,090.00
Clergy Benefits	\$3,933.69	\$51,310.87	\$50,085.00
Ministry Team	\$175.00	\$4,414.66	\$4,950.00
Other Program Expenses	\$260.87	\$1,715.31	\$6,150.00
Utilities	\$2,367.09	\$21,810.84	\$24,660.00
PromiseLand	\$1.00	0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$25,247.07</b>	<b>\$279,578.17</b>	<b>\$287,500.00</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$9,327.60</b>	<b>(\$19,608.64)</b>	<b>(\$27,057.54)</b>

1. Shared Ministries: \$1,500.00 paid to end of December

### Capital Reserve Fund

Balance as of December 28, 2023:  
\$66,536.90

### Building Contingency Fund

Balance as of December 28, 2023:  
\$5,081.48



**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			
Payment #39			
Payment #40			
Payment #41			
Payment #42			
Payment #43			
Payment #44			
Payment #45			
Payment #46			
Payment #47			
Payment #48			
Year End Payment from additional donations			
	<b>Total Paid</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	



## Capital Stewardship Campaign Update

As of Wednesday, January 23, we have received \$269,200.00 or 53.84% in pledges towards our \$500,000.00 goal. Of the amount pledged, we have received \$132,773.49 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 (\$5,000.00), 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.



**Remember Your Pledge**

# *Prayer Concerns*

Mary Anne Brice, moved to St. Ann's Home  
 Michele Cuatt's, in-law cousin, Marza's, son diagnosed with prostate cancer; sister's husband, Jim, starting treatment soon for prostate cancer  
 Pastor Todd, quick, uneventful recovery from hand/wrist surgery  
 Jim Miller, struggling with a painful back problem.  
 Erma Perkins good friend, Gail Hubbard, entered Hospice, prayers for peace and comfort for her and her family and friends  
 Kathy Kingsley Pittenger's father-in-law, Dick Pittenger, health concerns  
 Leyan Walthour, recovery from back surgery  
 Rush UMC as we enter into a period of transition with Pastor Todd retiring June 30  
 UNY Conference Bishop and DS's as they begin to make Pastoral appointments for the coming year.  
 Those recently diagnosed with Covid, RSV and the flu  
 Those in our congregation who are suffering with loss, illness, or deteriorating health  
 Navy Seals – 3 men missing  
 The United Methodist Church  
 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  
 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  
 People of Ukraine  
 PromiseLand Childcare  
 School Districts, Parents and Students  
 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  
 For those who suffer in silence, please be with them and bless them with strength  
 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  
 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  
 Campus Ministries

All Volunteers who go on Missions  
 UMCOR  
 Refugee resettlement project and resettlement families  
 Haiti and Government leaders; root out corruption, bring about justice, lessen poverty  
 Peace, stability in Venezuela; Syria, South Sudan, Middle East  
 Victims of terrorism and survivors of world violence  
 Injustice in the USA  
 City of Rochester  
 RCSD and Board of Education  
 International Students  
 Members in Military, especially those in Kuwait  
 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

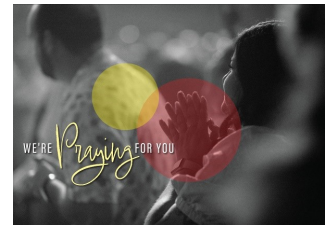
Those among our family who are homebound or in senior living facilities:

Ruth Baldoni	Jean and Walt Banker
Mary Anne Brice	Mary Callerame
Trudy Corio	Craig Crowell
Ernie Harrington	Louise Harris
Jim Hughes	Lynne Jacobs
Kevin Kinnally	Bessie Luft
Hubert Koloseike	Gisela Rice
Dave Smith	Betty Stover

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

Phillip Banker	Jason Bello
Ben Frederick	Michael Kurvach
Steven Kurvach	Jason McKnight
Isaiah Montana	James Rice
Bryan Simpson	
Matthew Simpson	
Marcus Sydow	

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



## *Bereavement*

Michele Cuatt's dad, recent death of two close friends  
 Anita Steans neighbor and best friend in Texas, Dale Gandy, loss of her husband, Ila  
 Stuart Walthour and family, death of his Aunt Jeanne



## *Praises*

Gianna Cuatt's 7th birthday was Monday, January 15;  
 Bella Cuatt's 5th birthday, was Wednesday, January 17  
 February Birthdays and Anniversaries



## Mission and Outreach News

**“God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him.” 1 John 4:9b**

No one has seen God, but many have seen you and me. Can anyone say, “I know what God is like because I know Erma - or you?”

God is love. Our ability to love is not due to ourselves, it is because we can live through him, the source of love.



We may not feel loving toward everyone, but we can choose to act in loving ways. We will find our feelings change when “God remains in us, and love is made perfect in us.” I John 4:12.

But it is hard to love some of our brothers and sisters. Dr. Amy Oden in a Church of the Resurrection devotional suggests the following:

“One starting imagination practice is to picture yourself on your knees before God, however you image God, in a posture of surrender and openness. Allow God’s light and love to pour over you, permeating you with mercy and grace. Now picture an enemy kneeling next to you, also in a posture of surrender and openness before God, also receiving God’s light and love, mercy and grace. You do not have to love that enemy or even speak in this visualization. Just allow yourself to imagine both yourself and that person equally before God and receiving love.”

Dr. Martin L. King’s and Nelson Mandela’s writings and examples can teach of the possibility and the practice of loving even our enemies.

Jesus’ words to “turn the other cheek” when slapped is not practiced by most. However, the other’s actions do not need to dictate how I react. I can return good for evil rather than escalating the conflict.

And then there is Jesus, giving up his life on the cross and praying, “Forgive them.”

During this month of Valentine’s Day, may we choose love in whatever circumstance we find ourselves because “God is love and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them.” I John 4:16



Erma Perkins, Lay Leader Mission and Outreach

## Church Softball League Team

Are you interested in playing softball on a Church softball league? We are inquiring about the interest in starting a team with youth, 14 and up, and adults from Rush UMC and other local churches. If you would like to participate, please contact Don Marlowe at [trumper8d@aim.com](mailto:trumper8d@aim.com) or Barb Kingsley in the church office, [barbara.kingsley@rushumc.org](mailto:barbara.kingsley@rushumc.org).

Also, if you know of others from local churches who might be interested, please ask them to send their contact information to one of the above email addresses.



## Family Picture Wall

Our church directory is in need of updating (if you are interested in helping make this happen, please contact Barb Kingsley). In the meantime, we are looking for ways to help people get to know each other better, and we’re doing that by providing a “Family Picture Wall” on the bulletin board in the church Fellowship Hall. Some of our families have already provided pictures – but there’s lots of empty space!

We are encouraging EVERY family, whether your family is 10 people or 1, to submit a picture of your family group and bring it in to the church office or give it to Cindy Gray or Cindy Raymond. Our goal is to help both new and old church members learn each other’s names and to see those people we may not see often (or haven’t seen in a while). The pictures do not have to be formal, or professional. We welcome selfies and fun family pictures – as long as the people in them are identifiable! If you would like someone to take a snapshot of your family, contact Cindy Gray

([cgtgray1039@gmail.com](mailto:cgtgray1039@gmail.com) or 585-334-0110) and we can make that happen. If possible, we’d like to have the pictures up by the end of February. We look forward to seeing you on our church wall.



## What to Do In Bad Weather?

The weekday winter weather closing policy of Rush United Methodist Church is: if Rush Henrietta Schools have closed for the day or close during the day because of inclement weather, all activities at Rush UMC will be cancelled. A message will be on the church’s voice mail, website, Facebook page, and an email will go out on Rush Tidings.

Sunday services will be held unless Monroe County declares a state of emergency or Pastor Todd cannot get to the church. Again, the message will be on the church’s voice mail, website, Facebook page and an email will go out on Rush Tidings.

If in doubt and travel seems risky – stay home!



## Thank You

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift this year. It was much appreciated. Your kindness reflects God’s love and grace for which I am deeply grateful.

Blessings,

Todd





## *Christmas Eve Services*



## *January Second Sunday Brunch*





## Enjoy the Convenience and Greener Approach of Electronic Giving

**Rush United Methodist Church** wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly or monthly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

**Credit & Debit Card Giving** lets you make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

**Giving online** is fast, easy and secure. Never worry about bringing your checkbook or cash again – you can set up recurring payments, so your donations continue even when you forget. 1. Visit our website at [www.rushumc.com](http://www.rushumc.com). 2. Locate the Give Online button. 3. Donate! To learn more about giving online, visit our website or contact the church office. You can also change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Available on the website is also an opportunity to help cover the processing fees. This is made possible through VANCO Payment Services.

A less frequently discussed benefit of electronic giving is its positive impact on the environment. An enormous amount of natural resources are consumed in the production, transportation, processing and disposal of paper checks. That's why paying bills electronically always ranks high on any list of actions an individual can take to improve the environment. The trend toward electronic payments has already produced more than a 50% decline in check use since the year 2000.

As you consider the payment method you use to make your regular offering, we hope that you will think about the unique connection between financial stewardship and environmental stewardship, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.



## St. Pauly Textile, Inc Thank You

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We're excited to share with you the impact your clothing shed made over the last year...

- 42,547 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2023
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 7,838 people all over the world
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$1,702

Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers, and your communities do to support the clothing shed program!



Sincerely,

The Team at St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

### Leadership Ministry Team Contact Information

Kelly Barrett	<a href="mailto:kjbarrett92@gmail.com">kjbarrett92@gmail.com</a>
Geoffrey Furman	<a href="mailto:furman@rochester.rr.com">furman@rochester.rr.com</a>
Cindy Gray	<a href="mailto:cgtgray1039@gmail.com">cgtgray1039@gmail.com</a>
Dan Kingsley	<a href="mailto:deltakilo@gmail.com">deltakilo@gmail.com</a>
Michelle Prok	<a href="mailto:mibopbuckeye@gmail.com">mibopbuckeye@gmail.com</a>
Lisa Shingleton	<a href="mailto:homeforsale51@gmail.com">homeforsale51@gmail.com</a>
Steve Williams	<a href="mailto:williasc@gmail.com">williasc@gmail.com</a>



**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."

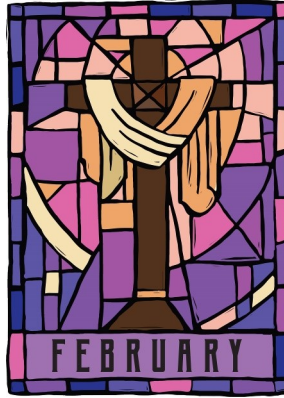
**Our missional priorities** are "excellence in worship; ministries for children, youth, adults and families; and mission and outreach"

OUR MISSION, VISION and



PRIORITY STATEMENTS

RUSH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 6200 RUSH LIMA ROAD  
 PO BOX 49  
 RUSH NY 14543-0049



### *Sunday Worship Schedule*

- 8:30AM — Adult Bible Study with Michelle Prok
- 8:30AM — Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30AM — Blended Worship Experience - In-Person and on YouTube and Facebook; Communion served the 2nd and 4th Sunday
- 10:45AM — Rush UMC Coffee Hour
- 10:45AM — “Chaos or Hope and Purpose” Study



**Sunday Schedule**

### *How to Reach Us*

- Church Telephone: 585-533-2170
- Church Fax: 585-533-1978
- Pastor Todd Telephone: 585-703-9235
- PromiseLand Telephone: 585-533-2475
- Web Site: [www.rushumc.com](http://www.rushumc.com)
- Email Address: [rushumc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rushumc@rochester.rr.com)
- Rush Tidings Address: [rushumcnews@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rushumcnews@rochester.rr.com)



- Ministers: ..... Every Member of the Congregation
- Pastor:..... Rev. Todd Goddard
- Administrative Assistant: ..... Barbara Kingsley
- .....Office Hours: 9:00AM - 4:00PM Monday - Friday
- Director of Children’s Ministries: .....Alethea Coulter
- Interim Director of Youth Ministries: .....Alethea Coulter
- Director of PromiseLand Childcare: ..... Kellianne Williams
- Chancel Choir Director:..... Kellianne Williams
- Accompanist:..... Spencer Haynes
- Lay Leaders: Worship: ..... Steve Williams
- Children, Youth and Families: .....Tanya Hunt
- Mission and Outreach: ..... Erma Perkins
- Leadership Team: ..... Kelly Barrett, Geoffrey Furman, .....Todd Goddard, Cindy Gray, Dan Kingsley, ..... Michelle Prok, Lisa Shingleton, Steve Williams

### *Youth Group*



Youth in grades 6–12 meet each month on Wednesdays at 6:00PM. February dates are the 7th and 28th. All youth are welcome to come and invite a friend.

### *Leadership Ministry Team*

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome by email to [toddgoddard@gmail.com](mailto:toddgoddard@gmail.com) or [rushumc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rushumc@rochester.rr.com) or to any of the Leadership Ministry Team, contact information on page 9. The next Leadership Ministry Team Meeting is to be determined. Watch the bulletin for a date.

“His Faithful Followers” is a monthly publication of the Rush United Methodist Church; 6200 Rush Lima Road; PO Box 49; Rush, NY 14543-0049; Pastor: Todd Goddard; Editor: Barb Kingsley; Deadline for articles to be included in the March 2024 issue is 5PM, Thursday, February 22, 2024.