



His Faithful Followers

A publication of Rush United Methodist Church

September 2020

A Note from Pastor Todd

Summer is waning while autumn is approaching. I can feel it in the air! With the changing seasons, United Methodist's begin to think about church conferences. What is a church conference? What happens at one? Why is one called? Let's start with the basics.



Church

A church is a community of people brought together by God.

God gathers people to worship and serve with love.

A church is also known as the Body of Christ.

A building is not a church.

A building that is used by a church to worship and serve may be consecrated as sacred, but remains simply a building.

Buildings return to dust; the church is eternal.

"Buildings reflect the God in whom the community worships," an old seminary professor of mine often taught. Therefore, keep it clean and looking good!

Conference

A church conference is a gathering of God's people to listen, learn, discern, and make decisions based on information provided by church leaders.

When in conference, we, United Methodist, petition God to send us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us to make the best decisions possible moving forward.

The smallest United Methodist conference is held at the local church; the largest is called General conference, which is global and represents the denomination.

After a time of prayer, members of the church vote on a resolution, trusting the outcome will be the work of the Spirit.

The church is truly Spirit led,
The Body of Christ,
Worshiping God,
Serving with love.

Church Conference

A church conference is called by church leadership, approved by the Bishop or District Superintendent, and chaired by an appointed ordained Elder in the church.



All members of a church are to be informed of a church conference from the pulpit and through the press (bulletin, newsletter, email, mail, etc ...) for a minimum duration of two weeks.

Every member has a voice. Every member has a vote. The Spirit works through those who are gathered, so no minimum quorum is required.

By convenience, Robert's Rules of Order are agreed upon by the community and used by the chair to maintain order.

The United Methodist Church recognizes two types of church conferences, annual and special.

Annual Church Conference

The annual church conference is held once per year. It is gathering of all church members,

To decide on a minimum of two questions:

- 1) The compensation of the pastor, and
- 2) Who will be elected and serve as a legally recognized Board of Trustees.

Additional issues may be resolved at annual church conference.

Historically, we elect all church lay leaders, pass an annual budget, receive various reports, and approve candidates for ordained ministry.

Our annual church conference has traditionally been called and held in early November.

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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."

Continued from page 1

Special Church Conference

A special church conference is requested by church leadership, called by the pastor, affirmed by the Bishop or District Superintendent, and chaired by an assigned ordained Elder to resolve a singular, announced topic.

No other business may be conducted than the stated purpose of the special church conference.

Special church conferences may be called for issues of finance or law, pastoral appointment, setting or adjusting mission and vision, or other similar major considerations.

The approved policy of the Rush United Methodist Church is to call a special church conference for expenditures exceeding \$10,000. On major issues such as these, the Spirit works through the church, to give the people both voice and vote.

Soon, two special church conferences will be called. Each will be called to address and resolve separate issues regarding the damage to our roof.

The specific topic will be addressed in the official announcement.

All members of the Rush United Methodist Church are invited and encouraged to attend and participate. As your pastoral shepherd, I greatly urge you to: Attend. Listen. Ask. Learn. Discern. Pray. Then act decisively, knowing that we are Spirit led, knowing that we are the church, knowing that we are the Body of Christ.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. My heart and my door are always open. God loves you, and I do, too.

Todd R. Goddard

Pastor Todd



Confirmation Class

The start of a Confirmation Class has been postponed until January.

If your Middle School student is interested in attending, please speak to Pastor Todd or call the church office. Your name will be put on a list and you will be contacted prior to the class beginning.



Update on LifeTouch Church Directory Photos

Save the date. We have been rescheduled for September 9, 10, 11, 2021.

More information will be coming.

Thank you. Lyn



Attending In-Person Worship

Our Opening In-Person Worship Ministry team has worked hard to bring us into compliance to open for in-person worship. Our first in-person worship service was held on Sunday, August 9 at 10:00AM. The service was attended by 12 members and friends plus a worship team of 12.

If you would like to attend in person worship, reservations are required. Please call or email Joyce Smith at 585-356-5310 or ipsmith@rochester.rr.com. They need to be made by Friday at 5PM. Visit the church website, www.rushumc.com, for more information.

Requirements to continue in person worship include:
signing in with a phone number
and using hand sanitizer,
wear a mask at all times and
keep social distancing of 6 feet,
refrain from hugging or hand shaking,
ushers will direct you to your reserved seat,
refrain from standing, please sit
refrain from singing, humming is okay,
refrain from saying unison readings out loud, say silently to yourself

wait for ushers to direct you to exit by row
consumption of food and drink is not allowed
send prayer requests to the church office.

If we do not have volunteers to greet and usher, the in-person service will be cancelled.

"Stand only in spirit. Speak and sing in the quiet imagination of your mind. Thank you for following the greeters and ushers directions, reducing our risk of exposure to illness, and loving one another enough to care for each other's health and safety."

Have you been anxiously waiting for Rush UMC to reopen to in-person worship? We need you to sign up to

volunteer to serve as an usher, greeter or cleaner/sanitizer. Even if you would prefer to wait, you can pray for our success. Everyone can do something!

Contact Britta Stambaugh or call the church office, 585-533-2170, to volunteer.

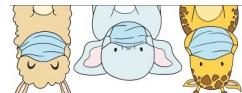
Services will continue to be available on YouTube Live and Facebook Live at 10:00AM on Sundays or anytime on YouTube. To watch on YouTube, Click:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2CkCxUcHfzi8Uwq3ktE2oQ>

To watch on Facebook, Click:

<https://www.facebook.com/rushumc/>

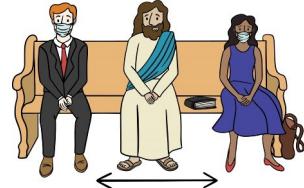
To find these links, visit the church website at www.rushumc.com, click on "Worship" and then "Live Stream".



FACE MASK REQUIRED



LEAVE ROOM FOR JESUS



Please sit 6 ft. apart



Services will continue to be available on YouTube Live and Facebook Live at 10:00AM on Sundays or anytime on YouTube. To watch on YouTube, Click:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2CkCxUcHfzi8Uwq3ktE2oQ>

To watch on Facebook, Click:

<https://www.facebook.com/rushumc/>

To find these links, visit the church website at www.rushumc.com, click on "Worship" and then "Live Stream".

Rush United Methodist Analysis of Revenues & Expenses Summary Actual

July 2020

Accounts	MTD Actual	YTD Actual	Budget To Date
	(This Year)	(This Year)	(This Year)
Revenues			
Other Income	\$547.34	\$3,737.89	\$11,783.36
PPP Loan	\$0.00	\$95,400.00	
Offerings	\$19,832.00	\$164,487.97	\$152,728.50
P/L Expense Reimbursement	\$1,726.94	\$10,819.18	\$14,830.20
Total Revenues	\$22,016.28	\$274,445.04	\$179,342.06
Expenses			
Building & Grounds	\$449.89	\$21,930.20	\$26,223.06
Education	\$67.14	\$692.89	\$1,652.99
Insurance	\$702.00	\$5,863.50	\$5,600.00
(1) Mission	\$0.00	\$5,470.50	\$26,529.00
(2) Office Expenses	\$1,489.01	\$6,458.33	\$9,054.90
(3) Clergy Salaries	\$6,313.86	\$33,849.30	\$33,777.76
(3) Lay Salaries	\$10,544.05	\$51,186.37	\$45,179.28
(4) Clergy Benefits	\$2,316.55	\$18,216.06	\$20,368.74
Ministry Team Expenses	\$370.00	\$2,125.55	\$1,893.30
Other Program Expenses	\$35.00	\$595.38	\$933.31
(5) Utilities	\$1,311.02	\$14,807.01	\$13,258.38
(6) PromiseLand	\$37,233.79	\$59,666.69	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$60,832.31	\$220,861.04	\$184,470.72
Net Total	(\$38,816.03)	\$53,584.00	(\$5,128.66)

- Shared Ministries 21.43% paid to end of July
- Office Expenses: \$558.96 paid with Payroll Protection Program (PPP)
- Payroll: \$25,942.23 paid with PPP
- Clergy Benefits: \$3,968.08 paid with PPP
- Utilities: \$3,926.45 paid with PPP
- PromiseLand Payroll: \$59,666.70 paid with PPP from May 26 - July 31.

FINANCIAL REPORT



Finance Update

Thanks to everyone's generosity and thoughtfulness the current (through July) financial position of the 2020 budget is stable. The good news is that several families have been paying pledges in advance with non-pledged giving being well ahead of the budgeted level. In addition, we have received a limited amount of benefit from the PPP government sponsored program. Through July, \$85,608.93 of payroll has been paid, \$3,968.08 of benefits have been paid and \$4,485.41 in utilities and copier/printer lease have been paid for a total of \$94,062.42 being paid through the Payroll Protection Program. Payroll is a combination of Church and PromiseLand. At the end of July, we had \$1,337.58 remaining in PPP to use towards utilities.

The concerns we have include:

- * We have not paid any level of apportionments since February.
- * Will families continue to pay pledges and non-pledged amounts in advance and at the level we have experienced in the past seven months?
- * Will everyone be going back to work full time and be able to meet their desired giving in the second half of the year?
- * The \$21,000 income from the Super Sales that is included in the budget is at extremely high risk. In all likelihood if we are allowed to have a December Super Sale we may earn about \$8,000 of the \$21,000. Obviously a significant shortfall.

Everyone is entitled to know and understand this situation. Please have confidence and faith that this situation is being monitored very closely and that only essential expenditures are being approved.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Ministry Team. Please continue to pray and support our church as we will prevail! We look forward to meeting and greeting in person as soon as it is SAFE to do so.

In God's name we pray.

Your Finance Ministry Team



Sunday School News

This summer has been a fun day at the fair learning about the life of Joseph. This fall, we will continue with our study of Genesis by learning about Abraham. I will be continuing with virtual lessons and occasional distribution of craft packs. Please contact me if you haven't been receiving these so that I can get your child's name on the list!

Alethea Coulter
Children's Ministry Director
acoulter@rochester.rr.com



Turkey Dinner

Thank you to everyone that responded to my letter about the turkey dinner. I sent out 159 letters and received 38 positive responses. I am now asking for specific help in the kitchen day of the dinner. I have 2 people that have committed to the kitchen but I need more help. Please remember that this is a drive thru curbside pick up turkey dinner only. You can text me at 585-794-0298, email me at ikessler5@rochester.rr.com, or phone me at 585-444-0180. Turkey Dinner is October 17

Thank you for your consideration.

Lyn Kessler



Un-Bake Sale

We church folk like nothing better than a Bake Sale! We can't have one right now because of the you-know-what. So I'm inviting you to an Un-Bake Sale.

Sit down, relax and put up your feet. Enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and send the money you would have donated to Rush UMC Box 49 Rush NY 14543. Note Un-Bake Sale in the memo.

You will be blessed!

(Pastor) Shiela



Thank You

To the body of believers at Rush United Methodist Church,



Regarding the passing of our beloved husband and father, Theodore Steans, we thank you for your words of love, kind thoughts and gestures, and your prayers. You really made a difference in our lives during this difficult time.

Warmly,
Anita, Shoni, Aaron and Amy

Promised Land Update

Thank you for the prayers that have been said for the safety and stability of PromiseLand. We are excited to be getting ready to start the fall and while things look a little different, we are going strong. This fall, we will be offering a limited number of spaces for School age distance learning to offset in school learning days. For more information, please contact me at PromiseLandchildcare1996@gmail.com. We will have some openings in our 3-year old room and infant room this fall. If you know of someone who needs childcare, please pass along our information. Thank you again for your prayers and support. They are felt and appreciated!



Super Sale Update

A big thank you to all who came and helped with the furniture sale. With pre-sales we made 2,900 to help support our general budget.

Some changes are being worked through in order to continue the indoor portion of the super sale. If you have any ideas on how we can move forward safely please feel free to share them.

Based on a number of factors we have come to the decision that we will no longer be cleaning out houses and collecting furniture.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Super Sale.



Britta Stambaugh
bnnbstam@frontiernet.net

New Baby

Parker Russell Prok was welcomed to the world on Friday, August 8, 2020 at 5:27PM, weighing 7lbs and 1.8oz by his parents, Tonia and Matthew Prok. Tonia and Parker are doing wonderfully! He was also welcomed by his grandparents, Michelle and Gary Prok, Uncle Corey Prok, and Uncle Drew, Aunt Keri and Cousins Oliver and Finn Prok.



Mission and Outreach Report

The theme this week in my devotional, A Guide For All Who Walk With God, is Discernment. How desperately we need "to find what is right and fitting" these days.

"Practicing a preference for God and God's will is the place to begin. That means putting God ahead of all else in our list of priorities"

"I must spend enough

time in prayer and faithful listening to the voice of God to be brought to that moment of trust and surrender when I can give up my preconceived ideas and become open to God's idea."

As we spend time in prayer and faithful listening, may we discern how best to navigate the difficult decisions we face in this time of COVID-19. Is gathering in person the best option for worship? Is sending children to school in their best interest? How can we support



our friends who are confined in their homes or care setting? How can we support the mission activities that are on hold?

As we spend time in prayer, please add the needs of Zululand Hospice and Musa weNkosi to your petitions. May the staff remain healthy as the demands



increase. Their sources of income are diminished. The housemothers at the orphanage are unable to leave to see their families. The children have been confined to the site for months.

"O God, the source of all understanding, wisdom and knowledge, instill within us discerning hearts and minds that we may come to know your plan for our lives."

Erma Perkins
ermaperkins@me.com

Zululand Hospice Fundraiser

I have planned a fund-raiser for Zululand Hospice in the pavilion at RUMC on Saturday, Aug. 22, 9:00-3:00 PM. We are safer outdoors than in and many of the venues we have gone to in the past may not be available to us this year.

I hope you will shop with us. Zululand Hospice needs your money far more than Hallmark, Vera Bradley and the Walton's! We don't have everything you need, but we have lots of lovely items purchased in South Africa and donated: tummy time quilts, greeting cards, soapstone and wood carvings, bookmarks, purses, some with a matching mask, and much more.

I hope to see many of you - in a mask and at social distance.

Sincerely,

Erma Mae Perkins



Softball Team Season

Despite the covid-19 pandemic, the Rush Methodist softball team was able to participate in a shortened season with five teams competing. Our team tied for first place by beating the Twins from Geneseo 21-18. Unfortunately, we lost to them 13-8 in the semi-finals of the playoffs. Our coach, Peter Lagueras, kept us focused, promoted positive attitudes, and got everyone on the team into the games. The Dave Lochner League is composed of teams from Avon, Bloomfield, Geneseo, Henrietta and Rush. Watch for the start of the 2021 season in May.

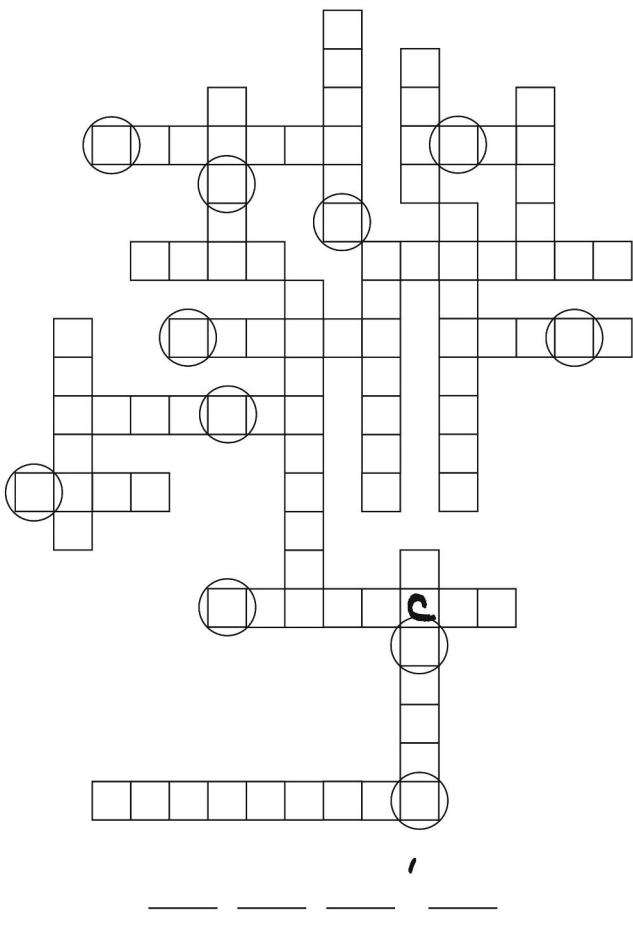


In the team photo from left to right: Front row: Stu Blunt, Kevin Lagueras, Jeremy Lagueras, Pat Lagueras, Jon Marlowe; Standing: Jesse Cook, Peter Lagueras, Justin Cratsley, Austin Blood, Jim Tribol, Dick Wallace and Rob Adamson. Missing from the photo is Andrew Livingston.

Puzzle!

Fit the names of these Bible-times places in the puzzle. Then write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found, to find out where your citizenship is.

Tyre	Sidon	Kedesh	Ephesus	Philippi
Cana	Berea	Sychar	Corinth	Bethlehem
Rome	Lycia	Galilee	Iconium	Jerusalem
Gaza	Athens	Ephraim	Damascus	



God's Kingdom



Let brotherly
love continue.

Hebrews 13:1. ESV

Happy Birthday and Anniversary

Walt Bunker turns 95 on Tuesday, September 1. Cards and phone calls would be greatly appreciated, especially during this time of social distancing. His address is: 1445 Rush Henrietta TL Rd., Rush, NY 14543. He and Jean both continue to do very well.

Jean and Walt Bunker will be celebrating their 74th Wedding Anniversary on September 7, 2020. Cards and well wishes would be greatly appreciated.



Bereavement

Anita Steans and family, grieving the sudden death of Ted Steans on Friday, July 24, 2020

Erma Perkins has the following request for prayer from Elaine Charlton:

A mother has died in a neighboring family, the 18 yr. old son is now head of the family of 3. Those in the world who have passed from complications of the Coronavirus



Praises

Shiela, birthday blessings
Opening to in-person Worship
September Birthdays and
Anniversaries



Thank You

Dear Rush United Methodist Church,

Thank you not only for the scholarship but for everything you have done for me! ❤ Can't wait to see everyone again! ❤



Abby Statskey ❤



Prayer Concerns

- Betty Brandes, feeling lonely
 Alethea Coulter's former co-worker and friend, Fred and his family
 Don, new treatment
 Dan Gress as he recovers from a mild stroke
 Lyn Kessler, Turkey Dinner planning
 Mary, Lyme disease
 Norm Miller, new chemo treatment started on Wednesday, August 12
 Erma Perkins has the following requests for prayer from Elaine Charlton:
- The staff no longer gets time off each month to see their families. They have to stay on site.
 - The children are well-behaved but are very tired of being confined to the orphanage for months. Schools were scheduled to open, but that has changed.
 - Covid is ravaging South Africa. Gavin and Elaine's daughter has done 12 and 24 hour shifts because other doctors are positive.
- Rayfield, continuing in ICU
 Sidney, in hospital in Charlottesville, VA
 Joyce Smith's mother, Helen Skibinski, failing health
 School Districts, Parents and Students
 Peace to come to our troubled land
 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
 Church finances
 Hospice Houses near and far
 RHAFT and FISH
 Relaxation of restrictions
 Small Businesses
 Those laid off or facing unemployment or underemployment
 Young people, children and youth lacking social interactions
 Hospital and Nursing Home Staff – stay healthy and strong to tend to the needs of patients and residents
 All those in isolation
 Help us all to remember that in these times as always Jesus is with us, we're not alone
 Inability to visit family and friends
 Adult children, neighbors, and friends helping with delivery of groceries and medicine
 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
 Keep remembering the school kids and help find solutions to the violence
 Parents of New Drivers
 All those struggling and affected by fires, flooding and hurricanes and who find themselves homeless or lost within this world
 Those looking for employment
 PromiseLand Childcare ministry: our children, families, staff, and leaders
 Super Sale now and future
 Our homebound and ill
 Our children, youth and church family
- Elderly parents, youth, teens, young adults, those suffering from chronic pain, mental health problems depression and addiction
 For all marriages and families
 Violence in places of Worship
 Those who life has changed: death of loved one, relationships broken, families separated; give them love, courage and strength
 Church worldwide is under attack; help God save your people
 Campus Ministries
 The United Methodist Church
 Ministry at The Pillar
 All Volunteers who go on Missions
 UMCOR
 Refugee resettlement project and resettlement families
 A Meal & More Soup Kitchen and homeless served by them
 Staff and Young Men at State School at Industry
 Haiti and Government leaders; root out corruption, bring about justice, lessen poverty
 Government Leaders
 Peace, stability in Venezuela
 Justice to flow down like water in the US, Syria, South Sudan, Middle East
 Victims of terrorism and survivors of world violence
 Injustice in the USA
 City of Rochester
 RCSD and Board
 International Students
 Members in Military, especially those in Kuwait
 Those who are incarcerated
 People with disabilities, anxiety disorders, depression, addictions
 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 |
| Don Barrett | Kathy Belik |
| Mary Anne Brice | Trudy Corio |
| Craig Crowell | Charis Davis |
| Alberta Greer | Jim Hughes |
| Meg Kinnally | Delores Sheppard |
| Helen Skibinski | Marge Weather |
| Bill Wood | |
- Members of our armed forces and reserves, especially those associated with our church family:
- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Phillip Banker | Jason Bello |
| Ryan Blood | Jon Cannioto |
| Ben Frederick | Christian Koch |
| Michael Kurvach | Steven Kurvach |
| Jason McKnight | |
| Isaiah Montana | |
| James Rice | |
| Sgt. Joseph Sarmiento | |
| Bryan Simpson | |
| Matthew Simpson | |
| Marcus Sydow | |
- Please help the church staff keep the prayer list current by informing us of any changes.



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



Revised Sunday Worship and Programs

10:00AM - In-Person Worship Service also YouTube Live, Facebook Live
1:00PM - Zoom Video: Rush UMC Connections Coffee and Fellowship Time
5:00PM - Zoom Video: Youth Group Meeting



Leadership Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom Video

Saturday, September 12 at 8:30AM

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome via email to rushumc@rochester.rr.com or toddgoddard@gmail.com or visit a Tuesday or Sunday RUMC Connections via Zoom Go to www.rushumc.com for times and links

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
Email Address: rushumc@rochester.rr.com
Rush Tidings Address: rushumcnews@rochester.rr.com

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation
Pastor: Rev. Todd Goddard
Director of Youth Ministries: Peter Lagueras
Administrative Assistant: Barbara Kingsley
..... Office Hours: 9:00AM - 4:00PM Monday - Friday
Director of Children's Ministries: Alethea Coulter
Director of PromiseLand Childcare: Kellianne Williams
Chancel Choir Directors: Judy Blachowicz, Kellianne Williams
Accompanist: E-Na Song
Nursery Care Supervisor: Katelynn Lagueras
Worship and Praise Band Coordinator: Steve Williams
Leadership Team: Erin Bills, Chris Chamot, Jim Comstock,
..... Todd Goddard, Tanya Hunt, Geoffrey Furman,
..... Lyn Kessler, Cindy Wallace, Lynda Wanzenried



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