



His Faithful Followers

A publication of Rush United Methodist Church

April 2021

A Note from Pastor Todd

What does the post-pandemic church look like? This is a question I think about a lot. I ask clergy colleagues and lay members. I ask friends not connected to the church about how their business, home, and family will be changed. A few thoughts to get us thinking, praying, talking, and planning.



Stronger. Our focus over the past two years has begun to change more towards mission and ministry. We successfully replaced a furnace and a roof. Now, we are investing in our Christ centered core values: a new playground for children and a plan to fund a director of youth ministries is in the works. Momentum began with successful capital projects. Strength and vitality comes when that momentum is focused on the core values God has established. One of our three core values is supporting children, youth, and family ministries.

Focused. Plans are being made to restart short-term mission trips as soon as it is safe to do so. Mission experiences are opportunities to love our neighbors in the name of Jesus and they also make team members tight. Blessings are returned to team members and life-long memories are made. Think Mission Central in Syracuse, Flower City Work Camp in Rochester, Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, UMCOR disaster response, houses and wheelchairs in Guatemala, and hospice and orphanage in South Africa. This is only the tip of the iceberg! Engagement in missions and outreach is one of our core values.

Different. Online worship attendance and participation has proven to be essential. I anticipate this will continue and have an impact on in-person attendance. We can grow both! What will be necessary is for the church to develop new and creative ways to build relationships and engage with our online congregation beyond the worship setting. I expect all of us will develop a deeper appreciation for aspects we had to sacrifice: hugs, singing, responsive readings, choir, fellowship, dinners, and weekly Holy Communion. Oh, how I long to sing! Exceptional worship experiences is our third core value.

Loving. Interpersonal relationships matter. I hope and pray that relationship will be healed as we emerge from our social isolation. I look forward to expanding my circle of friends who visit and participate in the Rush United Methodist Church. As the pandemic

tapers off, may the love of Christ make us stronger and larger!

Blessed. Your generosity has remained solid. The most joyous people I know are those who give sacrificially of their time, talents, and gifts. Thank you for your faithfulness to God and to the Rush church family.

Discerning. Leaders need to be continuously sought, called, developed, and empowered. Effective leaders keep the church vital and growing by maintaining vigilant mission focus. Big decisions lay ahead and we will need strong leaders to help our congregation carefully navigate our way forward. General Conference and the decision to divide over the issue of sexuality has been delayed until 2022, but it is still coming. A theologically conservative Wesleyan denomination has been started and legislation is ready to open the door and facilitate a graceful exit. Churches and clergy alike will be required to make soul searching decisions that will have lifetime effects. We can, and we will, lead with love!

The consensus of colleagues in my social circle is that the pandemic has greatly impacted every local church, some more than others. Our experience is not unique; it is normal in the midst of abnormal circumstances. I'm optimistic for our future as long as we have exceptional leadership that keeps us mission focused.

Remember, dearly beloved, we are resurrection people!

Todd R. Goddard

Pastor Todd



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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”

Lenten Instrumental Cantata

I am pleased to let you know that there will be a Lenten cantata at both services on March 28. This cantata will be instruments only, but I think you will find the music meaningful. Much of the music will be familiar Lenten music, but I have also included some of my favorite choir anthems that will be played on the pianos.

Kellianne, Alethea, E-Na and I look forward to sharing this beautiful music with you as part of the Passion narrative.

Judy



Lenten Instrumental Cantata

Easter Memorial Plants

To celebrate the Resurrection and remember/honor a loved one, why not order an Easter Plant?

Flowering plants will grace our Sanctuary with their beauty on Easter Sunday, April 4.

The form for ordering "Memorial/In Honor of" plants is on the shelf between the inner and outer doors or you can call the church office at 533-2170. Orders must be placed on or before Thursday, March 25. The prices are as follows:



Lilies – 5+ Blooms	\$8.50
Lilies – 8" pot Doubles	\$17.50
Hydrangeas - 4+ blooms	\$17.00
Hyacinths - 6" pots	\$6.50

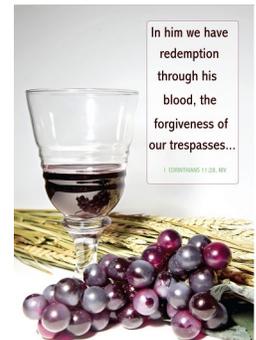
The price includes foil pot covers. When you order, please print clearly the information you would like in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

PALM



Palm Sunday – March 28
Services: In person and streaming at 8:30AM and 10:45AM
Lenten Instrumental Cantata at both services

Holy Week Schedule



In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses...



Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday – April 1
Service at 6:00PM: In person and streaming
Holy Communion will be served in person, curbside and virtual

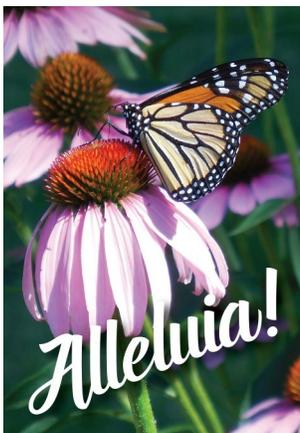


Good Friday

Good Friday – April 2
Service at 7:00PM: In person and streaming
The Gospel reading is the Passion of Jesus Christ.



The Passion Reading



Easter Sunday – April 4
Services: In person and streaming at 8:30AM and 10:45AM
Resurrection of the Lord!



Easter Sunday

Good Friday Readers

Pastor Todd is looking for people to read scripture, in-person, during the Good Friday service on Friday, April 2 at 7:00PM. Depending upon the number of people who volunteer, it could be one scripture or two or three. If this is of interest to you, please contact Pastor Todd at toddgoddard@gmail.com or call the church office, 533-2170.



Special Easter Offering

I invite you to make a special offering this Easter to support the ministries of Rush United Methodist Church. Without your active participation and generosity the ministry of this church would not be possible. But because of you, lives are touched and transformed, just as our lives have been by Jesus Christ.



A special envelope will be on the kiosk in the church lobby on Sunday, April 4. They will also be between the outside and inside doors from March 28 – April 4. Donations can be dropped off at church, mailed or made electronically on the church website, www.rushumc.com.

On the First Day of the Week

The coney woke up early one Sunday morning because the rocks were shaking. He started down the burrow he took every morning to bask in the sun. His way was blocked. He tried to find a way around the obstruction, but there was none. How did it get there? Why was it in his way? He emerged from his den every morning this way and he was hungry. Maybe the earthquake moved the stone. This was the second earthquake in three days. The other conies were trying to find a way out, too. The stone was so big that none of them could find their way out of the rock pile. How did this huge rock get in the way? It wasn't there yesterday when they went out in the sun to eat grass.

A coney, also called a rock hyrax, is a small animal that lives in holes in piles of rocks and stones. It's about the size of a rabbit, but it has little ears and no tail.

The coney went back to his den. The muscles and sweat glands in his feet make them function like suction cups. He is agile and was able to find another way by going up and over the big stone. He breathed some fresh air and saw the sky just beginning to become light.

A man stepped out of the cave beside the big stone that blocked the coney's first tunnel. The man laughed, raised his hands to the sky and shouted, "Thank You, Father! You freed me from the power of death! You have made me both Lord and Messiah! We have opened the way for all of your children to live new lives, to be my

sisters and brothers. Nothing can separate them from our love. Hallelujah!"

The happy man walked away.



Then the coney heard some women coming down the path. He could smell the spices they were carrying. Mary asked, "Who will move the stone away from the entrance to the tomb?" Then they noticed the stone had been moved.

The women went into the cave and a young man in a bright white robe said, "Don't be afraid. Jesus has risen! Go tell his disciples He is not here."

The women left with their eyes wide open, their foreheads wrinkled, looking at each other and shaking their heads. Mary asked the others, "What can this mean? Has He risen as he said?"

The women ran to tell Jesus' disciples that the tomb was empty.

The coney was digging up some tasty roots. The sentry coney barked a high pitched alarm and the hungry coney was almost stepped on by two men who were racing to the empty tomb. One yelled, "It's true! Remember He said he would be raised on the third day! He's not here anymore."

As the sun went down on this first Easter Sunday, the conies used their guard hairs and flat-nails to find a new way back to their den for the night.

"The rocks are a refuge for the conies."

Psalms 104: 18

Save the Date

Occasion: Judy Blachowicz Retirement Party

Date: June 20, 2021

Time: Immediately following the second service – 12:00 pm

Where: RUMC Pavilion

Hope To See You There



Scripture Readers

I am assisting Pastor Todd by scheduling people to read the Scriptures for the sermon. If you are not in my rotation and would like to participate, please email me. We'd all love to see your smiling faces and to have more people participate in worship.

Thank you,

Alethea Coulter, acoulter@rochester.rr.com



PromiseLand Playground Project! Update

Thank you to those of you who were at the Special church conference via zoom to confirm the funding for the PromiseLand Playground Project. We are extremely excited about the encouraging majority who support this project.



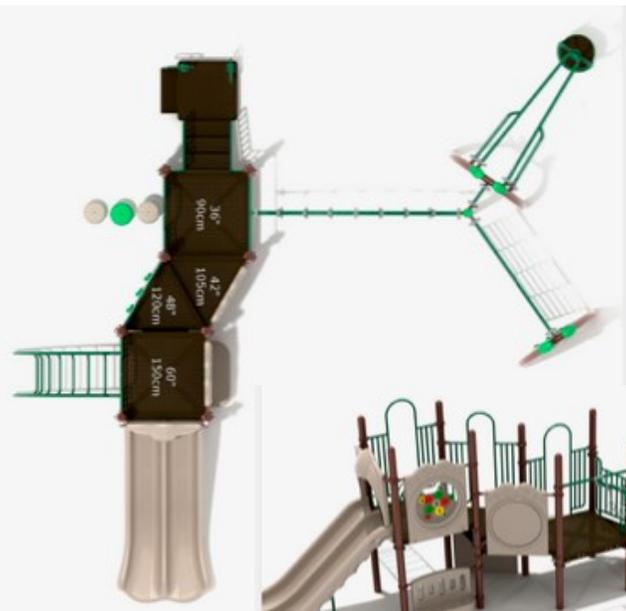
PromiseLand
Child Care
Rush United Methodist Church

Our next step is finalizing the timeline and contract. Then the real fun of removing the old structure and prepping the space for the new play structure begins. We are also working to reduce the amount of the loan taken from the endowment fund. You can help us! Perhaps you recently came into some extra money and you would like

to donate to the playground project. Donations can be made securely on the church website or checks can be made out to PromiseLand and mailed to the church or dropped off at the church. We have currently raised over \$3,500.00 of our \$16,000 goal!

We will also be building a "brick" walkway from the parking lot to the playground. We are selling two different sized pavers that can be engraved with your special message. The size and cost are as follow: 8"x 8" - \$150.00 and 4" x 8" - \$75.00. If you are interested in ordering pavers or would like more information, you can reach Kellianne Williams at 585-533-2475 or promiselandchildcare1996@gmail.com.

We are so excited about this investment in the church, the PromiseLand ministry, and our community. Thank you for your continued support.



Mission and Outreach News

A group of 6 discussed the Ministry Action Plan drafted by Pastor Todd.

We would like to have a Mission Activity Board to review our outreach that would meet maybe 4 times a year. Please let Todd or me know if you would like to serve.

Our international mission travel remains on hold due to the pandemic. I am hoping for a visit to Zululand Hospice and Musa weNkosi May 2022. Continued prayer and financial support are needed for South Africa, Guatemala, and the whole world!

The UNY Conference HUB is in need of cleaning buckets. The easiest and most efficient way to provide these is to give the money, \$75 per bucket.

My friend, Judy Recca has volunteered to work the vegetable garden. It will be organic. She has ambitious plans, but admits she is inexperienced. The vegetables will be available for church, PromiseLand families and RHAFT. Judy hopes to provide support for Zululand Hospice, too, so there will be a moneybox by the garden for donations. Please let me know if you are willing to help with planting, weeding, harvesting or providing funds for the expenses.

I wish to share a devotional by Flora Slosson Wuellner:

"The shalom bringers spread a sense of warmth, comfort, hope and well-being even before a word is spoken...They may not say anything special at all, but when we are with them we feel understood, accepted, welcomed.

When we think of these men and women in our lives, we feel as if God is reaching out to us through them. We know that if God is like them – only much more so – then the universe is in safe hands. The glory of God shines through their faces and touches us through their hands."

Let us strive to be "shalom bringers."

Erma Perkins, Lay leader Mission and Outreach,
ermaperkins@me.com



Rush United Methodist Analysis of Revenues & Expenses Summary Actual

February 2021

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	Budget To Date (This Year)
Revenues			
Other Income	\$159.31	\$398.84	\$788.32
Offerings	\$20,581.00	\$46,255.00	\$38,694.16
P/L Expense Reimbursement	\$931.72	\$1,863.44	\$1,863.44
Total Revenues	\$21,672.03	\$48,517.28	\$41,345.92
Expenses			
Building & Grounds	\$1,617.89	\$4,727.34	\$9,535.34
Education	\$111.96	\$161.68	\$128.50
Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
(1) Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Expenses	\$980.23	\$1,796.80	\$1,834.25
Clergy Salaries	\$4,209.24	\$8,418.48	\$8,769.22
Lay Salaries	\$6,361.31	\$12,283.91	\$12,050.07
Clergy Benefits	\$2,499.17	\$5,458.09	\$6,074.00
Ministry Team Expenses	\$0.00	\$307.60	\$370.60
Other Program Expenses	\$54.60	\$54.60	\$25.00
Utilities	\$2,521.72	\$5,391.24	\$5,051.31
PromiseLand	\$166.00	\$30.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$18,522.12	\$38,629.74	\$43,838.29
Net Total	\$3,149.91	\$9,887.54	(\$2,492.37)

1. Shared Ministries 0% paid to end of February

FINANCIAL REPORT



IS YOUR PLEDGE UP TO DATE?

AmazonSmile

You can now donate to Rush UMC while shopping on-line through AmazonSmile.

Simply go to smile.amazon.com on your mobile device or computer and enter Rush United Methodist Church as your charity.



Bereavements

Michele Cuatt and family, loss of her golden retriever, Maddie

Charlotte Sanford and family, death of George Sanford

Della Wood and family, death of her husband, Bill, on March 15

Those in the United States and the world who have passed from complications of the Coronavirus



Praises

Michele Cuatt's family has completely recovered from COVID-19

Approval was given for Playground Improvement Project and Funding from Endowment Grant and Loan April Birthdays and Anniversaries



?? Bible Quiz ? ?

According to Matthew's account, what was torn when Jesus died?

- A. Mary's headdress — she tore it as a traditional Jewish sign of grief
- B. A Roman guard's sash — Peter grabbed and ripped it in anger
- C. Jesus' robe — the soldiers divided it among themselves
- D. The temple curtain — torn in two from top to bottom

Answer: D (See Matthew 27:51.)

Prayer Concerns

Cindy, chronic back pain due to arthritis
 Alethea Coulter, healing and waiting for results, throat biopsy
 Tami Czerwinski, prayers of healing and guidance for Donovan and Liesl's grandpa Groth and for Tami's brother, Jon
 Adam and Dorothy Genazzio, recovery from COVID-19
 Saralyn Gould, recovery from broken hip and wrist from fall
 Todd Goddard's family friend, Pastor Lida Merrill, stroke
 Lyn and John Kessler's daughter and son-in-law, Jessie and Brendan, Covid-19 diagnosis
 Erma Perkins' friend, Gail Hubbard
 Tammy Rogers' mother, Mary Lou, heart attack, stent and beginning rehabilitation
 Sharon, healing
 Sherry, testing
 Britta Stambaugh's friend's girlfriend's daughter, Mackenzie, birth of twins at 23 weeks
 Mark Statskey for a friend's friend, Walter, Covid-19
 Sue, hip pain
 Stuart Walthour's daughter, Amy Walthour, recovering from a stroke
 PromiseLand Childcare
 School Districts, Parents and Students
 Safe and compliant reopening of Church Meetings and Events
 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, District Superintendent, Clergy and Lay Leaders
 Church finances
 Hospice Houses near and far
 RHAFT and FISH
 Those going to parks
 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
 Those looking for employment
 Super Sale now and future

All those struggling and affected by fires, flooding and hurricanes and who find themselves homeless or lost within this world
 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
 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
 All Volunteers who go on Missions
 UMCOR
 Friends serving in hospice and orphanage in South Africa
 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
 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	Alberta Greer
Jim Hughes	Meg Kinnally
Marge Weather	

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



Sunday Worship and Programs

- 8:30AM: In-Person Traditional Worship Service
also YouTube Live, Facebook Live
- 9:00AM: Bible Study
- 9:45AM: Zoom Bible Study
- 10:00AM: Zoom Sunday School Class
- 10:45AM: In-Person Contemporary Worship
Service also YouTube Live, Facebook Live
- 1:00PM: Zoom Video:
Rush UMC
Connections
Coffee and
Fellowship Time



Sunday Schedule

Leadership Ministry Team Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 6:00PM

These meetings are open to the congregation. The Zoom link is on the church website, www.rushumc.com. If you can't attend the meeting, your comments and suggestions are always welcome by email to toddgoddard@gmail.com or rushumc@rochester.rr.com or visit Zoom: RUMC Connections on Wednesday or Sunday. 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
- 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
- Lay Leaders: Worship: Steve Williams
- Children, Youth and Families: Tanya Hunt
- Mission and Outreach: Erma Perkins
- Leadership Team: Erin Bills, Jan Corey,
..... Todd Goddard, Tanya Hunt, Geoffrey Furman,
..... Cindy Wallace, Lynda Wanzonried, Patty Weaver

"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 May 2021 issue is Thursday, April 22, 2021.