

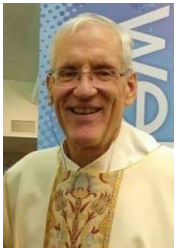


His Faithful Followers

A publication of Rush United Methodist Church

March 2024

A Note from Pastor Todd



Church Camp. Wait! What! It's March and the possibility of a late winter storm always seems to threaten this time of year. Close your eyes. Deep breath. Imagine the warmth of gathering around a campfire. Smile. Rediscover that special place God created which we call "serenity." Taste the smore and wipe the melted marshmallow off your chin!

Parents- send your children to church camp. Grandparents- help pay the way. Church peeps- others paid it forward for you, this is the time for payback. Make it possible for families from Rush to attend church camp this summer. *Send every child!*

Why church camp? 1) Cell phones will be left at home. The art of making friends and being a friend is taught by word and example. 2) Campers begin with a clean slate, a fresh start. I tell kids: Create the reputation you are willing to live with. Be better than the kid you left behind at home. 3) Daily devotions. Good habits start young. Campers learn the stories of the Bible so they can apply them to their life circumstance. 4) No put-downs. Church camp is a put-down free zone. Respect is taught. We build people up, we don't tear them down. It's a great life lesson. 5) Explore. Be curious, whether in the craft shop, making lunch over a campfire deep in the woods, or learning to sail your own Sunfish. God is just waiting for you to find hidden talents and passions. 6) Ask questions you can't even ask your parents. What is God's plan for my life? What is the next right thing? God loves me. God loves you- now what?

Youth, apply to volunteer or join the summer staff. Why? 1) Learn to lead. Whether a counselor-in-training or as a member of the summer staff, you will learn leadership skills that will serve you well all your life. 2) Wake your spiritual life. It has been slumbering, listening and learning the lessons of Jesus, but not yet adding everything up. Youth volunteers and staff begin to connect the dots, fill in the missing pieces, discover God's plan for life and how to get started. 3) Appreciate the value of community. Christianity is experienced in community, working collaboratively serving and leading people to Jesus. Church camp teaches youth how to work together, how to work through differences, the value of service, and the need for evangelism. 4) Gain real world experiences. I learned to build a building from footer to peak, to operate a backhoe safely and efficiently, to wire an electrical box and plumb a toilet, to drive a truck, to barbeque 650 chickens every week, even to build a 35-foot-tall bonfire. Experience. Confidence. It



matters. 5) I made life-long friends and relationships that I value to this day. You can, too. I met my wife at Casowasco. I was working construction, Cynthia was the camp nurse. The bushhog broke my toe. But that's another story!

Adults, our Upper New York Conference owns and operates five camp and retreat centers in upstate New York. Our local church apportionment support is essential to ensure everyone who visits is afforded a safe, clean,

supportive environment for disciple making and spiritual development. Adult volunteers are always welcome. Camp nurses are in high demand each summer. Camp and retreat opportunities exist for children, youth, and adults. Our sites are stunningly beautiful and operational all four seasons. Some even have RV hookups. When was the last time you visited

Asbury (Perry, NY on Silver Lake), Aldersgate (Greig, NY on Brantingham Lake), or Casowasco (Moravia, NY on Owasco Lake)? Learn more at: <https://www.unyumc.org/about/crm>

The campfire is warm and inviting. Our songs connect us with the past and serve as a bridge to generations yet to come. Prayer sends us to our room and restful sleep. Beloved, connect your life with Christian camping or retreats. You will thank me later.

God loves you, and so do I.

Todd R. Goddard

Pastor Todd

Inside this issue:

- Page 2: Ladies Lunch Bunch; Board of Trustees; Zululand Hospice Fundraiser; Daylight Saving Time; UMCOR Sunday; Chili Cook-off and March Second Sunday Brunch
- Page 3: Meet Our New Pastor; Grace Choir Concerts; St. Patrick's Putt-Putt Party!; Choir Lenten Cantata
- Page 4: Important Note; Easter Memorial Plants; Special Easter Offering; Holy Week Activities
- Page 5: Financial Report; Roof Replacement Loan; Capital Fund
- Page 6: Prayer Concerns; Bereavements; Praises
- Page 7: Solar Eclipse Bash; Adult Learning Opportunities; Safe Sanctuary; PromiseLand Golf Tournament; PromiseLand Is Hiring; Family Picture Wall
- Page 8: Mission and Outreach; Church; Photos
- Page 9: It's Not Too Soon!; Thank You; Leadership Ministry Team; Mission/Vision/Priority Statements
- Back Page: Sunday Schedule; Youth Group Meeting Schedule; Leadership Ministry Team; How to Reach Us

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. This month's luncheon is scheduled for Monday, March 4. We will be enjoying an early St. Patrick's Day meal with Corned Beef and Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, and Irish Soda Bread. Coffee and dessert will conclude the meal. *Everyone is encouraged to wear some green!*

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 contact Cindy Gray at cgtgray1039@gmail.com, or call her at 585-362-6206.



Board of Trustees Update

If you enjoy fixing things, and have some skills, Rush Church needs you! From little jobs (attaching door stops, patching dry wall / ceilings), to bigger jobs: painting, plumbing,... our church building could use some love. If you are looking for a way to help out, without a big time commitment, we can help! We'll even provide coffee and snacks, and especially the thanks of the Rush Church congregation. Want to know more? Contact Cindy Gray or Geoff Furman.

If you are interested in learning more about what the Board of Trustees is doing, please contact Cindy Gray at cgtgray1039@gmail.com. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March. 4, at 7:00pm at the church.



Zululand Hospice Fund Raiser

I no longer have Gail at my side for Zululand Hospice Fund-raisers, but plan to honor her legacy with a sale March 9 and 10. March 14 would have been her 88th birthday. We have lots of framed pictures that she made over the years.

The "store" will be open Saturday, March 9 from 1:00-3:00 PM and Sunday, March 10 from 8:30-12:30 in the Dining Room at Rush UMC.



Fundraiser



Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday, March 10 – remember to set your clocks ahead.



A Special Sunday March 10, 2024

When you give on UMCOR Sunday, March 10, 2024, you help cover the annual operational costs for UMCOR. Your gift allows UMCOR to apply 100% of other donations directly to relief efforts as well as long-term education and support. Will you consider giving as generously as you can on March 10? **Together, we do more.**

Eighty + years ago, World War II was raging. Millions of people, displaced from their homes, sought refuge and hope. The church responded by creating the Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief (MCOR) and supporting MCOR through an annual offering called "One Great Hour of Sharing." The 2016 United Methodist General Conference changed the name to UMCOR Sunday to reflect the important work accomplished by the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

UMCOR provides compassion and relief services to people and nations in crisis. They have a presence in over 80 countries and have helped tens of thousands of people receive help after war, disaster, conflict, and other disruptive events that leave communities unable to recover on their own. Even now, we have relief workers on the ground all over the world helping people recover from past and recent hurricanes, civil wars, mudslides, floods. This is what we call love in action.

UMCOR Sunday calls the church to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. UMCOR Sunday reaches children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.



Chili Cook-off and Second Sunday Brunch

Our next Second Sunday Brunch and special Chili Cook off is 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.

The suggested minimum donation is \$2, as all of the proceeds will go to Youth activities. See you March 10 after the worship service.



Meet Our New Pastor, Rev. Kyle Roehrig



"I am a husband and father of three. Kris(tina) and I have been married for 28 years. Our adult children, Joshua (24), Luke (21) and Kayla (19) live in California. Joshua graduated UC Irving and is soon to be married to Jenny: an incredible addition to our family. Luke and Kayla are still in college at UC Davis and Cal State Chico.

I just retired from the Air Force after 20 years as a chaplain. I grew up in Austin, Texas. After graduating seminary, I served in the Rio Texas Conference of The UMC for six years

prior to my move to the USAF.

I have long appreciated serving with an ecumenical mindset. The USAF provided me with a global itineracy allowing me to witness firsthand the variety of God's community. We now look forward to putting down more local roots while serving in a place where it is still true; we are a place with Open Minds, Open Hearts and Open Doors."

Kyle is an elder in the UMC (with 21.5 years of service) and has served in Extension Ministry as a United States Air Force Chaplain from which he recently retired. He has a strong commitment to faith, is committed to guiding persons in spiritual discipleship, service and mission. He shared at his introduction, "I cannot sit still!"

Introducing Our New Pastor



January Wednesday Night Community Supper



Come, Now is the Time!

A Concert of Classic Songs
of Praise and Worship



Presented by
Grace Choir

Lon Beery, Director

Friday, March 15, 2024 at 7:30 PM
Webster Christian Reformed Church
1344 State Road - Webster, NY 14580

&

Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 4:00 PM
West Bloomfield Congregational Church
UCC

9035 Rt. 5 & 20 - W. Bloomfield, NY 14585

St. Patrick's Putt-Putt Party!

Mark your calendars now, so you can be part of the first-ever Rush Church St. Patrick's Day Putt-Putt Party! It is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, from 2:00 - 4:00pm at the church, in the Fellowship Hall and the Lobby. This is a free community event, so please spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and family.

There will be several putt-putt golf holes set up throughout the church lobby - scoring is optional. A variety of games, snacks, and activities will be available in the Fellowship Hall. AND - this is a costume event (!) With Prizes! Costume categories include: Best Leprechaun, Most Green, Most Creative St. Patrick's Day Costume, Most "Irish" Costume.

The Nurture Ministry Team is looking for some volunteers to help out. If you are interested, or would like more information, see Tanya Hunt or Cindy Gray.

And remember, "Never iron a four-leaf clover, because you don't want to press your luck."



St. Patrick's
Putt-Putt
Party!

Choir Lenten Cantata

The choir is working hard on our Lenten Cantata. Come join us on Palm Sunday, March 24 during our 9:30 am service, to hear the story of the passion told through music and narration.



Lenten Cantata

Important Note

There will NOT be a Winter Wednesday Community Family Supper in March.

Please plan to join us at our St. Patrick's Day Putt-Putt Party on Saturday, March 16!



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, March 31.

A form for ordering "Memorial/In Honor of" plants is on the shelf between the inner and outer doors and on the kiosk in the church lobby or you can call the church office at 533-2170. Orders must be placed on or before Friday, March 22. The prices are as follows:

Lilies – 5+ Blooms	\$9.50
Lilies – 8" pot Doubles	\$19.00
Hydrangeas – 3+ blooms	\$17.00
Hyacinths – 6" pots	\$7.00

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

An alternative to a plant is a donation to either the Landscaping Fund, the Roof Replacement Fund, or the Capital

Stewardship Fund. Your name and family member(s) being memorialized or honored will also be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.



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 ministries 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, March 31. They will also be between the outside and inside doors from March 24 – April 7. Donations can be dropped off at church, mailed or made electronically on the church website, www.rushumc.com.



Join Us for Holy Week Activities

The season of Lent concludes with Holy Week, the week prior to Easter, the day we celebrate the resurrection from the dead of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Over the course of Holy Week we remember Jesus' actions, teaching, and activities with the hope that our faith will be increased and that we might be renewed as disciples of Christ. Bring your family and invite a friend!



Palm Sunday: March 24. 9:30AM Blended Worship Service, in person, on YouTube and Facebook. We remember and celebrate Christ's triumphant return to Jerusalem, as promised by prophets. His passion, suffering, and death becomes his sovereign coronation. Jesus Christ is our eternal God and becomes our KING! Come and hear the story of the passion told through music and narration.

Maundy Thursday: March 28. 7PM service. Join us to break our fast! Holy Communion will be celebrated. John 13:1-17, 31b-35 is the primary scripture passage. The narrative from John is the account of Jesus at the Last Supper washing the feet of his disciples, demonstrating servant discipleship. Why this is important: We recognize two sacraments in The United Methodist Church, Baptism (initiation) and Holy Communion. We break and share bread and wine when we gather for worship because Jesus commanded his followers to. We believe that God, Christ's Heavenly Father, works through the sacrament a holy mystery, full of grace and love, that sustains the Church for our benefit and growth. When we gather and together eat the bread and drink the cup, we do so in remembrance of Jesus Christ. We are strengthened, and so, too, is God's kingdom.

Good Friday: March 29. 7PM service. The passion narrative will be read in its entirety (John 18-19), starting with Christ's triumphant entry to Jerusalem through his death and burial. The bright light at the beginning of the service will gradually fade to black as candles are extinguished and the enormity of Christ's death is personally experienced. Why this is important: we believe that Jesus atoned, or took away, our sins by his death upon the cross. Our Jewish ancestors provided the foundation for this belief; atonement was granted by the act of animal sacrifice upon the Temple altar. Jesus Christ becomes the sacrificial lamb for Christianity, taking away the sins of the world. Burdened by your past? By your prior sins? Come, be set free. We call this "redemption."

Easter: March 31. A 9:30AM Blended Worship Celebration, of Christ's resurrection from the dead. Experience the resurrection story, as proclaimed from John 20:1-18. Why this is important: we believe that just as Jesus was victorious over death, he brings his faithful followers victory over death, too. We believe in eternal life, that begins with our belief that Jesus is our Lord and continues through eternity. What does a future heaven look like? I have no idea. However, by faith in Christ, we believe that salvation has already started and the prospect for our eternal future is safely in God's hands.

Rush United Methodist Church

Analysis of Revenues & Expenses Summary Actual

January 2024

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD (This Year)	Budget TD (This Year)
Revenues			
Other Income/ Parsonage	\$,422.86	\$422.86	\$358.33
Offerings	\$23,620.47	\$23,620.47	\$16,685.00
P/L & HCS Reimbursement	\$1,511.66	\$1,511.66	\$1,479.16
Total Revenues	\$25,554.99	\$25,554.99	\$18,522.49
Expenses			
Board of Trustees	\$8,397.40	\$8,397.40	\$3,958.34
Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$108.33
Insurance	\$1,038.73	\$1,038.73	\$750.00
(1) Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Expenses	\$630.83	\$630.83	\$718.64
Clergy Salaries	\$4,983.24	\$4,983.24	\$4,983.23
Lay Salaries	\$6,917.57	\$6,917.57	\$6,515.13
Clergy Benefits	\$4,872.08	\$4,872.08	\$4,749.01
Ministry Team	\$595.75	\$595.75	\$479.16
Other Program Expenses	\$64.76	\$64.75	\$58.33
Utilities	\$3,380.45	\$3,380.45	\$2,078.67
PromiseLand	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$30,880.81	\$30,880.81	\$24,398.84
Net Total	(\$5,325.82)	(\$5,325.82)	(\$5,876.35)

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

Capital Reserve Fund

Balance as of January 31, 2024:
\$66,536.90

Building Contingency Fund

Balance as of January 31, 2024:
\$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	02/15/2024	\$250.00	\$32,428.59
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			
	Total Paid	\$500.00	



Capital Stewardship Campaign Update

As of Wednesday, February 27, we have received \$269,200.00 or 53.84% in pledges towards our \$500,000.00 goal. Of the amount pledged, we have received \$140,123.49 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 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.



Prayer Concerns

Allison, health and strength
From Michele Cuatt: please keep the following family members and friends in your prayers: my brother-in-law, Jim, prostate cancer; my cousin-in-law, Tom, testicular cancer; my nephew, Larry, Thyroid problems; Nicole, girl's mother, recovery, my dad's healing with pneumonia, grandson, Austin, got tubes in his ears
Please respect individual's space
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
Mary Anne Brice
Craig Crowell
Louise Harris
Lynne Jacobs
Bessie Luft
Gisela Rice
Betty Stover

Jean and Walt Banker
Mary Callerame
Ernie Harrington
Jim Hughes
Kevin Kinnally
Hubert Koloseike
Dave Smith

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

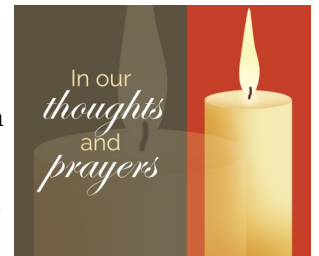
Jason Bello
Michael Kurvach
Jason McKnight

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



Bereavement

Family and friends of Judy Wilkins Benson
Family and friends of Trudy Corio, who passed away
January 28, 2024
Jan Funkhauser and family,
death of her husband, John
Family and friends of Gail
Hubbard, who passed away on
Monday, February 5, 2024
Raymer Ottman for the family
and friends of Johnny Parnell,
ascended to Yeshua Christ
Jesus Savior of Salvation!
Steve Williams and family, death of his Aunt Alex



Praises

Those who have recovered from Covid
Anthony Gonzales is now
gainfully employed
March Birthdays and
Anniversaries



Looking Ahead: Solar Eclipse Bash

On April 8, 2024, the Universe is putting on a show – so we are having a party! In the words of Dr. Danny Faulkner, “Totality is quite a moving experience, and a spiritual one. It ought to cause us to be drawn closer to our Creator. A total solar eclipse tells me that God is an artist. But total solar eclipses reveal that God is quite a designer too. The sun is 400 times larger than the moon, but the sun is 400 times farther away than the moon. Consequently, the sun and moon appear approximately the same size in the sky (about 1/2 degree) so that the moon barely covers the sun during a total solar eclipse. This results in total solar eclipses being spectacular and rare. On average, a total solar eclipse is seen at any location on earth about once every four centuries. This is the only planet in the solar system where this is the case, and it is the only place in the solar system where there are beings who can appreciate this fact. Total solar eclipses are a wonderful gift to mankind.” (<https://answersingenesis.org/blogs/danny-faulkner/2023/09/14/get-ready-april-8-2024-total-solar-eclipse/>)

Plan on joining us at the church on April 8, from 1:30 – 4:35pm. We will have a variety of snacks and activities and have the opportunity to watch this incredible event in the beautiful surroundings of our church building. Volunteers needed and welcomed! See Cindy Gray or Michelle Prok for more information.



Adult Learning Opportunity

Due to multiple scheduling issues, The Disciple Fast Track Bible Study will begin in September, 2024, instead of this spring. Registration information for this study will be available over the summer, but please see Cindy Gray if you have any questions. However, a shorter, but powerful, adult study will be offered beginning in April. It is called Words of Life, and it looks at the Ten Commandments in their historical context, and explores how these commandments can be used as a way of ordering one’s life in the present day. This is a study written by Adam Hamilton, and is inspiring and thought-provoking.

This will be a 6-week study, on Tuesday nights at the church, beginning April 9, at 7:00pm. If you are interested, please sign up on the list posted on the kiosk in the church lobby. Questions? See Cindy Gray.



Safe Sanctuary

Reminder that we are planning an in-person Safe Sanctuary training for April 13, 9-12:30pm at the church. As I mentioned before, 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. Any special event we do requires that we have enough trained people present. If you are able to participate in this training, 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

PromiseLand Golf Tournament

Save the date! The PromiseLand Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, July 21 at Wildwood Country Club. More details will be available soon.



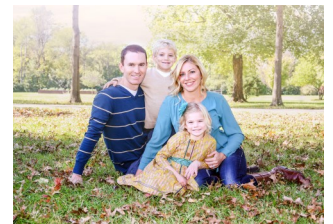
PromiseLand Update

PromiseLand is hiring full-time positions. Ideal candidates will have a degree in Early Childhood Education and experience working in the childcare setting. Candidates can send their resume to PromiseLandchildcare1996@gmail.com.



Family Picture Wall

Check out the updated Family Picture Wall in the church Fellowship Hall. Several of our church families had their pictures taken during the February Mardi Gras event, and the photos have been added. If your family’s picture is still not up there, it’s not too late! See Cindy Gray or Cindy Raymond, and we’ll be happy to take the picture, print it, and hang it up! Let’s get all our church families up on the board well before our new Pastor joins this church.



Mission and Outreach News



Rush UMC is wonderfully supportive of the missions in South Africa so I will give a history of how

they came to our attention.

When the AIDS epidemic hit, a couple in Syracuse started an organization that partnered hospices in the US with hospices in Africa. The leadership of Lifetime Care Hospice gave permission to apply for a partner. We were



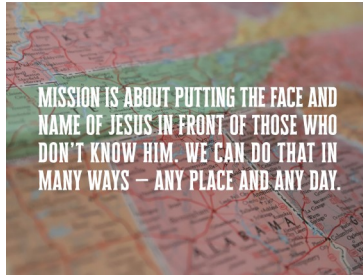
“twinned” with Zululand Hospice Association (ZHA) in Empangeni, South Africa.

I traveled twice with the Foundation. Leadership changed and they no longer led trips. I wanted to return and take others to witness the work and the need, but didn't see myself as a travel agent and was hesitant. However, I felt the Lord was nudging me to respond, “I will go Lord if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.”

I have led 16 teams taking about 50 travelers. 12 have returned at least once and others have gone on to other missions.

In 2009, ZHA staff took us to Musa weNkosi, an orphanage for AIDS orphans. In 2013, Elaine Charlton told us she had a dream of turning an abandoned chicken house into a kitchen and dining area so the children could eat together as a family, making shopping and cooking easier. Others shared that dream and in 2014 a team turned that dream into reality. Gary and Michelle Prok, John and Lyn Kessler, Leon and I were part of that team.

Lifetime Care gradually withdrew support. They were no longer willing to receive and wire the funds. Barb



Kingsley willingly took on this task and I am SO grateful.

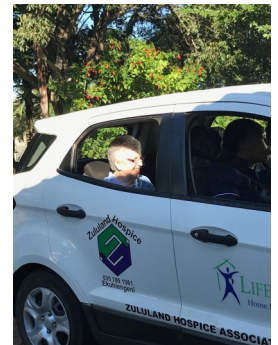
We raise money for the orphanage with a monthly offering, the Election Day Bake Sale and orphan sponsorships. We raise money for ZHA by holding fund-raisers, selling items purchased in South Africa and donations. It was immensely gratifying to be able to wire \$24,700 in January when I heard from ZHA that they are battling to continue their work. Almost 2/3 of this amount was from donations.

I was once asked, “Why do you travel? Just send the money.” I sent money to children through World Vision, but that didn't have nearly

the impact of seeing my sponsored children and their living situation. This quote by Trevor Hudson is the answer to this question, “When painful realities assume a human face to whom we can put a name and to whose story we can listen, a meeting of human hearts takes place. Such heart encounters possess the power to uncover the more compassionate dimensions of our natures... They do not so much need the skills of our hands or the knowledge of our minds as they do the compassion of our hearts.”

Five of us are planning to visit South Africa May 2-17. Thank you for your support and prayers.

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



February Second Sunday Brunch



It's Not Too Soon!

If you are a gardener, or just love seeing the beauty of growing things, you know it's time to start making plans for the growing season. Rush Church is fortunate to be surrounded by beautiful gardens, and we have had some wonderful volunteers to help design and maintain them. We are now in need of some new gardening blood! You don't have to be an expert. You just need to be willing to share some of your time and energy playing in the dirt. A little bit of effort, plus some of God's gifts of sun and rain, will result in flowers and vegetables that will provide joy for our church congregation and surrounding community.



Please consider being part of our gardening team. For more information contact Cindy Gray (cgtgray1039@gmail.com) or sign up on the "I'm Interested in Getting My Hands Dirty" sheet on the kiosk in the church lobby.

Thank You from Global Ministries - UMCOR

Dear Friends in Mission,
Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would – *Thank you!*

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, *you* are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms-sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,
Roland Fernandes,
General Secretary



Supporting Red Bird Mission	\$1,050.00
UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery	\$1,475.00
Total Gift Amount	\$2,525.00

Thank You from FISH/ RHAFT

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$211.71 to FISH/RHAFT Inc.

Your donation will help keep our food cupboard stocked as our many volunteers work hard to fill food requests.

We also have many volunteers helping to find rides as well as transporting our seniors to their medical appointments.

Thank you for your annual donation of \$150.00 to FISH/RHAFT, Inc. Your partnership means so much to our community.

Thanks again for all your support and all you do.

Sincerely,

Joanne DiSano
FISH/RHAFT, Inc. Financial Secretary



Leadership Ministry Team Contact Information

Kelly Barrett	kjbarrett92@gmail.com
Geoffrey Furman	furman@rochester.rr.com
Cindy Gray	cgtgray1039@gmail.com
Dan Kingsley	deltakilo@gmail.com
Michelle Prok	mibopbuckeye@gmail.com
Lisa Shingleton	homeforsale51@gmail.com
Steve Williams	williasc@gmail.com



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; No
 Communion during
 Lent
 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
 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
 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.
 March dates are the 13th and 27th.
 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 or
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 April 2024 issue is 5PM, Thursday, March 21, 2024.