



His Faithful Followers

A publication of Rush United Methodist Church
January 2026

A Note from Pastor Kyle

A Time for Every Season: Reflections on New Beginnings

As the final days of December give way to the promise of a new year, our hearts and minds often turn to the rhythms of time, change, and renewal. This natural inclination to reflect on "for every time there is a season" resonates deeply with the wisdom found in the book of Ecclesiastes, reminding us that life's journey is a tapestry woven with threads of joy and sorrow, growth and rest, endings and new beginnings.

The passage from Ecclesiastes 3 is a profound meditation on the cyclical nature of existence. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot; a time to kill and a time to heal..." This ancient wisdom reminds us that our lives, much like the changing seasons, unfold in a sequence of appointed times. We experience periods of abundant harvest and moments of necessary pruning; times of joyful dancing and solemn mourning.

The turning of the calendar year is, in essence, a universally recognized "new season." It's a time when we are collectively encouraged to pause, take stock, and look ahead. The old year, with its triumphs and trials, is laid to rest, making way for the freshness and untapped potential of the new – a powerful invitation to embrace renewal that is central to our faith. Just as the earth rests in winter to burst forth with life in the spring, we too can find moments of rest, reflection, and rejuvenation, allowing us to grow in new ways.

New Year's resolutions are a common tradition, often focused on self-improvement, health, or personal goals. The new year can also be viewed through a spiritual lens: a chance to align our hearts more closely with God's purpose for our lives. Perhaps this is a time to plant seeds of kindness, to heal old wounds, or to simply be more present in our daily lives. The "time to build up" mentioned in Ecclesiastes can be a call to build stronger relationships with family and friends or a deeper connection with our community. Building can and should also mean a time to build up the church.

New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

This new season challenges us to find meaning not only in times of ease but also in the difficult periods. The wisdom of "a time to tear down and a time to build up" acknowledges that sometimes we must let go of old habits, hurts, or ways of thinking that no longer serve our spiritual growth. This "tearing down" is not destructive but preparatory, making room to build something new.

As we step into this new chapter, let us carry the confidence that comes from knowing God is in every season of our lives. We are not lost in the chaos of time but held within a divine rhythm and purpose. The new year is not merely a marker of time passing, but a gracious gift, an opportunity to live more intentionally, love more deeply, and walk more faithfully with the assurance that for every time there is a season, and God is present in them all. May your new year be blessed with hope, peace, and the joyous discovery of new beginnings.

Blessings,

Pastor Kyle



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Ladies' Lunch Bunch

The Ladies' Lunch Bunch is a time of fellowship for older women who are single, widowed, divorced, or separated. They meet the first Monday of each month, at 12:30pm, in the church Fellowship Hall. The January luncheon is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 5. At our January meeting we will discuss some possible programs to enjoy during this time of fellowship. Please come prepared with some ideas!

If you would like to join Pastor Kyle 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, or call her at 585-362-6206.



Board of Trustees Updates

The Board of Trustees is a small group of volunteers with a very big responsibility: to serve as Christian stewards of the property God has entrusted to our congregation. We are responsible for the oversight and care of all our church property, buildings, and equipment to further the mission of the church. Our new year's projects will focus on reviewing the very large list of projects that need doing, prioritizing them, and making plans for addressing the issues.

We are very pleased to welcome three new members to this group, Karl Baum, Chris Modaffer, and Paul Richards. They were elected at our last church conference. We also wish to thank the three trustees who are stepping down now that their terms are completed: Chris Chamot, Paul Kingsley, and Gary Prok. All of these men have put in years of hard work to support the church, and we know they will continue to do so.

We are currently looking for individuals who are willing to help on an occasional basis with the wide assortment of fix-it and maintenance issues that occur in our church building. If you would like to learn more, please contact Cindy Gray at cgtgray1039@gmail.com. Our January meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 5 at 7:00pm, at the church.



Choir Update

Thank you to the choir for blessing us with the gift of the Cantata! It was beautiful and I couldn't ask for better people to work with. But I can ask for more. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us, regular Choir rehearsals will start back up on Wednesday, January 7, at 6:30pm and on Sunday, January 11, at 8:30am. We welcome new members. Feel free to just come to a rehearsal or reach out to Kellianne at klkw1212@gmail.com.



Human Relations Sunday

A special offering for Human Relations Sunday will be taken on Sunday, January 11, 2026. The Human Relations Sunday it is a Special Sunday that calls all United Methodist churches to participate in helping all God's children, particularly those that are marginalized, to realize their potential. It is a day to help nurture at-risk youth, strengthen communities' self-improvement efforts, and advocate for the oppressed. The funds raised offer support to Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services programs related to the General Board of Global Ministries and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, General Board of Church and Society. This is one of six special offerings United Methodist Churches take each year. Your donation can be mailed or dropped off at church or be made electronically. Please indicate "Human Relations Offering" on your check, envelope, or electronic donation.



Second Sunday Brunch

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 11AM, plan to stay for the Second Sunday Fellowship Bunch. This is a time for fellowship and a meal. Meet families you haven't met before and/or families in your child's Sunday School class. Get to know them better. Enjoy a meal without having to fix it yourself! The cost is \$1 - \$2 per person. Child-friendly options are available.



Winter Wednesday Community Family Supper and Game Night

Mark your calendars, and plan to join us in the church Fellowship Hall as we resume our monthly Wednesday Night Suppers, on Wednesday Jan. 28 at 5:30pm. This month's menu is Spaghetti, with meatballs on the side. Gluten free pasta will be available, as well as the option of Macaroni and Cheese. Beverages and tableware are provided – just bring your appetite. Desserts to share are welcome, but NOT required. This is a great way to connect with

PromiseLand families and members of the church. Bring your family and your friends; come for supper and stay for a laid-back evening of fellowship and fun. Board games and activities will be available!



PromiseLand Update



PromiseLand childcare, a ministry of this church, we currently serve almost 40 children and are looking to grow. We are hiring full-time Lead teachers.

Qualified candidates should have experience working in ECE with a degree in this area. If you know of anyone who may meet these



criteria, who is looking for a job, please encourage them to reach out. More information can be found by reaching out to promiselandchildcare1996@gmail.com.

Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpvvM-xn2vo>

Since 2014, RRRS (Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services) has developed a portfolio of properties which we own and manage, housing over 450 refugees from Burundi, Somalia, Congo, DR, Burundi, Myanmar, Nepal, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, Cameroon, South Sudan, Sudan, Jordan, Syria, Vietnam and others.

These properties are all located within 15 minutes from our office at 393 Lexington Avenue. We have had all our properties energy audited and lead tested. This is one of the many ways we try to make our units affordable and safe.

RRRS owes most of its success to the hundreds of local volunteers who give of their time and effort each year to our refugee community. The classic examples of volunteerism are the "6 amigos" from the Upper NY United Methodist Church, Genesee Valley District, Walt, Leon, Pete, Jim, Lou and Roger. These very experienced and well-seasoned construction and repair guys have been all over the world on mission trips. They donate 2 days a week doing repairs and rehabs of our houses.

Thanks to the many, many volunteers like these guys, RRRS is what it is today, and hundreds of lives have been changed for the better.



The Angel Tree Ministry

The Angel Tree gifts were delivered to the West Avenue Salvation Army where a large party for the recipient families was held. Thank you to all who participated in this ministry that brings extra joy to many children during Christmas!

Blessings,
Danielle Raymond



Super Sale Update

A big thank you to all who helped with the December Super Sale. To our dedicated shed workers, our regular Wednesday morning workers, our set up and tear down crew, those who worked during the sale and all those who donated and bought items. We couldn't have done it without you. As of December 26, \$6,725.48 with pre-sales, the sale day and post sales, was raised. A total of \$19,171.31 was raised in 2025. These funds go directly into the general operating budget.

We have started working Wednesday mornings at 9, sorting and pricing newly donated items. We are again accepting housewares, toys, etc for the May sale.

Also, please only put gently used clothing, shoes and linens in the shed. Everything else should go to Goodwill.

Thank you,
Cindy



Super Sale



Cheer Bags Thank You

I wish to thank all those who supplied baked goods, fruit, snack bags, candy or who made a donation for the red carnations from Chases. We filled about 25 Cheer Bags on December 13.

Thank you to those who helped stuff the bags and deliver to spread some cheer for our homebound, caregivers, those in senior living facilities and for those who have experienced loss or facing illness.

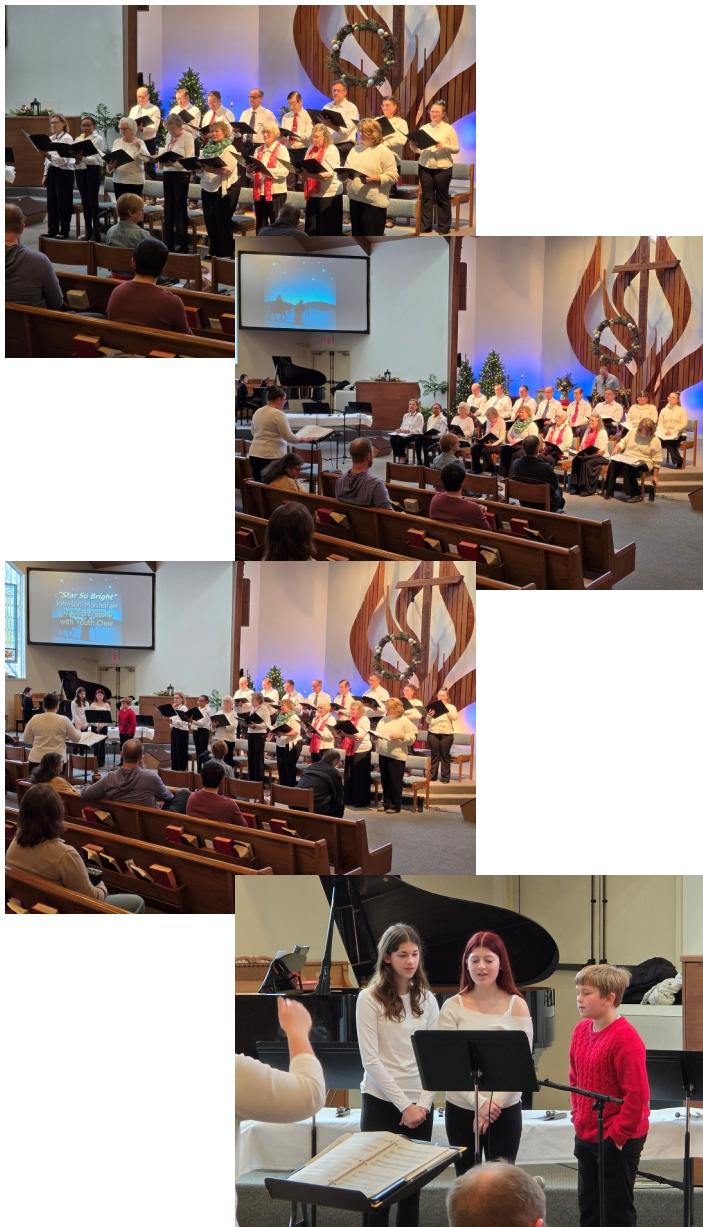
This annual event would not be possible without your help.

May you all have a safe, healthy & peaceful holiday season.

Joyce Smith



Choir Advent Cantata



Choir Chimes



Roof Replacement Loan Repayment

	Date Paid	Amount Paid	Balance
Opening Balance			\$29,333.59
Interest at 3.25%			\$953.34
Loan plus Interest			\$30,286.93
Payment #49	01/20/2025	\$250.00	\$30,036.93
Payment #50	02/15/2025	\$250.00	\$29,786.93
Payment #51	03/15/2025	\$250.00	\$29,536.93
Payment #52	04/15/2025	\$250.00	\$29,286.93
Payment #53	05/15/2025	\$250.00	\$29,036.93
Payment #54	06/15/2025	\$250.00	\$28,786.93
Payment #55	07/15/2025	\$250.00	\$28,536.93
Payment #56	08/15/2025	\$250.00	\$28,286.93
Payment #57	09/15/2025	\$250.00	\$28,036.93
Payment #58	10/15/2025	\$250.00	\$27,786.93
Payment #59	11/15/2025	\$250.00	\$27,536.93
Payment #60	12/15/2025	\$250.00	\$27,286.93
Year End Payment from additional donations	12/31/2025	\$3,275.00	\$24,011.93
Total Paid		\$6,275.00	



Rush United Methodist Church

Analysis of Revenues and Expenses

General Operating Budget

January–November 2025

Accounts	Annual Budget 2025	Year to Date Actual—2025	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Revenues				
Program Income	\$17,350.00	\$15,046.57	\$2,303.43	86.72%
Total Other Income	\$95,624.96	\$86,690.10	\$8,934.86	90.66%
Received Through Pledges	\$241,750.00	\$225,898.38	\$15,851.62	93.44%
Reimbursement of Expenses	\$22,467.00	18,965.18	\$3,501.30	84.41%
Total Revenues	\$359,841.96	\$331,553.66	\$28,288.00	92.14%
Expenses				
Board of Trustees	\$52,500.00	\$60,510.80	(\$8,010.80)	115.26%
Education	\$2,335.00	\$863.58	\$1,471.42	36.98%
Insurance	\$16,300.00	\$14,237.57	\$2,062.43	87.35%
Missions	\$29,246.00	\$26,350.50	\$2,895.50	90.10%
Office Expenses	\$12,000.00	\$12,499.42	(\$499.42)	104.16%
Clergy Salary	\$53,184.04	\$49,092.48	\$4,091.56	92.31%
Lay—Salaries	\$89,151.32	\$81,147.35	\$8,003.97	91.02%
Clergy Benefits	\$59,387.30	\$55,152.70	\$4,234.60	92.87%
Ministry Team Expenses	\$9,675.00	\$5,365.90	\$4,309.10	55.46%
Other Program Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$1,890.10	\$109.90	94.50%
Utilities	\$31,250.00	\$25,212.05	\$6,037.95	80.68%
PromiseLand	\$0.00	(\$0.05)	\$0.05	0.00%
Total Expenses	\$357,028.66	\$332,322.40	\$24,706.26	93.08%
Net Total	\$2,813.30	(\$768.74)	\$3,582.04	0.00%



Capital Stewardship Campaign Update

As of Wednesday, December 26, 2025, we have received \$269,200.00 or 53.84% in pledges towards our \$500,000.00 goal. Of the amount pledged, we have received \$218,259.69 of which \$164,446.69 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, for repairs to gutters, as a deposit and finishing the drainage work in the parking lot and west side of the building and patching, sealing and striping the driveway and parking lot and for the permit, electronic sign and electrical work to install the sign. Twenty-one thousand two hundred seventy dollars (\$21,270.00), not pledged, of this total has been designated for the electronic sign. \$10,000.00 of this was donated by PromiseLand Childcare. Additionally, a deposit has been paid to repair and replace the board and batten siding to prepare it for staining in the spring. Pledges continue to be accepted. Even if you haven't made a pledge, donations to the Capital Stewardship Campaign are gratefully accepted.



Thank You

The Spinning Guild is always so impressed with the many community outreach programs you do. Please accept this gift for us to use as the church sees a need.



Thank you!

Genesee Valley Handspinner's Guild



Prayer Concerns

Health Concerns: Alison, Mary Callerame, Bob and Linda Faugh, Buzz and Joan Grimm, Roger Haas, Kevin Kinnally, Debra Kostiw, Ray Smith, Al Sweet

Michele Cuatt's husband, Dan, was traveling frequently last week

Buzz Grimm, was in the hospital for pain and a recurrence of cancer, he has since returned home; he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of bladder cancer

Judy and Mike Lamb, mobility issues

Kris Roehrig's mom, home from the hospital, recovering from respiratory concerns

Pastor Kyle's mom, in transition between a senior living facility and living at home by herself

Julie Sanderson, fast healing, 3 broken ribs from a fall on Wednesday, December 10

Al Sweet, was at the Jewish Home, is now home

Joanne Whalen-Smith has moved to the Jewish Home for rehab from a fall, she has since returned home

Ellie Williams neighbor, fell and broke his hip

Mass shooting at Bondi Beach in Australia during Hanukkah Celebration

Mass shooting at Brown University

Please continue to pray for the children and staff of the Children's Home, Musa weNkosi. The Department of Social Development continues to threaten to close them down and this "is very stressful for everyone, especially the children," writes Elaine Charlton

Those in our congregation who are suffering with loss, illness, or deteriorating health

PromiseLand Childcare staff, children and families

Heritage Christian Services Rush Day Hab

Zululand Hospice

Unity and peace to come to our troubled land

Government Leaders

Aggressive diplomacy that will lead to peace and justice for Palestinians and Israelis

Israel, Ukraine and other conflicts around the world

The Jewish people

School Districts, Parents and Students

Families and friends of those affected by continued gun violence and mass shootings

Violence in places of Worship

Those struggling with addiction and alcoholism

For justice and health care to be deployed equally and evenly among all people

End to racism, inequality and injustice

Our Bishop, 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

Those who are incarcerated

Small Businesses

Hospital and Nursing Home Staff

Help us all to remember that in these times as always Jesus is with us, we're not alone

Prayers for our youth to find themselves and God in the process

Parents of New Drivers

Those looking for employment

Elderly parents, youth, teens, young adults, those suffering from chronic pain, mental health problems depression and addiction

Employers looking for people to hire

Our children, youth and church family

Campus Ministries

All Volunteers who go on Missions

UMCOR

Refugee resettlement project and resettlement families

City of Rochester

International Students

People with disabilities, anxiety disorders, and depression

Colleges around the country

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

Ruth Baldoni
Mary Callerame
Lynne Jacobs
Gisela Rice

Jean Banker
Ernie Harrington
Kevin Kinnally
Penny Schultheis

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

Phillip Banker
Ben Frederick
Jason McKnight
Isaiah Montana
Sgt. Joseph
Sarmiento
Bryan Simpson
Matthew
Simpson
Marcus Sydow

Jason Bello



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

Bereavement

Deborah Eshelman and family, Derek unexpectedly died on November 26, 2025

Michelle Prok's mom, Betty Stover, recently passed away

Doris Turner passed away on Tuesday, November 25



Praises

Pat Boyes, is home from the hospital

Judy and Mike Lamb, thank you very much for the Christmas Bag

A successful Holiday Super Sale—Thank you

January Birthdays and Anniversaries





Mission and Outreach

Last month I told you of Musa weNkosi's appeal for funds to install flush toilets. In December, Barb wired just over \$10,000!

We received the following report recently: "At the beginning of last month, we had a message from a previous employee, (she has been fired for teaching the children about ancestor worship). Her 5-year-old child played with matches. In the resulting fire they lost everything. We donated a food parcel, clothes and photocopied legal documents so they could get further help from DSD. A few weeks later a political councilor thanked our social worker for all the help Musawenkosi gave to the

family. She begged us to never stop showing God's love to this community.

Later in the month, we heard that a member of staff passed away. It was a very difficult time for the family. The staff at Musa stepped up to help them. In the rural areas everyone who knew the family comes to the funeral and has to be fed. The staff organized tents, chairs, pots, shopping for food. They stayed up all night helping and cooked all the food. Baba Jobe shared the Gospel with them at the funeral.

During the speeches after the funeral the spokesperson to the Nkosi (chief), said that the Nkosi had been told of all the ways in which Musawenkosi had helped the community in their time of need. He mentioned how much Musawenkosi had done for the funeral. How we give old people who can't get to clinic a lift for their appointments. He knew which homes we gave food parcels to. He said that the community



needs Musawenkosi in their area. The Lord has been gracious to help us to share the Gospel in situations where people are in need. We could not do this without your help. Your prayers are what sustains us and gives us the strength to do the work. Your donations pay for all we do in the community. We wanted to encourage you God has heard your prayers and is definitely working in the area."

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Rush UMC, your generosity and prayers are impacting communities locally and many miles away. We witnessed the amazing work Joy Falk and Mama Shandu are doing in the after-school program in Nselini. Joy Falk will be on home leave from March-August. We will miss Joy, but the program will still be operating while we are there and we hope to participate.

I don't have a definite date for our 2026 visit to South Africa, but it will likely be last half of April into May. Let me know if you are interested in joining the team.

"Some of us sidestep suffering, thinking that avoiding it brings happiness, but God stands with the brokenhearted. When we stand with the suffering, we encounter the God of mercy. This is the way forward: believing that we share one planet, depend upon one another for survival, and are able to ease one another's paths." Marilyn Lacey, RSM, PLOUGH

Erma Perkins,
ermaperkins@me.com

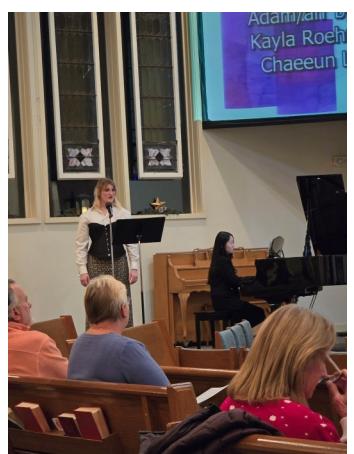
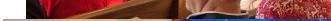


Christmas Pageant Thank You

Thanks to all the children, youth, teachers, and volunteers who helped with the pageant this year. We worked over the past month during our Sunday school and youth times to get everything ready. The kids did an amazing job, and I am very proud of all of them!



Alethea Coulter
Children's Ministry Director
Interim Youth Ministry Director



Christmas Eve

Thank You!

December 2025

We want to thank you for the Holiday Gift Bag of goodies. We are looking forward to enjoying every piece of the gift and thank you for thinking of us.

You are a beautiful loving congregation!

Buzz and Joan Grimm



Thank You

Dear friends at RUMC,

Thank you for thinking of us and keeping us in your prayers.

The Christmas gift bag was so thoughtful of you.

Thank you,

Nancy & Al Sweet



Leadership Ministry Team Contact Information

Kelly Barrett	kjbarrett92@gmail.com
Jan Funkhauser	jsquaredf@aol.com
Geoffrey Furman	furman@rochester.rr.com
Cindy Gray	cgtgray1039@gmail.com
Natalie Johnstone	johnstone.natalie@yahoo.com
Dan Kingsley	deltakilo@gmail.com
Michelle Prok	mibopbuckeye@gmail.com
Lisa Shingleton	homeforsale51@gmail.com
Steve Williams	williasc@gmail.com



Thank You

December 8, 2025

Rush UMC
PO BOX 49
6200 Rush Lima Rd
Rush, NY 14542

Dear Emma, Jean, Bonnie, Susan & Rush UMC,

We sincerely appreciate your generous donations to the Mission Central Hub. Your support enables us to provide care, compassion, and hope to communities and survivors in need.

Thanks to partnerships and contributions like yours, the Hub has been actively involved in disaster response efforts right in our own neighborhoods. In the wake of the severe storms and flooding that affected Monroe, Madison, Oneida, and Tioga counties, we successfully mobilized UMCOR cleaning kits, hygiene supplies and Early Response Teams to assist families on their path to recovery. Our volunteers offered hands-on help with debris removal, home cleanouts and a compassionate presence for those who have experienced significant loss.

Your partnership plays a crucial role in this ministry. For every dollar received and kit assembled, we are prepared to respond during crises and address ongoing needs in our communities. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission.

Together in community,

Kristina Clark
UNY Conference Disaster Response Coordinator
Associate Director of Missional Excellence



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

Happy New Year • Happy New Year • Happy New Year

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



Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30AM—Adult Bible/Book Study led by Michelle Prok
8:30AM—Choir Rehearsal
9:30AM—Worship Service - In-Person and on YouTube and Facebook; Communion: Second and Fourth Sunday of each month
9:45AM—One Room Sunday School Class for Children
10:45AM—Rush UMC Coffee Hour
11:00AM—Lectionary Study with Pastor Kyle
2:00PM—Living With Loss



Youth Group



Youth in grades 6—12 meet a couple of times a month. Watch the bulletin and youth page on the website for dates and activities. All youth are welcome to come and invite a friend.

Leadership Ministry Team

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome by email to any Leadership Ministry Team Members, contact information on page 9.

How to Reach Us

Church Telephone: 585-533-2170
Church Fax: 585-533-1978
Pastor Kyle Telephone: 585-533-2170
PromiseLand Telephone: 585-533-2475
Web Site: www.rushumc.com
Email Address: rumc@rushumc.org
Rush Tidings Address: rumcnews@rushumc.org



Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation
Pastor: Rev. Kyle Roehrig
Administrative Assistant: Barbara Kingsley Office Hours: 9AM - 4PM Monday- Friday
.... Working Remotely on Tuesdays and occasionally on Fridays
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: Chaeeun Lee
Lay Leaders: Worship: Steve Williams
Children, Youth and Families: Tanya Hunt
Mission and Outreach: Erma Perkins
Leadership Team: ... Kelly Barrett, Jan Funkhauser, Cindy Gray, Geoffrey Furman, Natalie Johnstone, Dan Kingsley
... Michelle Prok, Kyle Roehrig, Lisa Shingleton, Steve Williams

"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: Kyle Roehrig, Senior Pastor; Editor: Barb Kingsley; Deadline for articles to be included in the February issue is Thursday, January 22, 2026.