

## Renewing our Vows

Ah... the joys of jam-packed June! A season of celebrations and ceremony moves toward the quiet of summer. Weddings, graduations, moving-up ceremonies, “end of the year” picnics and gatherings - it can be a crazy time of year –and one where soon we give thanks for the gift of summer – and collapse into the quieter months of July and August.

Yet at the heart of many of the ceremonies of this season, some strong promises were made. At any number of weddings, couples looked each other in the eye and made promises to love each other through whatever the days ahead might bring. At confirmation this past month, 23 young people stood before the congregation and promised to seek to be Christ’s faithful disciples through all the days before them. As we reach the half-way point of the year, and as we have a moment to pause and reflect, it may be worth asking ourselves the question: how are we doing?

I say that, because it is the very thing I need to hear. After the busy run through late winter and spring, the urge to “take the summer off” from as much as possible is strong. For a time that may be a very good thing. We all need down time – time to rest, time to reflect, time to renew our energies and our focus. It is worth making the commitment to do so, rather than letting our lives simply fill with activity, or drift until fall comes back around. That idea has been reflected in the decision the Session made last month to grant me a summer of sabbatical in 2018 – a

time to refresh and renew and reenergize – with both “down time” and time of very intentional focus and study. I am grateful to the Session’s commitment to the health and ongoing growth of the church’s pastors!

In the spirit of the commitments made all around us in these recent weeks, it is worth us revisiting our own promises – promises made to spouses and children; promises made to God; promises made to one another. And with that, how might we be intentional during the quieter months ahead of us about living more fully into those promises?

Here at church, take a look through this issue of Grace Notes. Opportunities to grow as a people of faith continue on throughout the summer. It slows a bit – most committees pause for the summer, and the Saturday evening service will take a summer break. But throughout this month and on into summer, there are many ways to renew, refresh, and join the confirmation class in the promise they recently made: *Will you share in the church’s worship and ministry, and, through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, fulfill your calling as a disciple of Jesus Christ?*

Together, let us say: We will, with God’s help.



**Evelyn Barringer**, daughter of Sarah and Scott Barringer  
**Charlotte Billingsley**, daughter of Julia and James Billingsley  
**Christopher Brown**, son of Marcy Haydel & Rob Brown  
**Emma Christopher**, daughter of Laura and Scott Christopher  
**Beatrice Deen**, daughter of Cynthia and Paul Deen  
**Shelby Gadaleta**, daughter of Caroline and Frank Gadaleta  
**Hunter Keegan**, son of Lisa and Mark Keegan  
**Quinn Kelly**, son of Sue and Jim Kelly  
**Christopher King**, son of Laura Randa & Brian Doan  
**Lauren King**, daughter of Laura Randa & Brian Doan  
**Davis Knight**, son of Emily and Paul Knight  
**Kathryn Laverty**, daughter of Julianne and Jeff Laverty  
**Daniel Mackle**, son of Susan and Bruce Mackle  
**James Mackle**, son of Susan and Bruce Mackle  
**Emily Mann**, daughter of Jenn and Jeff Mann  
**Kyle O’Brien**, son of Dee and Tim O’Brien  
**Connor Owen**, son of Susan and David Owen  
**Claudia Rafa**, daughter of Kristen and Michael Rafa  
**Michela Rawson**, daughter of Lisa and Michael Rawson  
**Nicola Rogers**, daughter of Tavenner and Sean Rogers  
**Kathryn Stevens**, daughter of Jennifer and Scot Stevens  
**Grace Wyckoff**, daughter of Wendy and Jay Wyckoff  
**Andrew Yarrow-Escaladas**, son of Suzanne Yarrow

*Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2017!*

## Prison Ministry



### PRISON MINISTRY OF GRADUATIONS, CELEBRATIONS, AND MOVING ON



June is a time of graduations—when individuals close one chapter of their lives and open a new and unknown one. As we celebrate the graduating seniors of families in RPC, some of the most meaningful graduations take place hidden behind the 40 foot concrete walls of prisons around New York. Through its prison ministry, RPC is proud to help facilitate those graduations.

Hudson Link: On June 7, 33 men at Sing Sing prison will graduate from Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, 22 with Associates degrees and 11 with Bachelors. Many of these men are the first in their family to even go to college, let alone graduate. They are setting the bar for their children, encouraging them not to follow dad into prison, but rather to follow him into school.

In addition 24 men will graduate from other Hudson Link programs, which are bringing hope to 6 other prisons in NY. And more will come, demonstrating that this privately funded educational program is clearly scalable. When RPC played a role in launching this program in 1998, with no money and many prayers, little did we know the success it would become and that it would be the model for similar prison education projects in other states.

New York Theological Seminary: On June 14, 13 men will graduate from the NYTS Masters in Professional Studies Program. This is a fully accredited 36 credit graduate program which began in 1982. RPC began meeting monthly with students and graduates of this program in 1995. In our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Church and Justice worship service on April 23 12 graduates of this program led all aspects of the service, including our guest preacher.

Rising Hope: On June 15, at least 10 men will graduate from Rising Hope at Sing Sing. This is a program created in 1996 by men in Sing Sing and modeled after the NYTS program. It has expanded to a few other New York prisons and aims to provide the first steps toward college for individuals who may not even have a GED. It has now achieved accreditation, so credits can be transferred to other schools. Our own John Miller teaches in Rising Hope at Sing Sing.

Coming Home: This graduation will take place on June 4 right here in RPC. It is for the 9 individuals who participated in RPC's second Coming Home program—formerly incarcerated individuals build successful lives. The participants, along with members of the congregation, some of whom are mentors for the participants, have met for dinner each week for 18 weeks, exploring ways to find employment, housing, and to tell their own stories and be proud of who they are becoming.

Celebrations: What is a graduation without a celebration?

For *Coming Home* it is a small gathering of participants and mentors, to which anyone in the congregation is also invited, to enable them to give their personal testimony of who they are becoming.

For *Rising Hope* it is often just the feeling of a job well done in taking that first step forward in a prisoner's education. Until now, the Department of Corrections hasn't allowed a celebration for Rising Hope graduations—but that may be starting to change.

For *New York Theological Seminary*, it is a luncheon for graduates and their families and friends, to breathe a sigh of relief that their studies are behind them and contemplate how they can best use their education to help others.

For *Hudson Link*, in addition to the graduation and a luncheon in the prison, it is a gala and fundraiser, attended by 300 people at the Grand Hyatt. Most importantly, among the attendees were 25 graduates of Hudson Link (and often NYTS as well), who were able to tell people at their tables how they are using their educations to give back to the society they once harmed by creating or working for non-profits that help steer young people away from crime, develop housing programs for the poor, or helping make positive change in their communities.

All of these graduations celebrate the achievements of men and women who took wrong turns in their lives, paid the price for that, and bent their lives back toward the light of giving to society in positive ways, large and small. RPC is proud to be part of all of these programs and to have played a positive role in the successes these men and women have achieved.



## Christian Education, Confirmation

### Sunday School

Welcome to the largest season of the church year, which begins on June 11, the week after Pentecost Sunday, and will end on the Sunday before Advent. Throughout the month of June, the children will be learning and growing in their faith to follow God faithfully day by day. They will hear stories titled "Formed by Love," "About Compassion," and "God and Sparrows," based on the scriptures of Genesis and Matthew. The very first story they will hear will be about the creation of our world, the sky, the sea, the flowers, everything in our world that was formed by the love of God.

Our annual picnic will be on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> in the grape arbor following the 10:00am service and Sunday School. Please look for the sign up for side dishes and paper goods from the CE Committee in this issue of Grace Notes. Come enjoy some time with the children and the teachers of our wonderful Sunday School program while enjoying hot dogs, sliders and a refreshing cup of lemonade! Hope to see you there!



### Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School begins on June 18 and runs through August 27. During the summer, children in grades Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meet as a multi-age group in the youth rooms. Please note that on Sunday, July 2 and Sunday September 3 there are no Sunday School classes. Children will remain in worship with their families.



We are looking for volunteer teachers to teach our Summer School classes. We will need two teachers per Sunday to co-teach the class. Please email Nancy, at [christianed@ryepc.com](mailto:christianed@ryepc.com) if you are interested in teaching.

**Sunday, June 4:** Communion Sunday  
Grades 5th-8th

**Sunday, June 11:** Annual Sunday  
School Picnic

**Sunday, June 18:** First day of Summer  
Sunday School

### Middle School Connection

RPC's Middle School Youth Group  
Year-end Picnic

**Wednesday, June 7**

5:50-6:45 p.m. at the Love home- 900  
Boston Post Road (two doors down from  
the church)

[dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

### High School Youth Group

During this time of transition on our church staff, John and Heather Miller have been meeting with our High School Youth Group. On May 21, 18 youth gathered for dinner and to meet with Officer Klein and Officer Caputo to talk about alcohol and drug use among youth in Rye. All of the youth attending one of our two NOLA Mission Trips this summer met on Sunday evening, May 7 for a general orientation meeting.

Our last planned event for this school year is to help serve Dinner at Noon at the Carver Center in Port Chester on Saturday, June 3. Meet at the church at 10:00a.m. We should return by 12:30 p.m. or earlier. Note that youth can receive community service hours for this event.



If you are attending the **AUGUST NOLA** Mission Trip, your next meeting will be on Sunday, **June 4**, from 6-7:30pm, at the Miller Manse (the stone manse) located next to the church at 890 Boston Post Rd.

If you are attending the **JUNE NOLA** Mission Trip, your next meeting will be Sunday, **June 11** at 6 p.m. in the church kitchen. Have those shirts ready for some RPC tie-dye!

For more info, contact John Miller:

[jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com).

### Confirmation 2018

**Confirmation 2018 Informational  
meeting**

**Sunday, June 18, 11:30 a.m.**

Following worship on June 18, parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders as well as any current 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to the library for a brief conversation with Dan Love about the Confirmation process for next year. We'll cover curriculum, expectations, what to do if your child will be away next year, and any other questions you might have.



### Baby Box

On May 6 & 8 members of the congregation delivered and helped organized essentials that go inside the Baby Boxes at Open Door in Port Chester!





## Music Notes / Updates

### ***From Jason Charneski***

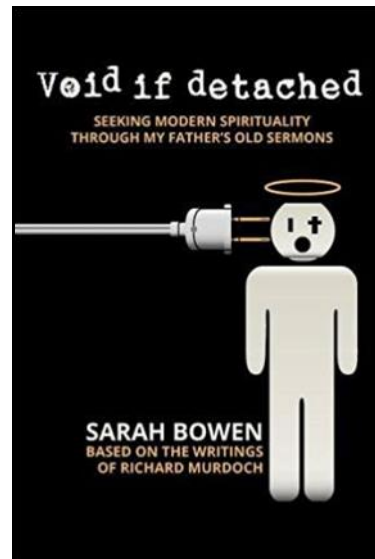
#### **Summer Choir: All Are Welcome!**



Summer Choir! Come, anyone who has voice of any volume and is of any age! When: Sundays, June 18 and 25, July 9 and 30, and August 6 and 13. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m., in the Choir Room, in order to prepare something lovely (and simple) to sing within the 10:00 a.m. service. And, simple is the larger construct of this offering: sit with your family or friends, get into position on the chancel steps; no robes and no processions. As the dates draw near, please let me know you'll add your voice.

#### **Other Summer Music-in-Worship Opportunities**

Maybe you play an instrument. If so and you'd like an opportunity to play something in worship this summer, please let me know (community service credit available for high school students). You could play for the prelude, accompany one or more of the hymns, or play during Communion, etc. Maybe pair with a friend who plays the same or a different instrument. Let's talk: 914-967-0842, ext. 16, or [jcharneski@rvepc.com](mailto:jcharneski@rvepc.com). God speaks to and through each of us in varied ways: let's honor that call!



### ***Award-Winning, Sarah Bowen***

Congratulations to Sarah Bowen on the recent publication of her first book! Sarah is the daughter of The Rev. Dr. Richard Murdoch, who served as Pastor of Rye Presbyterian from 1994 until 2004. In her book, Sarah incorporates sermons from throughout her father's career into thoughtful reflections on history, theology and her own journey of faith.



### ***A Look Back...***

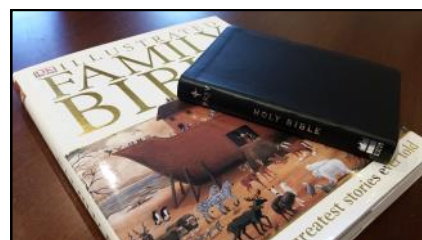


### ***Dr. Joseph Ho***

Dan Love and Dr. Joseph Ho taking a look at the camera donated by Rye Presbyterian Church to missionaries to China. Dr. Ho's presentation on the Rye connection to China at the Jay Heritage Center included footage from the 1930's filmed with this camera – which still works!

### ***Bible Sunday***

It was a day of celebration on May 14 as Mother's Day was the occasion for giving bible to high school seniors and first graders! A very special thank you to Arthur Henderson for another year offering his gift of calligraphy as he hand-inscribed every bible – 48 in all this year!



## RPC Upcoming Events

### Annual Women's Association Grant Awards and Luncheon



**Monday, June 12**  
**11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**RPC Grape Arbor**  
(weather permitting)

This is the one time of year when we are able to honor and recognize the organizations that we are fortunate enough to support through the success of our Thrift Shop.

Each year the Thrift Shop gives grants to approximately 20 Westchester organizations, groups that serve women, children and other under-served populations. The luncheon is a great time to see first-hand all the good work that our Thrift Shop does for our community.

There's a sign-up sheet at the clipboard station outside the Assembly Room. All church members are welcome and encouraged to come!

Any questions, please email  
[Suzanne Davies](#) or [Mona Hirson](#).

**THRIFT SHOP**  
**CLOSING FOR THE SUMMER**  
**LAST DAY:**  
**Thursday, June 8**  
**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



*See in you September!*

Donations accepted during the summer.  
Drop off downstairs on the left hallway.

Any questions, contact [Suzanne Davies](#)



### A BIG Thank-You to our Thrift Shop Volunteers!

Thank you to all Thrift Shop volunteers for your time, hard work, and dedication in making the Thrift Shop a success again this year.

### WESTCHESTER COUNTY MOBILE SHREDDER

**On-site at RPC**

**Wednesday, June 21, 10:00-10:30 a.m.**

- Bring your confidential personal papers for shredding.
- Remove all large binder clips and covers.
- Paper clips and staples are ok.

**Can't come Wednesday?**

**A locked bin will be available in Assembly Room  
for drop-off of materials beginning Sunday, June 18.**



### Annual Picnic in the Grape Arbor

**Sunday, June 11**  
Immediately after 10:00 a.m.  
worship



**Come and celebrate  
the end of the school year!**

Featuring RPC picnic favorites:  
**The Ice Cream Truck, Sliders from Jerry's, and  
Hotdogs!**

Please bring a dish - according to your last name:

A-K: fruit or dessert  
L-S: wraps or sandwiches  
T-Z: side dish or salad

**Food may be left in the kitchen before worship.**

### June Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans

Please keep the 25 high schoolers and five chaperones traveling to Louisiana in your prayers. We'll be commissioning them in worship on June 26 for their trip from June 26-July 2 as they extend the ministry and mission of RPC all the way to New Orleans!



**Summer Beach Party**  
**Wednesday, July 19**  
**7:00 p.m.**



*American Yacht Club*



**Bring the children for an  
evening of fun and fellowship!**

Hosted by the Congregational Life  
Committee of the Board of Deacons.

## Weekends in June, Bible Study

### Sunday, June 4

- 8:30 a.m.** Holy Communion in the Chapel  
**8:40 a.m.** Prayer Gathering / Library  
**10:00 a.m.** Morning Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary  
                     Communion  
                     Sunday School  
**2:00 p.m.** Coming Home Graduation/ Assembly Room  
**6:00 p.m.** August NOLA Trip / Miller Manse  
**8:00 p.m.** Men's Sunday Evening Bible Study

### Sunday, June 11

- 8:30 a.m.** Holy Communion in the Chapel  
**8:40 a.m.** Prayer Gathering / Library  
**9:30 a.m.** Children's Choir Rehearsal / Chapel  
**10:00 a.m.** Morning Worship in the Sanctuary  
                     Sunday School  
                     Children's Choir Sings  
**6:00 p.m.** June NOLA Trip / Kitchen

### Sunday, June 18

- 11:00 a.m.** Annual Sunday School Picnic / Courtyard  
**8:30 a.m.** Holy Communion in the Chapel  
**8:40 a.m.** Prayer Gathering / Library  
**9:30 a.m.** Summer Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room  
**10:00 a.m.** Morning Worship in the Sanctuary  
                     Start of Summer Sunday School  
**11:30 a.m.** Confirmation 2018 Informational Meeting / Library  
**8:00 p.m.** Men's Sunday Evening Bible Study

### Sunday, June 25

- 8:30 a.m.** Holy Communion in the Chapel  
**8:40 a.m.** Prayer Gathering / Library  
**9:30 a.m.** Summer Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room  
**10:00 a.m.** Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

## BIBLE STUDIES

### Men's Bible Study

**Sunday June 4 and 18,  
at 8:00 p.m. in the Library**

The work and reflection on the Book of Psalms continues on (and at our pace, may do so for some time... but what is the rush?) If you'd like to be on the email reminder list for this gathering, please contact Rev. Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

**Wednesdays, June 7 and 21,  
at 10:00 a.m. in the Library**

Through the month of June, the Wednesday study will continue its journey through the greatest hits of the Old Testament. All are welcome to join!

Please contact Rev. Love at [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com) for more information.

### Women's Bible Study

**Saturdays, June 10 and 24, at 10:00 a.m. in the Library**

A warm welcome and hot coffee await!

For further information, contact Cynthia De Santis.



We all find ourselves in difficult situations at one time or another. Even positive events (birth, moving, a new job...) can cause stress which might be managed better with the help of a Stephen Minister. RPC Stephen Ministers are trained and available to listen, encourage, and provide confidential one-to-one care. To learn more about the resource Stephen Ministry might be for you or a friend, talk to RPC clergy, or contact one of our Stephen Leaders – Jerralee Ernst, Jan Kelsey, Carol Love, Tav Rogers, or Alison Wise



Community Synagogue of Rye

Beginning this month Community Synagogue will be using our Chapel for Sabbath services during their construction project. On June 18 as we end 10 AM worship, we will welcome the members of Community Synagogue as they parade their Torah scrolls into our midst. Come join the festivities as we extend hospitality and honor our shared heritage!



## Coming Home Graduation

Please join our celebration on Sunday, June 4, 2:00-4:30 p.m.,  
in the Assembly Room.

*All are Welcome!*



## June Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Programs

### BOARD MEETINGS

**Deacons:** Tuesday, June 13, 7:00 p.m., King Residence  
**Trustees:** Monday, June 19, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room  
**Session:** Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Room

### WORSHIP AND STUDY

**Worship on Sunday:**  
 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
**Prayer Gatherings:** Sundays in the Library at 8:40 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** Regular Sunday School June 4 and 11, Summer Sunday School starts June 18  
**Confirmation:** 2018 Informational Meeting June 18, 11:30 p.m., Library  
**Men's Sunday Bible Study:** June 4 and 18, 8:00 p.m., Library  
**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** June 7 and 21, 10:00 a.m., Library  
**Women's Bible Study:** Saturdays, June 10 and 24 10:00 a.m., Library  
**Women's Discipleship:** Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Library

### YOUTH

**Boy Scout Troop #2:** Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room (*last meeting June 19*)  
**Connection:** Wednesdays, June 7, 5:30-6:45, Year end Picnic, Love home  
**High School Youth Group:** Saturday, June 3, Meet at church at 10 a.m., Serving Dinner at Noon at the Carver Center in Port Chester  
 August NOLA Trip: Sunday, June 4, 6 p.m., Miller Manse  
 June NOLA Trip: Sunday, June 11, 6 p.m., Kitchen

### MUSIC

**Children's Choir Rehearsal:** Thursdays, 3:45 p.m., (*last meeting June 8*) Choir Room; Sunday, June 11, 9:30 a.m., Chapel  
**Summer Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays, June 18 and 25, 9:30 p.m., Choir Room (*sing during 10:00 a.m. service*)

### OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

**3 Ts:** Tuesday, June 20, 10:00 a.m., Library  
**Coming Home:** Coming Home Graduation, June 4, 2:00 p.m., Assembly Room  
**Mission & Outreach:** Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m., Library  
**Stephen Ministry:**  
 Stephen Leaders: Tuesday, April 4, 5:30 p.m., Library  
 Continuing Education and Supervision: April 4, 7:00 p.m., Library  
**Thrift Shop:** Thursday June 8, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., (*last Thrift Shop before closing for the summer*)  
**Women's Association:** Monthly Meeting, Monday, June 5, 9:00 a.m., Library

### OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

**AA Rye Harrison Group:** Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room  
**AA Group:** Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Youth Rooms  
**Mr. Westchester/Al-Anon Group:** Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Library  
**Sandwichmakers:** Thursday, June 21, 10:00 a.m., Kitchen & Assembly Room

### APNC Update

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) has completed all of the necessary online submissions describing the Associate Pastor position we are seeking to fill and has received numerous referrals through the Church Leadership Connection of our denomination. We will continue to review and evaluate candidates as they respond to our search. Please keep the members of the APNC in your prayers. They are:

*Doug DeStaebler - Co-Chair, Sarah Snell – Co-Chair, Elizabeth Parks, Beth Duchanaud, Nancy Platt, John Hunt, Katy Ridley, Tom Kanes, Glory Kanes (youth representative)*



## Rye Presbyterian Nursery School

### Greetings to the RPC Community from Kristin Bassett Kumar

In all of our four-year-old classrooms we provide the students with an opportunity to learn from "experts" in their field of study. The children ask questions and reflect on the new information they learn. One of our four year old classrooms has been studying astronomy this year. Please enjoy some highlights from this classroom study:

Mrs. Barbero's and Ms. Cunningham's afternoon class showed a great interest in the universe and rocket ships. The class began to research how rockets "blast off," and together they watched a video of a real spaceship launching. They decided to design and create a large rocket ship by using cardboard boxes, recycled materials, and paint.



The rocket ship video that the class watched together referred to the galaxy as a "city of stars." This sparked the children's interest in the stars in the universe. The class learned about our Milky Way which is a galaxy containing

the sun, the solar system, and stars to create light. The formation of the Milky Way led the children to become fascinated with spirals and they wanted to know how a spiral is formed. They formed a large tape spiral on the rug in the block area. They also used a revolving stand and a variety of materials such as shaving cream, paint, and markers to create spirals. As their interest in spirals and stars continued to grow, the students learned about the Aurora Borealis (or Northern Lights), which is an incredible light show caused by collisions between electrically charged particles released from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere and collide with gases such as oxygen and nitrogen. The lights can be seen around the magnetic poles of the northern and southern hemispheres.



Another question about the universe that the students were interested in was how the different parts of the world are connected to each other. One child's drawing sparked interest in recreating the world on a large piece of paper. The

entire class contributed to a large detailed drawing of the land, the sky, and outer space, each created as separate pieces. One student exclaimed, "But, then, is the world separate?" This led the children to question what keeps the world together. They learned about the different layers of the earth and the atmosphere and how gravity plays a role in keeping everything connected.



The class acted out how craters are created on the moon. They made a moon using flour and baby oil. The students decided to use rocks they collected as asteroids and dropped them from up high down on the moon to create holes on the surface. They experimented with whether the heavier rocks formed bigger holes in comparison to the lighter rocks. In April, the class took a field trip together to the Westchester Children's Museum to extend their science adventures. The children explored the principles and concepts of gravity, water molecules, wind, and momentum.



[The Rev. Daniel Love](#), Co-Pastor

[The Rev. Dr. John Miller](#), Co-Pastor

[Jason Charneski](#), Director of Music and Organist

[Lisa Rawson](#), Director of Choirs for Children and Youth

[Maida Robinson](#), Chief Administrative Officer

[Rosemary Annunziato](#), Church Secretary

[Denise LeVan](#), Pastoral Assistant

[Nancy Lavelle](#), Interim Director of Children's Ministries

[Yvonne Zuk](#), Sunday School Supervisor

[Juan Velasquez](#), Head Sexton/Building Manager

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