



His Faithful Followers

A publication of Rush United Methodist Church
March 2025

A Note from Pastor Kyle

Rev. Celia Halfacre chairs the Board of Elders in the RioTexas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Her words below speak to our human desires to get for ourselves what is right and the contrasting longing of our souls to trust and rest in God. I ask you to consider her words, I ask you to ponder the Psalm and I ask you to unite with me to courageously and joyfully love.



#

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. Psalm 37:5 (NRSVUE)

How long, O Lord, until you act? I want your vengeance on the wicked. I really do. I look at all the wickedness around me, and well . . . I'm waiting, Lord. Go ahead. Act.



Psalm 37 speaks about our need to look to God, especially when it seems like the powers and principalities that work against God's kingdom seem to be stronger than us, when it seems like their attack is relentless and too overwhelming for us as we try to keep our heads up. Sometimes, it seems like they're winning, like the "bad guys" are taking over everywhere.

Where do we turn? What do we do? Should we join in the violence we see around us, fighting violence with violence? Or should we keep our heads down and go along to get along?

The Psalmist offers us another way, a way grounded in God, a way where we wait with the Lord. We are not to be passive, but expectant and grounded. We trust God to hold us up and hold us together as we respond to hate with love, as we respond to fear with courage, as we respond to despair with joy. We trust God.

Pastor Kyle

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday, March 9 – remember to set your clocks ahead.



Ash Wednesday

All are welcome to attend and participate in Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, March 5, signifying the beginning of Lent. During this season we are invited to reflect and repent as we spiritually prepare ourselves for the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We will begin at 6:30PM at the pavilion to burn last year's dried palm branches, reducing them to ashes for use during service.

Our service will begin at 7:00PM in the church sanctuary. Ashes will be imposed on the forehead or hand of the willing. Communion will be served.



Choir Update

It feels like we just finished the Christmas Cantata but it's time to look ahead to our Lenten Cantata! The Lenten Cantata will be held on Sunday, April 13. We will start rehearsals for the Lenten Cantata on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30pm. Our dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, April 12 at 9:00am. If you've been thinking about joining the choir, now is a great time to join and sing a joyful song unto the Lord! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Kellianne Williams (choir director) at klkw1212@gmail.com or (585) 507-1996.



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"A Time to Grow"

Seeds. Gardens. Growing. Despite the fact that the ground is covered in snow as I write this, seeds, gardens, and growing are what the Rush Church Nurture committee is focusing on. The Finance committee provided "seed paper" to create petals that you will soon see on the wall in the church lobby. Under the leadership of Richard Nereau and Jeff Werner, we are hoping to create a beautiful vegetable garden that can help provide fresh vegetables for families in need. And our church congregation is growing – both larger and stronger, as we work together to "live and share the love of Jesus."

Seeds, gardens, and growing are part of the lessons of a book study that the Nurture committee is making available, *A Time to Grow*. The book encourages readers to slow down and explore the intricacies of how faith is required to produce food and how that faith can lead us all to feast at the table on Easter morning. Books are available from Cindy Gray, and cost \$9.00. This is a self-study, so you can read at your own pace, but there "Daily Reflections" that cover from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

On Sunday, March 23, we will have the opportunity to share soup and bread together after the church service. More information is available in the newsletter. During

that time, we will have the opportunity to share reflections about what we've read and learned.

To learn more about this opportunity, contact Cindy Gray at cgtgray1039@gmail.com.



March Community Dinner - and Putt-Putt Event!

The March Community Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, so mark your calendars now. The menu will consist of a variety of foods – to allow everyone to create their own *garbage plates!* (There will be child-friendly and gluten-free options available.) We



Putt Putt Golf



will also have a Putt-Putt course set up in the church lobby, for everyone to enjoy. Everyone is invited, so please share this invitation with your neighbors, friends, and family.

If you would like to provide a putt-putt hole for this event, please contact Cindy Gray. The more holes to play the better!

What "We" Believe and "How" We Have Come to Believe It

Are you interested in learning a bit about what "we" believe and "how" we have come to believe it? Over the next few months, Pastor Kyle will be leading a confirmation class for our youth. A conversation has developed suggesting that many of our congregation would also love the opportunity to think about and discuss these same issues. If you are interested in learning about the Christian faith in general and some specifics about the who, what, when, where and why of the United Methodist Church; here's your chance. You can, in an all-adult class, take the same course the youth are experiencing. Just let us know and we can add you to the registration.

Classes start

Wednesday March 26 at 6:30PM.



UNY Early Response Training at Rush UMC

On March 29, 2025, Rush UMC will host an Early Response Team (ERT) Basic Training. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) journeys with affected communities throughout a disaster's cycle, including disaster preparedness, relief, response, recovery and mitigation. UMCOR's Early Response Team (ERT) training program supports conference preparedness and immediate response efforts. Key activities for conference ERT and other response teams are supplying survivors with food, water, shelter and help with mucking out and cleaning up. This training allows us to be an integral part of the process. I hope you will consider joining us for the training and taking another step in helping to build a better community and Kingdom for the future.

Registration for the ERT Class on March 29th at Rush UMC is now open. Here is the link: <https://secure.ggiv.com/for/vimtraining/event/ertspring25/>.

If you have anyone that would like to take the class, but the cost is prohibitive, please have them contact Kristina Clark at the Conference Center, for a partial or full scholarship.



Easter Memorial Plants

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

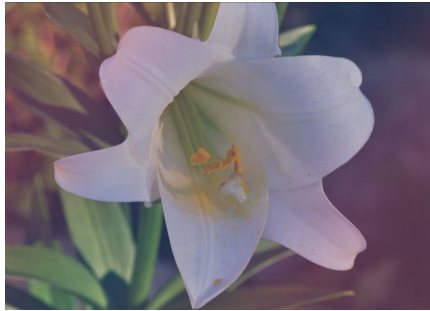
Flowering plants will grace our Sanctuary with their beauty on Easter Sunday, April 20.

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 Monday, April 7. If no one answers the phone, please leave a message with your name and phone number and I will return your call when I return from the PAUMCS Conference or send an email to office@rushumc.org. The prices are as follows:

Lilies – 5+ Blooms	\$9.50
Lilies – 8" pot Doubles	\$19.25
Hydrangeas - 3+ blooms	\$17.25
Hyacinths - 6" pots	\$7.25
Tulips – 6" pots	\$7.25
Daffodils – 6" pots	\$7.25

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.



High School Senior College Scholarship

Each year, Rush United Methodist Church awards a scholarship for graduating high school seniors who are pursuing further education at an accredited college or university. This scholarship is a way for Rush United Methodist Church to bless graduates on their journey of higher education. The recipient of the scholarship for 2025 will be acknowledged during worship on Graduate Sunday, June 29.

The scholarship of \$1,000 is given to a graduating High School senior who is an active member at Rush United Methodist Church.

The selection of scholarship recipient is based entirely on the candidate's written application. The Scholarship application is available on the church website, www.rushumc.com under "Links". The deadline to submit a completed application via email is Tuesday, June 10, 2025.



VBS - Save the date

We have decided to offer a hybrid Vacation Bible School this year. We will be doing both evening and Saturday programming. The dates are July 8 and 10, 6-8:30pm and July 12, 9-3pm. Please consider volunteering or supporting this ministry.

Currently we can use help with advertising and planning for the event but there are plenty more opportunities for you to be involved as we progress. Please let me know if interested.



Alethea Coulter
Children's Ministry Director

PromiseLand Golf Tournament.

Calling all golfers! PromiseLand's Chipping for Children golf tournament will be held on Sunday, July 20, 2025. Flyers for registration are in the lobby, or you can see KelliAnne. We also need sponsors and donations for raffle prizes. The golf tournament is one of PromiseLand's major fundraisers. The proceeds will go toward program improvements as PromiseLand continues serving our community. Thank you for your support.



Here We GROW Again!!!!

The Nurture committee is sponsoring a new missions project to include adults and youth. Our plan is to revitalize the vegetable garden which is behind the pavilion. Adults will participate with the youth to plant, maintain and harvest the veggies which will be available for all to enjoy. Jeff Werner has volunteered to host a seminar in the near future on the planting and maintenance of the garden. The date and time will be posted in the coming weeks. Also, the fence is going to need repairs, so we are not feeding the deer!!! Further details will be forthcoming soon!!!

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact Richard Nereau at rcnereau@yahoo.com.



Rush United Methodist Church

Analysis of Revenues & Expenses: General Budget

January 2025

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	Budget TD (This Year)
Revenues			
(1) Other Income/ Parsonage	\$7,073.11	\$7,073.11	\$5,758.34
Offerings	\$30,898.50	\$30,898.50	\$19,904.17
P/L & HCS Reimbursement	\$1,657.58	\$1,657.58	\$1,852.85
Total Revenues	\$39,629.19	\$39,629.19	\$27,515.36
Expenses			
Board of Trustees	\$8,999.52	\$8,999.52	\$4,208.34
Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$111.25
Insurance	\$1,340.02	\$1,340.02	\$1,500.00
(2) Mission	\$2,395.50	\$2,395.50	\$2,395.50
Office Expenses	\$1,039.06	\$1,039.06	\$1,391.67
Clergy Salaries	\$4,091.04	\$4,091.04	\$4,091.08
Lay Salaries	\$7,147.01	\$7,147.07	\$6,907.32
Clergy Benefits	\$5,268.09	\$5,268.09	\$5,361.45
Ministry Team	\$20.06	\$20.06	\$1,000.00
Other Program Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$141.66
Utilities	\$3,610.40	\$3,610.40	\$2,604.16
PromiseLand	(\$4,961.84)	(\$4,961.84)	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$28,948.86	\$28,948.86	\$29,712.43
Net Total	\$10,680.33	\$10,680.33	(\$2,197.07)

- Includes Parsonage Fund of \$1,061.49, Stock Revenue Transfer of \$3,102.16, 2024 Carry Over of \$2,029.17
- Shared Ministries: 75% Paid as of the end January

Capital Reserve Fund

Balance as of February 26, 2025:
\$52,292.89

Building Contingency Fund

Balance as of February 26, 2025:
\$5,082.46



**FINANCE
REPORT**

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			
Payment #52			
Payment #53			
Payment #54			
Payment #55			
Payment #56			
Payment #57			
Payment #58			
Payment #59			
Payment #60			
Year End Payment from additional donations			
	Total Paid	\$500.00	



Capital Stewardship Campaign Update

As of Wednesday, February 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 \$181,957.11 of which \$112,466.23 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, for repairs to gutters, as a deposit and finishing the drainage work in the parking lot and west side of the building and patching and striping the driveway and parking lot. Eleven thousand two hundred seventy dollars (\$11,270.00), 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

Health Concerns: Alison, Bob and Linda Faugh, Mark Kellogg; Ray Smith, Mark Statskey, Patty Weaver
Geoffrey Furman's step mother, Ruth, healing of wound on foot
Lisa Harmer, upcoming serious surgery, postponed until middle of March
Mackenzie Haynes, continued healing from knee surgery
Those affected by the recent plane crashes
Those who are affected by fires, storms and mud slides
Kevin Kinnally, health concerns, at Highland at Brighton for rehab
Mark Statskey, MRI
Staff and Children at Musa weNkosi Orphanage as they face serious challenges
Government employees who have been laid off or are facing layoffs
Those in our congregation who are suffering with loss, illness, or deteriorating health
Those who are affected by fires, storms and mud slides
PromiseLand Childcare staff, children and families
Heritage Christian Services Rush Day Hab
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
Difficult marriages
School Districts, Parents and Students
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
For justice and health care to be deployed equally and evenly among all people
End to racism, inequality and injustice
Zululand Hospice in South Africa
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
Small Businesses
Hospital and Nursing Home Staff – stay healthy and strong to tend to the needs of patients and residents
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
Families affected by Alzheimer's, cancer and other terminal illnesses
Parents of New Drivers
Those looking for employment
Employers looking for people to hire
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
Campus Ministries
All Volunteers who go on Missions

UMCOR
Refugee resettlement project and resettlement families
City of Rochester
International Students
Those who are incarcerated
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	Jean Banker
Mary Anne Brice	Mary Callerame
Ernie Harrington	Lynne Jacobs
Kevin Kinnally	Gisela Rice
Penny Schultheis	Betty Stover

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

Phillip Banker	Jason Bello
Ben Frederick	
Jason McKnight	
Isaiah Montana	
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.



Bereavement

Jason, Cheryl and Hailey Engh, the recent death of Cheryl's mother
Family and friends of Rev. Douglas Spencer who passed away on February 26

Those who died in the recent airplane crashes around the country



Praises

Liam Gilroy, inducted into the Henrietta Youth Hall of Fame and accepted at Houghton College
Mackenzie Haynes, successful knee surgery
Nancy Miller's sister, Alice, as she goes through chemo, so far so good
March Birthdays and Anniversaries



Thank You

Many thanks for all that you did for our family, for the celebration of Dad's life and for the many visits, cards, and food that were sent to their home.

As ever,
The Banker Family



Mission and Outreach

I am incredibly grateful that Rush UMC has provided for the on-going support of the South Africa Missions. I know collecting, recording and wiring the funds is extra work for Barb. Having witnessed the work and developing dear friendships there, I would have been deeply



saddened if our partnership had been lost with the sale of Lifetime Care.

I want to share just 2 examples of the work of Zululand Hospice so all of you who shop and donate can see the impact of your generosity.

Mrs. A was a Hospice patient with metastatic breast cancer, aged 53.

She lived in a small 3-roomed house in the rural area with her aged mother who had dementia and her 3 sons, eldest

23, youngest 15. By the time she was referred to Hospice her breast cancer was far advanced and she had a massive fungating tumor, her condition was terminal. Our volunteer doctor prescribed Morphine, as our first priority was to get her pain controlled. A specialist wound care nurse, Sr Laurie, agreed to come with us on a visit, to teach the care workers how to do the dressings. She was very impressed with our wound dressings, supplied by our dear friend Erma.

Mrs. A's room had no electricity, and water was brought in a bucket from an outside tap, so clean water to do the dressings was brought from the office.

Mrs. A's condition deteriorated quickly. Although we did not manage to heal the wound, regular dressings ensured it was comfortable and clean.

Her sons were adamant that they were not going to admit her to the hospital and would care for her at home, and with our help managed to do so.

Our care workers bathed her and did her dressings during each visit, we checked the sons were giving her the correct dosages of pain control medication, and porridge was supplied.

She died at home, as she and her family wished.

Miss B was a 39-year-old woman with advanced Stage 4 cervical cancer.

One day the hospice car was stopped by a previous patient, and we were asked to visit.

There are no road signs, just tracks that meander through the area. The road came to an end, and we had to drive through a field to a cluster of rooms. Our care workers are experts at finding their way to patients. (On our visits, I am amazed that the drivers can find their way in these areas! Erma)

The patient was very ill and weak, cared for by her mother, who was very distressed. She was cared for at home, with pain control medication, wound care supplies, porridge and nappies provided by hospice. Her mother was given support and comfort.

She didn't want to go to the hospital, so she was cared for at home until she slipped away.

Our donations provide salaries, petrol for vehicles, nutrition, medication, medical supplies, nutrition and more. They are greatly encouraged by our interest and concern. "So much love, dedication and enthusiasm are amazing - to come back year after year and support us keeps us going." Jane Ashburner, palliative Care Manager

"Happy are generous people, because they give some of their food to the poor."

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



Chili Cook-Off Thank you!

Thank you to all those who participated in our Chili Cook-Off by bringing a dish or staying to eat. The youth ministry raised \$110.00 from this event. I also appreciate everyone's contributions and feedback, and we look forward to next year!

Congratulations to Kathy Kingsley for winning the overall pick for her Chicken Chili!

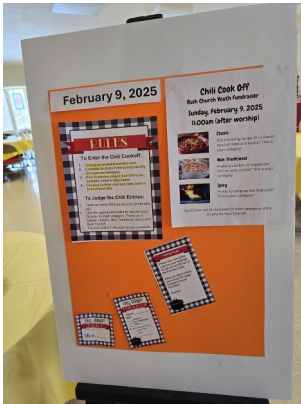
Alethea Coulter
Youth Ministry Director



January Community Wednesday Night Supper



February Second Sunday Brunch and Chili Cookoff



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

Thank You to everyone who lifted me up during my hip surgery, rehab, and recovery.

I appreciate your prayers, care and concern.

Bill Stambaugh



Thank You

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We're excited to share with you the impact your clothing shed made over the last year....

37,817 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2024

This was enough to clothe an estimated 6,966 people all over the world

Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$1,513.00

Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers, and your communities do to support the clothing shed program!

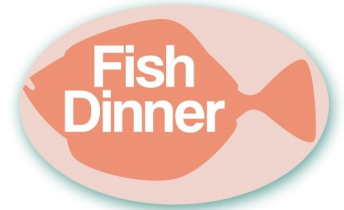
Sincerely,

The Team at
St. Pauly Textile, Inc.



Avon United Methodist Church Lenten Fish Dinners

Avon United Methodist Church, 130 Genesee St, Avon, NY is serving fish dinners on Fridays, April 4 and 11 from 4:30 – 7:30PM, eat in or take out. The meal is baked or batter-fried haddock fish, baked potato, coleslaw, rolls, applesauce and scrumptious homemade desserts. More details will be in March/April bulletins.



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
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 MISSION, VISION and**

Our missional priorities are "excellence in worship; ministries for children, youth, adults and families; and mission and outreach"



PRIORITY STATEMENTS

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



Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30AM— Bible/Book Study with Michelle Prok
 8:30AM—Choir Rehearsal
 9:30AM—Worship Service - In-Person and on YouTube and Facebook; Communion: 2nd and 4th Sundays 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
 11:00AM—Second Sunday Brunch on the Second Sunday of each Month



Sunday Schedule

Youth Group



Youth in grades 6—12 meet two evenings a month at 6:00PM. March meeting dates are Tuesday, the 11th and Wednesday the 26th. 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.org
 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
 Remote work Tuesdays and occasionally on 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:..... Chaeun 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, 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; Editor: Barb Kingsley; Deadline for articles to be included in the April issue is Thursday, March 20, 2025.