



# His Faithful Followers

A publication of Rush United Methodist Church

January 2025

## A Note from Pastor Kyle

As we leap into 2025, Kris and I offer you this toast;



“May your future be as grand as your past and your past memories be of the goodness and grace that brought you forward to this glorious day.” As we look back over the past year we can hardly believe the drastic transitions that we have experienced. Never had we thought that we would so quickly find ourselves embedded and invested in such a community so full of goodness and grace. And yet, how incredible it is that our gifts and

talents seem to be a wonderful fit. Almost as if there were some grander plan afoot.

Speaking of plans, I pray each of you have grand plans for the year to come. Perhaps your great adventure includes travel. Or perhaps you shall be the landing spot for others. Either way, do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Heb 13:2).

So much is awaiting us in the new year - so much ahead for Rush UMC and the greater church community. But waiting is not what we shall do. We shall reach out, step out and move out. We shall reach out to those who sit across from us in the pews whose names we know but little else. Some families have distant relatives but I long for that to not be ours. And we shall

reach out to those beyond our walls, inviting them to experience what it is like to belong to a community that is diverse in opinions yet unified in our desire to love and care as Christ did.

We will step out in faith and expand our ministries and programs. Where once we touched the lives of some, we shall endeavor to reach so many more. Where once we warmed the hearts of others... we will strive to ignite the Holy Spirit within all those we engage. We will step out in faith because running out on anyone is contrary to the Gospel Message.

And we will move out knowing that the church is not a building but a movement of God's people who long to live, learn and share what Christ has, is and promises to do. We will go to our neighbors, we will go across the country and a few of us will traverse the globe. We have a

few local mission project on tap and I look forward to visiting South Africa; and I am more than confident that many other mission ministry will take place. Following where the Spirit leads, we will move out in service of the Kingdom. And in every place we will open ourselves up to

the hospitality given, just as we will provide it to those who came to us.

May God Bless you and yours in this year to come.  
AMEN

Pastor Kyle



## 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. 6. At our December gathering, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to learn about pressed flower arranging, from Pat Boyes. At our January meeting we will discuss some possible other programs to enjoy. 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](mailto:cgtgray1039@gmail.com), or call her at 585-362-6206.



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## 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 purchasing and installing an electronic sign and beginning work to repair and stain the exterior of our church building. We also have a LARGE list of maintenance projects to work on.

We are very pleased to welcome a new member to this group, Kelly Barrett. She was elected at our last church conference. Kelly is one of the newer members of our congregation, but she brings a great deal of experience to her new role at Rush Church.

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](mailto:cgtgray1039@gmail.com). Our January meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6 at 7:00pm, at the church.



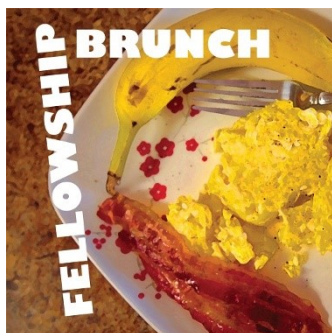
## Choir Update

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 8, at 6:30pm and on Sunday, January 12, at 8:30am. We welcome new members. Feel free to just come to a rehearsal or reach out to Kellianne at [klkw1212@gmail.com](mailto:klkw1212@gmail.com).



## Second Sunday Brunch

On Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 11AM, plan to stay for the Second Sunday Fellowship Brunch. 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 \$1.00 per person. Child-friendly options are available.



## Human Relations Sunday

A special offering for Human Relations Sunday will be taken on Sunday, January 12, 2025. The Human Relations Sunday 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.



## 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. 29 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 continues to be a thriving ministry of the Rush United Methodist Church. We currently have 30+ children with more scheduled to start over the next several months. In 2024 we expanded and updated our toddler playground, updated furniture in the classrooms and continue to train our staff to meet the growing needs of the children and families we serve. Your continued prayers and support are so important to this ministry. Thank you to our volunteers who help with grocery shopping, children's church, building repairs, and community events. You are all a blessing!





## 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 22, we raised \$8,217.88 with pre-sales, the sale day and post sales. The money raised goes directly into the general operating budget.



We have started working Wednesday mornings at 9:00 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.

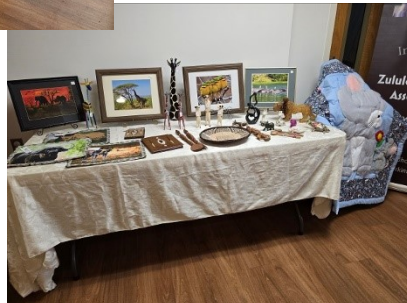


**Super Sale**

Thank you,  
Cindy



## Zululand Hospice Fundraiser



## Baptism of Asher James Masseth

On Sunday, December 8, we celebrated the Baptism of Asher James Masseth. He is the son of Allie Elizabeth Boger Masseth and Cory James Masseth and was born on September 23, 2024. He is the grandson of Peter and Julie Boger and the great grandson of the late Louise Harris. Please welcome Asher and his family into this family of Christ called the Rush United Methodist Church.



## *Christmas Tree*



## *Advent and Christmas Special Music*



## *Advent Cantata*



## *Hospitality Bags Thank You*



I wish to thank all those who supplied baked goods, fruit, snack bags, candy, handmade ornaments and contributed toward the red carnations from Chases Greenhouse to fill about 35 Holiday Bags on December 14.

Thank you to all those who helped stuff the bags and deliver to spread some cheer for our homebound, those in senior

living facilities and for those who have experienced illness or a death in the family this year.

This annual event would not be possible without your help.

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

Joyce Smith



# Rush United Methodist Church

## Analysis of Revenues & Expenses: General Budget

### November 2024

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	Budget TD (This Year)
<b>Revenues</b>			
Other Income/ Parsonage	\$1,447.83	\$33,651.63	\$18,411.63
Offerings	\$16,901.50	\$180,846.00	\$178,890.00
P/L & HCS Reimbursement	\$1,511.66	\$16,854.32	\$16,270.50
Carry Over from 2023	\$5,797.50	\$63,772.50	\$63,772.50
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$25,658.59</b>	<b>\$295,214.45</b>	<b>\$277,374.89</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Board of Trustees	\$3,843.31	\$46,061.32	\$43,541.74
Education	\$200.50	\$733.10	\$1,241.63
Insurance	\$0.00	\$11,449.98	\$8,565.48
(1) Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Office Expenses	\$918.48	\$11,214.34	\$11,281.38
Clergy Salaries	\$3,964.18	\$54,448.84	\$54,194.05
Lay Salaries	\$6,908.73	\$79,186.64	\$77,847.73
Clergy Benefits	\$4,516.31	\$50,180.67	\$51,008.40
Ministry Team	\$50.00	\$3,234.61	\$3,971.76
Other Program Expenses	\$187.96	\$2,378.25	\$6,049.63
Utilities	\$2,336.17	\$25,370.64	\$22,545.37
PromiseLand	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$22,925.64</b>	<b>\$284,259.39</b>	<b>\$280,746.17</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$2,732.95</b>	<b>\$10,865.06</b>	<b>(\$3,371.34)</b>

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

### Capital Reserve Fund

Balance as of December 26, 2024:  
\$52,292.89

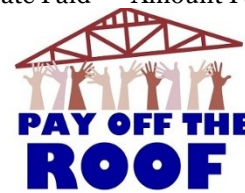
### Building Contingency Fund

Balance as of December 26, 2024:  
\$5,082.46



## 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	03/13/2024	\$250.00	\$32,177.59
Payment #40	04/15/2024	\$250.00	\$31,928.59
Payment #41	05/15/2024	\$250.00	\$31,678.59
Payment #42	06/15/2024	\$250.00	\$31,428.59
Payment #43	07/15/2024	\$250.00	\$31,178.59
Payment #44	08/15/2024	\$250.00	\$30,928.59
Payment #45	09/15/2024	\$250.00	\$30,678.59
Payment #46	10/15/2024	\$250.00	\$30,428.59
Payment #47	11/15/2024	\$250.00	\$30,178.59
Payment #48	12/15/2024	\$250.00	\$29,928.59
Year End Payment from additional donations			
	Total Paid	\$2,750.00	



## Capital Stewardship Campaign Update

As of Wednesday, November 27, 2024, we have received \$269,200.00 or 53.84% in pledges towards our \$500,000.00 goal. Of the amount pledged, we have received \$169,072.11 of which \$122,466.23 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 and payment for drainage work in the parking lot and west side of the building and patching, sealing and striping the driveway and parking lot. Eleven thousand two hundred twenty dollars (\$11,220.00), 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; Raymer Ottman, Ray Smith, Mark Statskey, Patty Weaver  
Linda Chamot's sister, Debbie Wildow, home from hospital, prayers for continued healing  
Michele Cuatt's neighbor, Barb and son, husband and father, Zippy, in hospice  
Linda Gambino, hospitalized for a stroke  
Asher Masseth had successful open heart surgery on Tuesday, December 10, prayers for continued healing  
Richard Nereau, recovering from surgery  
Debbie Wildow, continued prayers for health and healing from cancer treatment  
People of North Carolina and Southern Tennessee as they recover from Hurricane Helene; many are facing a winter of no electric or heat  
Those who continue to be affected by hurricanes, fires and storms  
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  
Musa weNkosi Orphanage, safety of the children and staff  
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
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

Family and friends of Walt Banker who passed away on Friday, December 27  
Rob Gruschow and family, death of his nephew, Dylan Jimmy Sloan, Sunday, December 1, 2024 was his last day, God's peace  
Family and friends of David Smith, who passed away on December 17, 2024  
O'Della Wood's sister, Wanda, died on Thanksgiving Day, prayers for the family



## Praises

Successful Super Sale  
Baptism of Asher Masseth  
Asher Masseth went home from the hospital last Monday, he is doing very well  
January Birthdays and Anniversaries





## Hand Chimes Choir



## Christmas Pageant Thank You

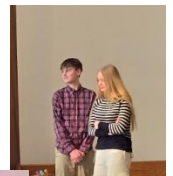


Thanks to all the children, youth, teachers, and volunteers who helped with the pageant this year. We worked over the past month during our Sunday school and youth times to get everything ready. The kids did an amazing job, and I am very proud of all of them!



Alethea Coulter  
Children's Ministry Director  
Interim Youth Ministry Director

A BIG  
Thanks!



# Mission and Outreach

Nancy noted that the missions line in the budget reads, “o “despite the amount we send to South Africa. It goes in and out and is not recorded, but these funds have a major impact. When I emailed Zululand Hospice a year ago about our trip planning, I was told they weren’t sure they would still be operating by May. Generous shoppers and donors made it possible for us to wire \$25,000 in January.



The local paper published an article **SAVED**. It reads: “Zululand Hospice has been saved from closing its doors...at least for now. On the point of financial collapse and possible closure, a gift from an overseas donor staved off serious repercussions that would leave those at death’s door without the dignity and quality of life they deserve at the end. Without the donation from Rochester USA volunteers they would have had no choice but to close their doors.”

On our May visit we witnessed the loving care provided in hovels, the food parcels delivered and the consultation of the care workers, Nurse Jane and Dr. Rebecca Charlton. It was heart-warming to hear the positive stories of the impact of their work but disheartening to hear of the many barriers in place to providing optimum care. A patient with cervical cancer and awful wounds had a referral in September (4 months away) for chemo. She died within a few weeks of our return home.



They are currently in much the same state as a year ago. We hope and pray they will still be operating for our 2025 visit.



Our fund-raising for Musa weNkosi is also vital. The children start a new school year in January. Their uniforms cost \$50 for each boy - shirt, trousers, jumper (sweatshirt), shoes, tie, socks and supplies are \$30. If funds are donated, they want to provide a \$55 food parcel to families in their neighborhood who live in severe poverty and can go days without eating.

Martin Luther wrote, “If Christ has become your own, and you have by such faith been cleansed through him and have received your inheritance without any personal merit, it follows that you will do good works by doing to your neighbor as Christ has done to you...He loved us and did everything for our benefit, in order that we may do the same, not to him, for he needs it not, but to our neighbor.”

Thank you for considering Happiness, Cebile, Sandile, Minenhle and all other staff, patients and children your neighbors!



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

## December Activities





## Thank You

I want to thank all the many special friends here at church that generously gave me a "helping hand". Without my family and friends, my life would be very dull and unproductive. To all of you this holiday season I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help. Asking does not come easy for me.

Love you all,  
Gail M



## Thank You

I want to say thank you to all for reaching out to me this year! It is truly a blessing to have such a supportive church family! Thank you for the awesome gift bag! I am blessed to be part of this church and know you!

Mark Statskey



**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"



## Properly Reporting Year-End Contributions

Sometimes confusion exists when year-end contributions are credited. Provided below are general guidelines for properly crediting contributions that are made at the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025. If you have any questions, please email Barb Kingsley at [barbara.kingsley@rushumc.org](mailto:barbara.kingsley@rushumc.org).

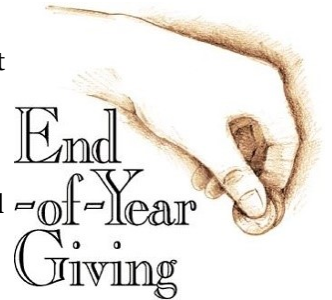
Checks written in December 2024, put in the mail and postmarked December 2024, but not received by the church until January 2025 are credited in 2024.

Checks written and brought to church in December 2024, but "postdated" January 2025 are credited in 2024.

Checks written in December 2024 and brought to the church in January 2025 are credited in 2025.

Checks written and brought to the church in January 2025 but backdated to December 2024 are credited in 2025.

Checks written in December 2024, put in the mail in December 2024, but not postmarked until January 2025, are credited in 2025.



## Leadership Ministry Team Contact Information

Kelly Barrett  
Jan Funkhauser  
Geoffrey Furman  
Cindy Gray  
Dan Kingsley  
Michelle Prok  
Lisa Shingleton  
Steve Williams

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[homeforsale51@gmail.com](mailto:homeforsale51@gmail.com)  
[williasc@gmail.com](mailto:williasc@gmail.com)



## Bible Quiz

When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?

- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days
- D. 7 days



Answer: C (See Luke 2:46)



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
- 10:45AM—Adult Class: “Resist Chaos by Anchoring Yourself in God’s Truth”
- 11:00AM—Lectionary Study with Pastor Kyle



**Sunday Schedule**

**Youth Group**



Youth in grades 6—12 meet each month on Wednesdays at 6:00PM. January meeting dates are the 15th and 29th. 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](http://www.rushumc.com)
- Email Address: [runc@rushumc.org](mailto:runc@rushumc.org)
- Rush Tidings Address: [runcnews@rushumc.org](mailto:runcnews@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 February issue is 5PM, Thursday, January 23, 2025.