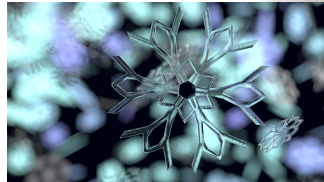




ROSLYN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

140 East Broadway  
Roslyn, NY 11576



## A Note from Pastor Marjory

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on the 22nd of February and runs until Easter on April 9th. The Lenten season is a time of reflection. For many that reflection has been alongside giving something up, but in our Reformed tradition, Lent is about getting closer to our relationship with God. Usually this is marked by adding something to our daily life - a spiritual practice.

We will start off Lent with a pre-recorded Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 22 (an email will be sent with information on how to access it). After Ash Wednesday, we will meet on Wednesday nights with other churches in our Presbytery for a Zoom Lenten series. Each week we will look at clips of a movie and how the themes play out in our own Lenten journeys. All of the movies are readily available on different platforms and you are encouraged to watch the full movie before coming into the study. There is more information on the study in this newsletter (p. 2), and the Zoom link will



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**Our Services  
are Online!**

**For our Website  
"Google" our name,  
or use address:**

[www.RoslynChurch.com](http://www.RoslynChurch.com)

### Upcoming Events

#### Sundays

10am Sunday Services  
In Person & Online

#### Wednesdays

10am Weekly Bible Study  
In Person at Church

7pm Lenten Film Fest  
via Zoom

Connect with us:

516.621.3139 office

516.587.3806 Pastor Marjory

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[www.RoslynPresbyterianChurch.com](http://www.RoslynPresbyterianChurch.com)



## A Note from Pastor Marjory (continued)

be provided the day of the event.

You do not have to join the series to get a full experience of Lent. Lent is a time of reflection; asking yourself about your relationship with God. Ensuring each year that we do not lose sight of giving room for God in our lives. Making time and space for God's voice to be heard above the daily noises, and moments for us to witness God working in the world. Let us open ourselves this Lent; spending more time with the Holy.

Many Blessings,  
Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

We will be participating in a “Sacred Cinema Lenten Film Fest” via Zoom on **Wednesday nights at 7 pm** as part of a Shared Ecumenical Season of Lent with other area Presbyterian churches (Bellmore, Syosset, Merrick, Baldwin, Oceanside and Roslyn).

Pastor Marjory will lead the March 8th session, “Jerry & Marge.”

### Wednesday nights at 7 pm ‘Sacred Cinema Lenten Film Fest!’

**Each Wednesday night during Lent at 7:00 pm, a clergy member of the community will introduce a movie clip for us to enjoy along with some queries for reflection for our Lenten journey.**

**A zoom link will be sent out on the day of the movie.**

#### Here’s the schedule:

**March 1: ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’**  
**March 8: ‘Jerry & Marge’**  
**March 15: ‘Prince of Egypt’**  
**March 22: ‘Up’ or ‘Big Fish’**  
**March 29: ‘Babette’s Feast’**

## News From the Clerk and Session

We approach Lent and the promise of Easter and Spring with anticipation. Our Annual Meeting on January 29 recognized accomplishments large and small in the life of Roslyn Presbyterian Church as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. We welcome Soraya Gage who was elected to the Session. Treasurer Robert Gilmore is back on the Session where he continues to have oversight of all church property, including the manse and cemetery. This requires many hours of devoted service.

We mourn the death of two long-time members. Dwight Dyer passed December 18 at the age of 93 and Edith Van Raalte on January 31 in her 97th year. Dwight and Emily moved to Long Island from Oklahoma in 1959. Dwight taught music in the North Shore School District for many years. Emily Dyer is at Brandywine Living in Melville and welcomes cards and visits. (See RPC's December 2019 Newsletter on our website for additional information on the Dyers in their Congregational Spotlight.) Did you know that Edith Van Raalte was a model in her younger years and a painter in more recent years? Edith continued on hospice care when she moved months ago from the Amsterdam at Harborside in Port Washington to Manhattan to be with her son.

John Luntley recently wrote us that his father, Eugene Luntley, a former RPC member, designated a bequest to our church of \$25,000. The Session voted in January to use a portion of the anticipated money to increase our Local Causes Mission budget from \$2,000 to \$5,000 annually.

We enjoyed joining the Kalam congregation for a Thanksgiving dinner on November 20 (see photos by Jill Jyan). We postponed our Christmas dinner, but enjoyed a luncheon and good fellowship following our Annual Meeting, with food provided by Katie Zarghami, Maya Leibfreid, and Cathy Shimmel. Our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service featured scripture readings, singing familiar hymns and carols, and special music, thanks to Gary de Sesa at the organ, soprano soloist Kita de Sesa, and their son, Gary Bouroff de Sesa on the violin. We cancelled Christmas Day service and invited Kalam to use the sanctuary for their service that Sunday (they have



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## News From the Clerk and Session (continued)

been meeting in the social hall downstairs at the same time as our service).



We had a Hymn Sing on January 1 when Pastor Marjory was on vacation and she arranged for Rev. Joan Finck to be pulpit supply on January 8. We celebrated Helen Lockman's birthday at coffee hour that day (see photos). Jojo Gencorelli was guest pianist when Gary de Sesa was away for two weeks. Gary arranged for a piano recital by Kexin Liu in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 5 at 11:45 a.m.



Katie Zarghami steps in for whatever needs to be done. Recently she came in on a weekday to remove candle wax from the communion table and pew railings, while on another day she organized coffee hour supplies in the North Room closets.

We welcome you to our Sunday services in coming weeks at 10 a.m. and to the Sacred Cinema Lenten Film Fest on Zoom Wednesday evenings during Lent (see pp. 1-2).

—Natalie Naylor, Clerk of Session

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

**From the Presbytery:** *"The scale of the disaster facing Syria and Turkey after the Feb. 6 earthquake is becoming clearer. The 7.8-magnitude quake and its aftershocks have left more than 11,000 people dead and thousands more injured; these numbers will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.*

*"[Our national Presbyterian Church's] Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through long-standing partners in Syria, in addition to ACT Alliance members in Syria and Turkey, all of whom are already on the ground. PDA will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience."*

## Congregational Spotlight

### Mary Matos



*Well, my life almost began on the side of the road of the Grand Central Parkway, on a wintry morning on December 11th in 1962. My mom, Marie, was in labor with me and she and my dad, who was driving, pulled off of the Long Island Expressway as she thought that I was going to be delivered right then and there. However, they made it to Boulevard Hospital in Astoria.*

*I was the sixth child to be born; in total my mom had seven children. However, Jerome died suddenly and unexpectedly at age five on the sand at Jones Beach. So I was raised in a household with my brother Johnny and four sisters. We lived in Flushing, N.Y., in a middle-income neighborhood on a block of attached houses, in the multi-cultural “melting pot.” My dad John and my mom were rather easy going people; I never once was hit or punished, and I feel blessed to have had the parents that God chose for me. I began my schooling at age 5 at St. Ann’s Church in Flushing. I was so young and first grade was a major adjustment for me, to which I never actually acclimated. I had great difficulty leaving my comfy home to embark on a school bus. My being away from my home and my maternal grandmother who also lived with us, and was like a second mother to me, was not easy for me, as I didn’t like school. My nana and I even shared a bedroom. I was on the top bunk bed and she was on the bottom. She died when I was ten years old and I still have fond memories of her. In Catholic school, the nuns to me were a bit scary and I never quite felt comfortable; in fact, there were times I felt quite terrified, and I never developed a feeling of belonging there. Thankfully and gratefully, I was transferred to second grade in public school. I was the only one of my siblings to attend public school, or should I say, to have escaped Catholic school.*

*I feel as though this experience has made me who I am. Living in a multi-cultural neighborhood and attending school with people from other ethnicities expanded my being. I am a mixture of everyone, even though my roots are from an Irish, English, American with a touch of German, Catholic background. As a child I had lots of friends, went out every day and never spent one whole day inside until I was twenty-one years old. Truth! I was a Registered nurse working at Booth Memorial Hospital at age 21 when I learned that I needed to have open-heart surgery.*

*My mother had died at age 54 after becoming septic from surgery. She was my best friend, and she gave me life twice, first when I was born and when after she died they discovered that she had a very rare disease, which five of her children inherited. We have a deletion on a chromosome, and this chromosome usually prevents tumors and cancers. This disease took Jerry at age 5, my sister Bernadette at 43, my brother Johnny at 43, my mom at age 54, and my sister Patricia has been so affected, she has a traumatic brain injury from a stroke and hasn’t been the same in years. We all don’t know God’s plan. I am lucky to have made it to 69, which is rare for someone with Carney’s Complex. This disease in no way defines me, but it must affect me on some level. I have had a couple of major surgeries, the first being open-heart surgery at St. Francis Hospital, as they*

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## Congregational Spotlight (continued)

*found this tumor in my heart as a result of my mom's death. Her autopsy revealed multiple tumors, including two heart tumors. So, my mom gave me life twice! At the time they discovered my heart tumor, it was hanging on a stalk that was very thin, and it surely would have killed me if it wasn't discovered at that time! Of course God's intervention and timing is in it all! My mom had lost a son, which was the worst thing in her life, and I just wish that she would have known that she had saved me! I had cancer twice from this disease, but it was curable.*

*I married my husband in 1995, we had been close friends since age 17. He is my soul mate, my best friend, and I am blessed to have him and he is blessed to have me. We didn't have children since a child would have a fifty percent chance of having the disease. (The disease is so rare that only a few hundred people in the world are known to have it.)*

*I write all of this not because I want pity, as even babies at times are born with severe deletions in chromosomes and illnesses that cause major limitations, suffering, and early death. I write it because it hasn't engulfed me in any way, but it is a part of who I am. My losses have made me realize that there definitely is a heaven and that God does exist without a doubt, as he has answered many of my prayers and has given me the ability to feel comforted by even my loved ones who have passed. Yes, I can feel their spirits at times.*

*God has put obstacles in my life, when I needed them, and he has also opened many doors for me. God has created me in his image. God has made me an altruistic person and also put someone in my path who warned me not to be so willing to stop my world for just anyone. This was a major epiphany for me since, because of this, I retired from work when I did. It was rare for me to prioritize my own needs. I left work just at the beginning of the Covid pandemic and if it wasn't for this person's warning, I would have most likely succumbed to Covid and sacrificed my life for patients. However, with this added insight, I decided to take care of myself first and resigned from my job.*

*God has given me mountains to climb and has also shown me the easy way down. He has sent angels to me when I needed them most. God has shown me at an early age what it means to lose someone, which makes people worth all that much more to me. God is my protector, my healer, my armor, and my strength. I never ask him why, I just thank him for making me who I am and for protecting me more than anyone can.*

