



ROSLYN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

140 East Broadway
Roslyn, NY 11576



A Note from Pastor Marjory

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well. It is unique to be celebrating the Easter Season (which is now through Pentecost) not in community but instead under “shelter-in-place” orders. I find that it is bringing a new understanding to this season for me. I explored that a bit in my Easter sermon. Jesus lives! Jesus did not die on a cross, but rose again. How powerful. As we sit at home making phone calls to check in with one another, we must celebrate this. Jesus lives and offers new life. Much of Jesus’ message is about living. Today, this “shelter-in-place” is not a sentence given to us but is instead a call to each of us to celebrate life. To cherish life. We are sheltering, social distancing and isolating in order to give life to one another. To keep lives. To save lives. For life.

Let us continue to be community outside the walls. Let us share our worship service with friends and family. Let us celebrate life! We will see each other soon.

Blessings,
Rev. Marjory J. Roth



**Our Services
are Online!**

For our Website

“Google” our name,
or use address:

www.RoslynChurch.com



Connect with us:

516.621.3139

RoslynPresbyterianChurch@gmail.com

www.RoslynPresbyterianChurch.com



News From the Clerk and Session

The Coronavirus pandemic is affecting us all, including the church. In an e-mail vote on March 18, the Session suspended in-person services beginning March 23. Our Pastor Marjory Roth recorded a sermon for an audio service on March 23. Our Music Director Gary de Sesa played and Kita de Sesa sang the hymns for the service. We informed our congregants by emails with a link to the service. Beginning on March 29, we have had video services led by Pastor Marjory; her children have assisted sometimes by reading the scriptures. For the Palm Sunday service on April 5, pdfs of the bulletin and music were added. Photos from past events are included in some of the videos. Our sincere appreciation to Marjory, Gary and Kita for making these services possible.

In addition to Kita de Sesa's solos, the Easter service on April 12 included a wonderful musical Lord's Prayer sung by Thomas Stallone to original music composed by Gary de Sesa, arranged, orchestrated and produced by Gray Devio, with video animation by Angela and Thomas Stallone. If you missed any of the services or want to watch one again, go to our church website, and under the banner at the top, click "Worship." Gary has been updating our website and has secured a shorter alternate or alias, www.roslynchurch.com, for our website.

Emma Steck writes that she is "stuck" in Florida but said, "I am so thankful that I get to hear the sermon on Sundays now. That is one of the blessings that has come from out of this topsy turvey, upside down world right now." Amen!

We are delighted that the Reverend Marjory Roth will continue leading our services in coming weeks and providing pastoral care as needed. She will resume in-person services in our sanctuary when it is safe to do so. In the midst of the pandemic shutdowns, Marjory successfully defended her doctoral dissertation (virtually) in March.

Our condolences to Elder Katie Zarghami and all her family on the death of Shah Zarghami. Pastor Marjory officiated at the burial in the Roslyn Cemetery on April 14, with family and friends nearby who remained in their cars because of the pandemic.

Long-time member Margaret (Peg) Grosser moved from the Bristol in Massapequa in early March to Auburn Hills in Virginia (5800 Harbour Rd., Room 216, Midlothian, VA, 23112). She is now near her older sister, Grace.

Our Administrative Assistant is working remotely from her home at this time. She responds to telephone calls and e-mails to the church. Our sexton, Daniel Villegas, thoroughly sanitized the facility and has been painting windows and doors and doing other maintenance work.

Expenses continue for the church. You can now use your credit card or donate via PayPal by going to our website (click on donations under the banner). Or you can mail your check, payable to the Roslyn Presbyterian Church, to 140 East Broadway, Roslyn, NY 11576.

Kalam Christian Church, which shares our church building, suspended its in-person services on March 8 and began holding virtual services on YouTube. Our other tenant, the Growing Tree Nursery, has been closed for several weeks because of the pandemic.

Earlier Newsletters can be found on our website. I am happy that my hairline fractures have healed. I was able to stop using a cane several weeks ago and can now sit comfortably at my desktop computer.

I pray that you are well and stay safe during these difficult days.

—Natalie Naylor, Clerk of Session (Natalie.Naylor@Hofstra.edu)

Congregational Spotlight

Cathy Shimmel



I had a wonderful childhood in Darien, Connecticut, a small town on the shores of Long Island Sound. My parents were very active members of the Presbyterian Church, and my sister (who is now a Presbyterian pastor in New Jersey) grew up in a warm and loving congregation. I always knew I wanted to be a nurse and fulfilled that dream when I graduated from Columbia University School of Nursing in 1971. I wanted to

take care of children and was fortunate to get a position on the Pediatric unit at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan. Having lost my mother the year before, I felt called to work in a setting where the patients needed the best of compassionate, highly skilled care. I went on to earn an MA in nursing at New York University.

In 1977, my husband Jim and I were married, and spent the next three years living on the Upper West Side. Our daughter Natalie was born there, and Central Park was her backyard. We loved city life, but in 1982 we decided to relocate and moved to Roslyn. I began to attend the Roslyn Presbyterian Church and was warmly greeted by Reverend Stark Jones and Mel Meyers, the Clerk of Session. The congregation was very welcoming and supportive. Over the years, I have been a Sunday school teacher, Deacon and Elder. The church has always been an important part of my life.

Nora and Alex joined the family and all our children attended Sunday School and were confirmed at the RPC. Natalie now lives in Connecticut and has two adorable little girls, Lilah and Sybil. Nora lives in Astoria and Alex stayed on in Boston after graduating college. Natalie is the chief privacy officer for her division at Goldman Sachs, Nora works at NBC Universal as the Director of Strategic Measurement, and Alex is a consultant currently working on a project for National Grid.

After taking a brief break from work when the girls were little, I returned to work at the Cancer Center for Kids at North Shore University Hospital and was appointed Nurse Manager. Twenty years ago, the practice relocated to NYU Winthrop Hospital. I recently retired, having spent the last 33 years working in the field of pediatric oncology. In addition to providing hands on care, I helped to develop the first long term follow-up clinic for pediatric cancer survivors on Long Island, a school reentry program and parent outreach program. My work was often difficult, but always rewarding and inspiring.

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Congregational Spotlight (continued)

Although I miss being part of the wonderful team I was privileged to work with and the patients, I am enjoying my retirement. Having time to read, join a book club, cook, visit museums and other sites of interest and being able to spend more time with our grandchildren and friends is wonderful. Jim, who is still working, and I walk together every day and we especially like to walk at local gardens and along the harbor. We love going to the city and exploring all kinds of interesting places. Last summer, we were lucky to enjoy the trip of a lifetime with our entire family to Tuscany. Jim and I then traveled on to Venice and Lake Como. We are hoping to travel more and have a list of destinations.



The Perils of Not Proofreading Carefully!

Our March Newsletter (still available on our website) included a number of bloopers that appeared in church bulletins (not Roslyn's, I hasten to add). Again, many thanks to Maya Leibfried who forwarded these to me. Enjoy!

- The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Be a Digital Disciple: Use Social Media to get the Word Out

Dr. Gary de Sesa, RPC Webmaster and Social Media Advisor

In our last issue, I expressed the importance of placing a 5-star review of Roslyn Presbyterian on Google. Since that article, no new reviews have been posted, so I am appealing once again to our readers and have provided additional suggestions blow on using social media.

Review: The power of a 5-star Google review should not be underestimated. Our 5-star rating of only 5 reviews was the sole reason several families attended Christmas Eve service. They just searched for a church on Google and decided on us based on the 5-star rating. Two of those families expressed an interest in becoming members. One family had several children and they were from Little Neck, Queens, not an area where we would normally be predisposed to advertise our worship services. Here's how to leave a review on Google:

On your iPhone, iPad or Mac (Apple) Computer, use Safari. On your Android or PC desktop, use Google or whatever other search engine you use. 1. Search for Roslyn Presbyterian Church. 2. Click on Reviews. 3. Give 5 stars by clicking on the right-most star (the 5th star) and if you wish, write something complimentary that might encourage others to visit us. That's it. You're done. Your review may not publish instantly as it has to be reviewed for compliance with Google Review guidelines. (You may need a Google account or gmail.)

Nextdoor.com: Before our Christmas Eve service, I set up a free Nextdoor.com account for the Roslyn area and advertised our service there. I also advertised it on my own neighborhood Nextdoor.com account for the Salisbury/Westbury area. We had several visitors to our Christmas Eve service from these two sites. Just to give you some idea, my posts to Salisbury and neighboring areas was sent out to 3,966 people. My post to Roslyn neighbors goes to 6,638 individuals. All free advertising.

I would urge you to sign up for this free service. Its benefits to individuals are numerous. Read about the advantages of Nextdoor.com and sign up here: <https://about.nextdoor.com/> —it's free. They will not use your information to advertise to anyone and your information remains private.

Email: Now that we are exclusively online, there is even more reason to use the power of social media and email. We sent out an email to all of you with the link to our website where you were able to access our services for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. If you passed along this link to every appropriate person on your email list, great. If you didn't, you still have an opportunity to increase our views exponentially. It's not too late as all our online services are still available on our website: roslynpresbyterianchurch.com or simply our new online alias, roslynchurch.com. As people are sequestered in their homes, they are looking for sources of comfort and inspiration. We are so fortunate to have Rev. Marjory Roth in our midst, who has worked tirelessly to bring us these online services. Share our services with your family and friends. They will thank you.

Here was my email invitation to Easter Sunday service:

Subject: HAPPY EASTER from Kita, Gary & Roslyn Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends and Family, HAPPY and BLESSED EASTER! Our church's Easter Sunday service coming to you from the Roslyn Presbyterian Church, where we were married 39 years ago, is now online. Just go to roslynpresbyterianchurch.com and click on the link underneath "April 12, Easter Sunday Service with Rev. Marjory Roth." I am confident you will find the service informative, enlightening and inspirational with beautiful music. May God bless you and keep you all safe during this most challenging time. You can also view Palm Sunday and Good Friday services as well. Feel free to share this with anyone you feel will benefit. Love, Kita and Gary

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Be a Digital Disciple (continued)

Here is just one of the many responses we received:

Dear Gary and Kita, Easter Blessings! Thank you so much for forwarding your church service. Tony and I watched it together. It was our first time attending a Presbyterian service. It was lovely, inspiring and your music was just beautiful. Kudos to the Pastor. We find her to be deeply spiritual and insightful. We knew most of the songs so we sang along with Kita. What a beautiful voice and Gary's accompaniment on the organ was beautiful as well. God bless you both for your talent and inspiration and for sharing with us. Stay well. Love, Tony and Charlene

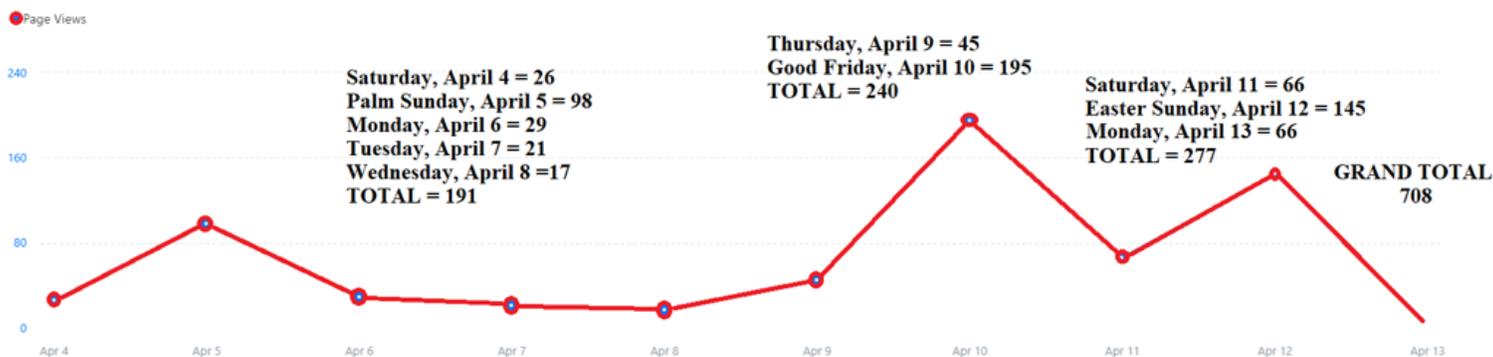
Facebook: If you have a Facebook presence, you can advertise our services on your page and you can write to those on your Messenger list and share our website link with similar text as above, editing as necessary.

Twitter: If you have a Twitter account, same as Facebook – provide the link to roslynpresbyterianchurch.com or simply roslynchurch.com – you just need to be careful of the 280-character limit.

Enhancers: In all of these, it is important to remind people to share the link with others. This is the exponential “magic” of the Internet. Adding pictures is powerful. You can get them from our website by RIGHT-clicking on any picture and saving it to your computer.

Donations: You will notice that there is a Donation Tab on our site as well as donation hyperlinks (highlighted words that take you to the Donation Page). Here with a few clicks you can easily send a donation to the church for any amount using a credit card or PayPal. You can even schedule repeating payments. Of course we also post the mailing address in case you'd rather send a check. Try it out—it's fun!

What The Numbers Show—as of this writing:



The sum total of the Holy Week services was 708. That's good, but in order to sustain our numbers in the weeks to come, each of us needs to advertise to our own family and friends each week using the strategies above and encourage them to do the same.

When this virus crisis has blown over, those who have been with us virtually will hopefully choose to be with us personally, assuming it is logistically possible for them. Even if it is one or a few more families, it will have been worth it.

Matthew 4:19-20: “Jesus said: ‘Follow me [as disciples], and I will make you fishers of people!’ So at once they left their nets and followed him.” We can still be “fishers of people,” [as digital disciples] but perhaps the 2020 version would read, “So at once they got on their internets and followed him.”