



ROSLYN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

140 East Broadway  
Roslyn, NY 11576



## A Note from Pastor Marjory

Advent is upon us. Advent is our time to prepare for the coming of Jesus. In a society that begins Christmas music on November 1st, it can feel like Advent gets lost in what has become the Christmas Season. Traditionally in church, Advent was celebrated until Christmas Eve. Christmas Day would begin the 12 days of Christmas, ending with Epiphany when the Magi appear to Mary and Joseph bringing gifts. Today, the Christmas season begins before Thanksgiving. Yet we are still called to prepare ourselves. Often this repetition feels redundant, especially to those of us celebrating Advent for decades. However, I remind you that as we enter into each church season we do so anew. A lot has happened since the year prior, especially during a pandemic, and it is good to realign ourselves with our faith.



The birth of Jesus comes with the hope and possibilities of love. Advent, then, is a time for us to truly think about what it means for us to have hope and love in our life. A time to reconnect to the hope. A time to anticipate what God has in store for us and our faith. No matter how many times we have celebrated Advent in the past, we are reminded yet

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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

#### Wednesdays

10am Weekly Bible Study  
In Person at Church  
(Not held 11/24)

#### Tues 12/1

7pm Monthly Bible Study  
via Zoom

Connect with us:

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## A Note from Pastor Marjory (continued)

again that God still has a plan for us, our church and this world. Let us celebrate Advent this year through the Advent Calendar (see below) that calls us to think outside ourselves, inside ourselves and about our relationship with God.

**F**ree association is when you take a timer, a piece of paper and a pen. You write the starter sentence down "Advent..." Set the timer for one minute and begin writing. While you are writing, your pen should not come off the paper. You should not edit or cross anything out. Just simply write until the timer goes off. When it is done, read it back and see if anything surprising came out of this. For those who are homebound, if you need help with someone picking up the food or the items for donation please call the church and arrangements will be made.



Let's celebrate Advent this year with our hearts hopeful and trusting in the love of God.

Many Blessings,  
Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth



## Advent Calendar



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| <p><b>Dec 1:</b> Call a friend and wish them a Merry Christmas.</p> <p><b>Dec 2:</b> Send a Christmas card to someone from church: current member or someone you met through the church.</p> <p><b>Dec 3:</b> Find items in your own pantry to give to church food drive.</p> <p><b>Dec 4:</b> Free Association: Advent means to me...</p> <p><b>Dec 5:</b> Worship.</p> <p><b>Dec 6:</b> Reconnect with a neighbor.</p> <p><b>Dec 7:</b> Say a prayer of remembrance for Pearl Harbor.</p> <p><b>Dec 8:</b> Make a list, lift it up to God, for all the things you wish could be different this season.</p> <p><b>Dec 9:</b> Send a Christmas card to someone from church: current member or someone you met through the church.</p> <p><b>Dec 10:</b> Pause and pray for all the members of the church and those on our prayer list. Say each person's name.</p> <p><b>Dec 11:</b> Sit in silence for 3 min. Afterward write down how it felt.</p> <p><b>Dec 12:</b> Worship.</p> <p><b>Dec 13:</b> Make a list of all the things you are thankful for.</p> | <p><b>Dec 14:</b> Say a prayer for those who don't know God.</p> <p><b>Dec 15:</b> Sit, light a candle if you wish, and invite God in, sit and listen.</p> <p><b>Dec 16:</b> Send a Christmas card to someone from church: current member or someone you met through the church.</p> <p><b>Dec 17:</b> Find a few items in your house that you have been meaning to donate.</p> <p><b>Dec 18:</b> Light a candle, or an electric candle, and think about about how light makes you feel.</p> <p><b>Dec 19:</b> Worship.</p> <p><b>Dec 20:</b> Talk to someone about faith in Christmas.</p> <p><b>Dec 21:</b> Say a prayer for those who are grieving this season.</p> <p><b>Dec 22:</b> Pause and pray for all the members of the church and those on our prayer list. Say each person's name.</p> <p><b>Dec 23:</b> Send a Christmas card to someone from church: current member or someone you met through the church</p> <p><b>Dec 24:</b> Worship.</p> |
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## News From the Clerk and Session

Since our last Newsletter was sent in early October we have had only one Session meeting. Pastor Marjory reported at our October meeting that our in-person attendance on Sundays is higher than those attending virtual or website online. We are continuing hybrid services.

Bible study continues on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. in the North Room. We are reading and discussing the book *The Bible Tells Me So: Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It*, by Peter Enns. On the first Tuesday of the month, we have a Zoom Bible Study at 7 p.m. (the topic varies). Additional participants are welcome to either or both of these meetings. Our office administrator sends out the Zoom information.



Donors received quarterly summaries of contributions in October (for the second and third quarters of the year). Stewardship letters were sent in early November with a Stewardship card and return envelope. The cards are also available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We ask that cards be returned before the end of November, which helps the Session plan for 2022.

In October, the Kalam Lutheran Church, which has met in our building for many years, began meeting two Sundays a month regularly in our social hall downstairs, with their Mandarin service beginning at 10 a.m. (previously it had been at 9:30 a.m. in a smaller classroom in the Christian education wing) and their Taiwanese service at 11:30 a.m. (pre-pandemic it had been at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary). Kalam is meeting at a different site on other Sundays. The Session approved this schedule on a trial basis through the end of December.



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## News From the Clerk and Session (continued)

We were saddened to learn of the death in October of Fred Ulrich at the age of 45, son of former members Nancy and Ted Ulrich who now live in Colorado. The Reverend Kathi Jones officiated at the Memorial service at the First Presbyterian Church of Valatie in upstate New York.

Kathi Jones has retired after more than a decade as pastor of the Valatie church. Kita and Gary de Sesa attended the commemoration of her service. Gary's pictures from the event include her husband, the Rev. Stark Jones, former Roslyn pastor.

—Natalie Naylor, Clerk of Session ([Natalie.Naylor@Hofstra.edu](mailto:Natalie.Naylor@Hofstra.edu))



Rev. Kathi Jones (left) conducted the memorial service for the son of Nancy Ulrich (right)



Rev. Stark Jones



Gary de Sesa talking with Rev. Stark Jones



## Church Humor

What did Adam say when he was asked his favorite holiday? "It's Christmas, Eve."

What did God's people say when food fell from Heaven? "Oh man-na!"

Why didn't anyone want to fight Goliath? It seemed like a *giant* ordeal.

Which king liked to do things on his own? *Solomon*.

What did Daniel tell his real estate agent? "I'd prefer a house with no den."

When someone needed a boat made, what did the people in town say? "We Noah guy."



Credit: Kelsey Pelzer, Parade website

## Congregational Spotlight

### Ira Cooper

*There is a Pharisee amongst us. It is me! Bwahahahaha! (Already, I sense, Natalie regrets asking me to write about myself.) I am Jewish and even though I no longer am observant to any great extent, my theology aligns with the traditions directly linked to the Pharisees of old.*



*Growing up in East Meadow, I interacted with other kids of other faiths. The synagogue to which I belonged encouraged the more spiritually motivated kids to learn about those other faiths, once we supposedly were “confirmed” in our own. In particular, we partnered with St. Raphael’s Roman Catholic Church and the United Methodist Church. My fascination with Christianity motivated me to study early Christianity at Columbia, as part of the Ancient Studies program.*

*Nevertheless, I never anticipated participating in a Presbyterian environment, for various reasons. In particular, my exposure to the Presbyterian denomination was far from encouraging. During the late ’90s, the largest body of the Presbyterian church took a position that I interpreted to mean that, in effect, Jews had no inherent right to be in the Holy Land. This is a position quite antithetical to my own beliefs. To cap it all off was an incident that impacted me personally, at Christmas of 2000. A colleague of mine invited me to Christmas service at the Northport Presbyterian Church. I looked forward to the event which was to be followed by a Christmas night dinner at the home of my colleague’s parents. My birthday, which falls at that time of year, was to be marked, as well.*

*What happened made a mark on me. The pastor delivered a sermon that in substance was a vitriolic attack against Israel. He colorfully painted an analogy between the Israel Defense Force and the Massacre of the Innocents (Matthew 2:16-18). He capped it all with a wish that one day the Star of David would be replaced by the Star of Bethlehem. This latter thought, in another context, admittedly is a legitimate Christian position, but not in a diatribe worthy of a medieval hate-filled sermon. At the end of the service, I got up and started to approach that worthy reverend. Before I got very far, my colleague grabbed me and dragged me to his car. Gee, I only wanted to make someone else’s Christmas a memorable one.*



*So, since then, I frequently would drive by the Roslyn Presbyterian Church, regarding it with a jaundiced eye. Then, one day, the exterior board advised that the title of the Sunday*

## Congregational Spotlight (continued)

### Ira Cooper

sermon would be, “Are You a Pharisee?” Well, yeah, kind of. So, that Sunday, I came to church, loaded for bear, or at least for the hapless pastor whom I planned to confront. Well, the sermon was innocuous; not at all offensive. Importantly, I had a warm conversation with the Reverend Zemke about the characterization of Pharisees in the New Testament. The upshot of all this was an invitation to attend the pastor’s bible study, when held. I also began to attend services when the sermon’s subject matter seemed intriguing. Subsequently, sometime during the pastorate of the Reverend Roth, I was encouraged to make Sunday attendance a regular thing, or risk eternal damnation. Kidding.



Since 2004, I had ceased attending services, but I truly missed sermons. I do appreciate a good sermon, such as the Reverend Roth can deliver. Favorite hymns allow me to express spiritual self in a way absent from my life these past few years. Bible study is a welcome bonus.

What particularly fascinates me is to study the New Testament from a Jewish point of view. You may be told how Jewish is much of the text, but when the spirit has been so hardwired into one’s being, the impact is great. The circumstances are familiar, such as the historical personalities. Years ago, I was impressed by the appearance of the greatest Pharisee of his time, Gamaliel, the grandson of Hillel. See Acts 5:34-39. Of Gamaliel it is said, “When Rabban Gamaliel the Elder died, the glory of the Law ceased and purity and abstinence died.” Reading some of the Epistles is reminiscent of reading Jewish source material. See James. Even recently, I was astounded by a recent reading of Acts 3:13. Peter clearly phrases himself in a manner displaying his familiarity with Jewish practice. An ignorant individual would reference the G-D of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Peter, however, uses the proper formula, illustrating his understanding of a key Jewish concept, even embedded into the first of the so-called 10 Commandments. So, I find attending services at the Roslyn Presbyterian Church to be an experience that nurtures my identity.

Every Sunday, there is a section towards the end of the service wherein we share our joys. I think to myself how fortunate I am to be welcomed by the congregation. What a paradox I find it to be, that one of my background and faith should find spiritual sustenance therein.

