

God is still speaking, at ...



THE UNITED CHURCH
of
Rockville Centre

January 9, 2010

Volume 11, Issue 1

The New Year

How many times have we heard and said "happy new year!" in the past several days? Do we ever stop to ask what is "happy" much less "new" about January 1st as distinct from December 31st?

The news is not new...it's more if the same, regardless if how much pundits indulge in predictions if change.

The only thing that has a chance of being new is our own attitude and state of mind. That's what determines whether this year is any different from last.

Paul urges us to "be transformed" by the "renewal of our minds". How do we do that? By "putting on the mind of Christ"...learning daily to trust in the power of God at work within us, to open our hearts in greater compassion for ourselves as well as others. Pay attention to how judgmental we are toward ourselves or others and how frequently we make disparaging and despairing remarks about the state of the world, revealing our lack of faith and our fear. Let our faith, however small, open a crack in the closed doors of our hearts and minds so that we can. Indeed see what is "new" this year!

We are very happy to welcome four new members this month: Susan Nuding, Jim and Val Vierengel and Dana Zingale. Please join us in welcoming them this Sunday!

May God's peace increase within us so that we may embrace what this year brings with love, courage and joy!

Blessings upon us all!

Pastor Bob

Stewardship Update

On Sunday, January 3rd, 2010, our congregation presented our pledges for our 2010 Estimates of Giving during the worship service. During the singing of "We Three Kings of Orient Are" we not only acknowledged Epiphany Sunday, but we followed the Three Kings in their gift presentation with our own presentation. We placed our pledges at the feet of the Christ child as a symbolic way of honoring the gifts that God gives to us by the giving of our gifts.

If you have not turned in your pledge as of yet, please do so immediately. The Board of Trustees is working very hard to compile this information and put together a budget for 2010 to be presented to the congregation in a timely manner. Please help out as best you can!

Stewardship Committee

The Sunday Night Club

Our next event will be a Sunday Pot Luck Supper on January 10th at 6pm. The chairs for this event are Don and Cynthia Young. If you have not been called please call the Young's at 766.0270 and let them know what you will be bringing—a main dish, salad or dessert. Susan Panzarella, Bill Cooper and Ken Dyer will be providing us with musical entertainment, this will be a wonderfully entertaining evening.

Our next event will be a brunch on Sunday, March 14th, immediately following worship service. Put this date on your calendar and plan to be with us. All church members, families and friends, whether single or married are invited to all our events.



Pat Barnes & Stan Weiner

Nursery School News

We would like to wish the entire congregation a healthy and happy New Year! We are excited to announce that we now offer 2 two-day "Toddler Separation" classes. This new program has met the needs of the community while instilling a love for early learning in our toddlers.

We do still have limited availability in our three and four year-old programs for "10-11". For more information please call Providence Alfieri at the Nursery School.

Upcoming Program Schedule

***Book Study Series:** THE SHACK by William P. Young, Readings and discussion is held on the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays, and 3rd and 4th Mondays of each month in the Parsonage @ 7:30pm.

Zen Meditation at the Manse
Mondays @ 7:00am & 6pm
Tuesdays and Fridays @ 7:00am

Dates to Remember

- 10 Sunday Night Club Dinner 6pm
- 11 Board of Elders Meeting 1:30pm
Christian Social Responsibility Meeting 7:30pm
- 12 Nominating Committee Meeting 8pm
- 22 Souper Group 4pm

Missions Reminder

Please don't forget to bring non-perishable food items, formula and diapers for the INN EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY in Freeport. Some other items needed are; diapers, baby formula, peanut butter, cans of tuna, soup, canned sweet or white potatoes, canned vegetables.

The Souper Group

The "Souper Group" will be meeting during the month of January on Friday, 1/8 and Friday, 1/22 they will be cooking up batches of their delicious soup.

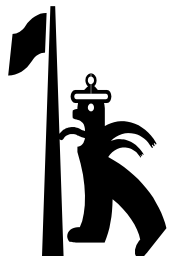
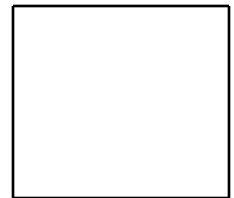


Please remember that all help is welcome whether it be a donation of time, money or ingredients. And don't forget that the soup they make is delivered to the INN in Freeport which helps to feed the less fortunate in our community.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the church office at 766.2975.

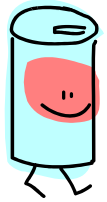


United Church of Rockville Centre
430 Morris Avenue
Rockville Centre, NY 11570





Board of Missions News



The Super Bowl will once again be played in early February this year, taking place on Sunday the 7th. The United Church of Rockville Centre will again be participating in a much greater event, the Souper Bowl of Caring. For those who do not recall, this missions program was initiated by a young man who wanted to see Super Bowl Sunday become one of the nation's largest days of giving, rather than simply a sports-media spectacle in which many millions of dollars are spent in far less altruistic ways.

Please consider participating in this annual event by donating one can of soup and \$1 to the drive on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 7th. A box or large soup pot will be labeled and placed in the Narthex to accept donations. All proceeds are utilized locally, going directly to our own Souper Group here at the United Church.

For more information please contact the church office @ 516.766.2975.

Your Board of Missions

The White Gift Pageant

On December 13th, 2009 we presented the Christmas Story in our annual tradition of our White Gift Pageant. More than 85 people joined in the singing of carols as two young boys had a dream, Mary and Joseph worked their situation out with the Innkeeper and angels made way for the shepherds to worship the newborn Christ child. Three powerful and well-adorned Kings brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, followed by pew after pew of the "faithful" who presented their gifts of white to the Holy family.

Once again, the pageant was a great success and thanks must go to all that helped to make it so. To the children and their families who took time for rehearsals and practicing their lines, to our teenagers and young adults who *still* do us the honor of taking part, and to the adults who took part, whether it was making an acting "debut", telling the story or making a show of the gift-giving, I thank you. Your willingness and enthusiasm was contagious and I truly believe that each person who took part made this pageant the special success that it was.

Thanks to Tom Hodge for his help with publicity and with make-up. Thanks to Kevin Oldis and Beth Oldis for helping with props and staging and for keeping things sane behind the scenes. Thanks to David Agee, Fred Volkert and Jim Vierengel for the "ups and downs" of the set, to Jerry Barnett for taking care of the lights and to Matt Longo for helping as well. Thanks to Brigitte Ermansons and the Board of Deacons for hospitality. Thanks to Marianne McHenry for keeping me on task and for all of her work in the office. And thanks to Liz Barnett who not only takes care of all the costumes (which is no small feat), but remains a steady sounding board for me.

Beautiful music, a beautiful story, a beautiful season. Thank you to *all* who were there and who took part for making it that way.

Susan Oldis