



Pete's Dragon

United News

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The United Church of Rockville Centre, UCC

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Gratitude goes beyond the "mine" and the "thine" and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy.

~
Henri J. M. Nouwen

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Happy New Year!



by Rev. Peter Dennebaum

We have entered the season of Epiphany, which will last now until Ash Wednesday on February 22, when Lent will start.

Epiphany is the celebration of Christ being made known or "manifest" to all nations. Epiphany begins with the visit of the Magi to the incarnate baby; it includes Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River; and concludes with Jesus' shining transfiguration.

Epiphany is the season when we are to focus on God's glittering revelation to us -- as people of faith, as a Christian community, and as witnesses of that faith on Long Island as well in our professional and social environments.

Epiphany is therefore the perfect time to enter now into the key period of our Intentional Interim Time and to develop a new vision and future for our church.

When the Israelites crossed the river Jordan into the Promised Land they crossed at the same time from their past into their future. The Book Joshua tells in its third and fourth chapter the story of this transition. The levitical priests carried the arc of covenant, representing God, and the people followed in respectful distance. But when the priests with the arc went into the river, the "waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap", while the waters downstream "were wholly cut off". (3:16). After Israel had crossed this way safe into its future, God asked Joshua to send 12 men (representing the 12 tribes) to collect stones from the places, where the feet of priests had stood in the river with the arc of covenant and to build out of them an altar. And Israel did.

Our church council are the priests and 12 of you will represent later all groups of this congregation. Together we will cross safely into our future, following our God, who has been with us for so long and will be forever.

This Sunday you will have the chance to sign up at our congregational meeting for in total 50 open slots in five different Cluster Meetings during January in homes of five church council members. Here we will prepare the crossing of the Jordan; you are cordially invited!

Yours, Peter

Website: www.uccrvc.org; Email: ucof.rvc@verizon.net

Phone Office: 516.766.2975; Phone Peter: 516.554.6032
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm



On Sunday February 5th, millions Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Please bring a can of soup and \$1 (or more) to donate on February 5th. All money collected will be sent to ... and the soup collected will stay right here in Nassau County, donated to the INN. Please support your missions board in this effort to "love our neighbors" by donating your dollar to the "Souper Bowl of Caring" on February 5th.

Useful Websites

Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance;
www.e-alliance.ch

Hunger News and Hope:
www.seedspublishers.org

World Hunger Education Service:
www.worldhunger.org

U.S. Agency for International Development:
www.usaid.gov

The world hunger problem: Facts, figures and statistics

In the Asian, African and Latin American countries, well over 500 million people are living in what the World Bank has called "absolute poverty".

Every year 15 million children die of hunger.

For the price of one missile, a school full of hungry children could eat lunch every day for 5 years

Throughout the 1990's more than 100 million children will die from illness and starvation. Those 100 million deaths could be prevented for the price of ten Stealth bombers, or what the world spends on its military in two days!

The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world is well-fed, one-third is under-fed one-third is starving- Since you've entered this site at least 200 people have died of starvation. Over 4 million will die this year.

One in twelve people worldwide is malnourished, including 160 million children under the age of 5. United Nations Food and Agriculture.

The Indian subcontinent has nearly half the world's hungry people. Africa and the rest of Asia together have approximately 40%, and the remaining hungry people are found in Latin America and other parts of the world. Hunger in Global Economy.

Nearly one in four people, 1.3 billion - a majority of humanity - live on less than \$1 per day, while the world's 358 billionaires have assets exceeding the combined annual incomes of countries with 45 percent of the world's people. (UNICEF)

3 billion people in the world today struggle to survive on US\$2/day.

In 1994 the Urban Institute in Washington DC estimated that one out of 6 elderly people in the U.S. has an inadequate diet.

One out of every eight children under the age of twelve in the U.S. goes to bed hungry every night. Half of all children under five years of age in South Asia and one third of those in sub-Saharan Africa are malnourished.

In 1997 alone, the lives of at least 300,000 young children were saved by vitamin A supplementation programs in developing countries.

Malnutrition is implicated in more than half of all child deaths worldwide - a proportion unmatched by any infectious disease since the Black Death.

The assets of the world's three richest men are more than the combined GNP of all the least developed countries on the planet.

The bottom line is... every 3.6 seconds someone dies of hunger.

We would like to thank everyone who gave extra money at the end of December when we made a plea. This extra money helped us honor our commitments for 2011.

January Calendar

WEEK 2

Monday, January 9th

7:30pm: Board of Christian Education Meeting

Tuesday, January 10th

7:30pm: Church Council

Wednesday, January 11th

7:30pm: Bible Study at the Manse (64 Hamilton Street)

Sunday, January 15th

10:30am: Worship Service Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: Tom Hodge

1st Reading: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

2nd Reading & Sermon Text: John 1:43-51

Sermon Title: **Called and Recalled**

Ushers: Dana and Serena Zingale

12 pm: Coffee hour Host: The Barnett's

12:15 - 1:15pm Congregational meeting. As always we encourage everyone to attend, participate and hear the latest news of what is happening in the Church.

*The Pre-Confirmation Class is invited to participate at the congregational meeting.

WEEK 3

Tuesday, January 17th

7:00pm: Board of Deacons/Board of Elders Joint Meeting

Wednesday, January 18th

7:30pm: Bible Study at the Manse (64 Hamilton Street)

Friday, January 20th

4:00pm: Souper Group - Chicken/Turkey Soup

Saturday, January 21st

5:00pm: Pre-Confirmation Sleep Over in Rickert Hall.

Sunday, January 22nd

10:30am: Worship Service

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: Leigh Latimer

1st Reading: Jonah 3: 1- 5, 10

2nd Reading & Sermon Text: Mark 1:14-20

Sermon Title: **Moving Forward**

Ushers: Anna and Janet Matthews

12 pm: Coffee hour Host: The Board of Christian Education

*The Pre-Confirmation class will be meeting today 12:15pm - 1:15pm.

6pm: Sunday Night Club Pot Luck Dinner

WEEK 4

Tuesday, January

9:30am: Board of Deacons Meeting Peter's office

Wednesday, January 25th

7:30pm: Bible Study at the Manse (64 Hamilton Street)

Sunday, January 29th

10:30am: Worship Service

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: Jeanne Treccasi

1st reading: Deut 18: 15-20

2nd reading & sermon text: Mark 1: 21-28

Sermon Title: **With Authority**

Ushers: Leigh Latimer and Megan Asuncion

12 pm: Coffee hour Host: The Board of Trustees

*The Pre-Confirmation class meeting TBA

The Sunday Night Club's January Pot Luck Supper

The Sunday Night Club's January meeting is on Sunday the 22nd at 6pm. The speaker for this event is Marilyn Nunes Devlin, a local resident and author. The chairs for this program are Cynthia Young and the Barnett's

Marilyn Nunes Devlin has been a resident of Rockville Centre for 36 years and is currently the archivist at the Phillips House, Museum of the Village of Rockville Centre. When she decided to write, "HERitage and HIStory of Rockville Centre, she opted not for a textbook, but rather a book that focuses on the pioneering, progressive men and women who created not only a great place to live, but a wonderful way of life as well. A firm believer in the preservation of what the early pioneers of progress left behind, her book focuses on the foundation upon which future generations continue to build a strong sense of community service and spirit. As Rockville Centre continues to change, Ms. Devlin hopes that knowing what has gone before will help it to move forward.

Ms. Devlin looks forward to speaking at the January meeting where she will discuss her book, what steps she took in authoring it as well as covering some of the interesting facts of early Rockville Centre. There will be a question/answer portion of her presentation as well.

January

Ushers

15 Dana & Serena Zingale

22 Anna & Janet Matthews

29 Leigh Latimer & Megan Asuncion

Hospitality

15 The Barnett's

22 Board of Christian Education

29 Board of Trustee's

Worship Leaders

15 Tom Hodge

22 Leigh Latimer

29 Jeanne Treccasi

**Long Island Jobs with Justice is Proud to Co-Sponsor:
We Can End Childhood Hunger**

A Multicultural, Interfaith Martin Luther King Jr.
CELEBRATION, CHOIR CONCERT AND EXHIBIT OF CHILDREN'S' ANTI-HUNGER PROJECTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 16th, 2012
2:00-3:30 PM

(Reception Immediately to Follow)
Suffolk Jewish Community Center, Commack

Featuring Renowned Storyteller Heather Forest

Admission: We teamed up with rockCANroll to beat hunger. Please bring a healthy and nutritious food donation for local food pantries. For a complete list of most-need foods go to www.rockCANroll.org

Program Action Theme:

You Can Help End Hunger by Growing Food to Support Food Pantries

Directions: Take the LIE to Exit 53 (Commack Road.) Go north on Commack Road about 3 miles and make a left on Hauppauge Road (the Commack Public Library is on the west corner on your left.) The Suffolk JCC is ahead about a quarter mile on your right at 74 Hauppauge Road. (Additional parking is in the rear of the building.)

(For more information contact Janet Matthews @ jisabellam@gmail.com)

Stop Program

The next collection date is Saturday, March 24th
Eisenhower Park parking field 3 in East Meadow between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Pennies From Heaven

As of December 2011 the Pennies from Heaven Jar combined with the recycle program brought in a total of \$355.05. The recycle program recycled a total of 6,327 cans and bottles for a total of \$316.35. Amazing what a soda bottle here and there adds up to! Great Job to everyone who participated. Let's all make an effort to increase 2012's totals while helping to keep our environment a bit healthier and safe for all.

LICC Food Pantry

Food donations are desperately needed at the Long Island Council of Churches' Emergency Food Pantries in Freeport (450 N. Main Street, 516-868-4989) and Riverhead (407 Osborne Avenue @ Lincoln, 631-727-2210), which are feeding over 25% more people than last year—which was itself a record year. They particularly need canned tuna/chicken/salmon, canned vegetables, soup (low sodium), 100% fruit juices, complete pancake mix, instant oatmeal, grits, dry cereal, canned stew, dry milk or Parmalat, nuts/peanut butter, jelly, Ensure (and similar supplements), baby food, and infant formula (especially those with iron, such as Enfamil with LIPIL). Donations of toiletries, personal care items, and plastic or paper shopping bags also are welcome.

The Souper Group

The "Souper Group" is cooking this month! They will be cooking up their delicious soup on Friday, January 20th, chicken/Turkey soup is on the menu. In February they will meet on Friday, February 3 to make a batch of their ham and bean soup and then again on the 17th to make beef barley soup. Stop by and lend a hand.

Please remember that all help is welcome whether it be a donation of time, money or ingredients. The soup 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 con-tact the church office at 766.2975.

The Face of the Ghetto

Pictures by Jewish Photographers in the Litzmannstadt Ghetto 1940–1944
United Nations Visitors Lobby, Main Gallery
First Avenue at 46th Street New York City
24 January – 12 March 2012

Access through the UN visitors entrance at First Avenue and 46 Street, New York. Please bring this invitation together with photo identification for entry into the United Nations building. An exhibition of the Topography of Terror Foundation, Berlin www.topographie.de If you would like to download an invitation form or the booklet please visit our website uccrv.org and click on our events tab.

**United Church
Of
Rockville Centre**

430 Morris Avenue
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Phone: 516.766.2975

Fax: 516.594.3384

E-mail: ucof.rvc@verizon.net

“No matter who you are or where
you are on lifes journey...”:
You can get our E-Newsletter!



We're on the Web!
uccrvc@verizon.net

Upcoming New York Conference Events

State Your Event March 9-11, 2012 - "With God, Nothing is Impossible"

UCCNY Women April 26-28, Watson Homestead, Painted Post

NY Conference Annual Meeting, June 8-10 in Binghamton; Speaker Author Kathleen Norris

UCC Nations Youth Event at Purdue, in Lafayette, Indiana July 11-14

UCC Family Weekend at Silver Bay July 20-22. No agenda, just worship, relaxation and fun! Sign up deadline is 2/10/12

**Annual UCC Metropolitan Association
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Worship and Celebration**

"The Word Became Flesh and Occupied Us:
The Church and the 99%"

Monday, January 16th, 2012

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Judson Memorial Church
55 Washington Square South
New York City

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Arnold I. Thomas
Music by the Milton Street Revival Band!

Panel discussion led by Rev. Michael Ellick, Judson Memorial Church
A conversation about the Church's response to economic disparity.

What is God calling us to do?

Coffee and Gathering 9:30 am
Service of Worship and Celebration 10:00 am
Panel Discussion 11:00 am
Lunch and Fellowship 11:45 am
Childcare Provided