

Mother's Day Plant & Gift Sale



It's time to begin thinking about Spring, Mother's Day and our Annual Plant/Gift sale! This fundraiser for the church has always been very successful, both financially and in providing an opportunity for all our church family to participate in whatever way they can to help make the sale a huge success.

Enclosed is a pre-order form for plants and flats. To help us make this year's event even more successful we are hoping you will consider asking friends, neighbors, relatives, and/or co-workers if they would also like the opportunity to purchase our plants. We are known for our top quality stock, not the chain store variety, at bargain prices so it really sells itself! You may copy the form enclosed for those extra orders or, obtain more from the church office. Working together we can make this the most successful fundraiser ever.

We thank you for your help, and I look forward to seeing you at the fair!

Tom Hodge

The Sunday Night Club



Our next regularly scheduled meeting is a supper meeting on May 16th at 6pm. The supper chair is Janet Zimmerman. Our program will be a double quartet from the Twin County Chorus of Sweet Adeline's International. This group is part of a 50+ member chorus which has been singing on Long Island since 1963. The Sweet Adeline's International is an organization of women of all ages dedicated to preserving the American art form of four part harmony sung a cappella. The organization is world wide with choruses all over the US as well as in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, England, Sweden and Canada. Put this date on your calendar and join us.

Join us to attend South Side High School musical "Carousel" on Friday, April 23 @ 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10 per person. RSVP to Jean Goodwin @ 223.3646.

All church members, families and friends, whether single or married are invited to all our events.

Pat Barnes & Stan Weiner

From the Board of Christian Social Responsibility

In 2008, the National Council of Churches called upon its member communions to educate their congregations about, and advocate for policies that will bring an end to, human trafficking. In 2009, the 27th General Synod called upon the United Church of Christ and its congregations to be part of this education and advocacy effort.

January 11 has become known, among people who have been working in this area previously, as Human Trafficking Awareness Day, a time to pay attention to the realities of modern day slavery. The Boards of Christian Education and Christian Social Responsibility had asked the congregation to participate in watching The Bible Tells Me So during January, but human trafficking has not gone away, and we still need to become aware of the tremendous suffering and social cost it involves.

Human trafficking includes forced labor, child soldiering, and debt servitude, but probably the form that has received the most publicity is sexual slavery. According to the U.S. Department of State, between 14,000 and 17,000 people are trafficked into the United States each year. Of these, 80% are women and girls, and 50% are under 18.

To address this issue, bills titled The International Violence Against Women have been introduced in both the House and Senate. Members of UCC congregations are encouraged to contact their representatives, asking them to cosponsor, and then work to pass, these bills. In fact, both Senator Gillibrand and Senator Schumer have signed on as co-sponsors of S. 2982, while as of yesterday Congresswoman McCarthy had not signed on to support H.R.4594.

For resources giving more information about human trafficking, go to www.ucc.org/justice, or ask a member of the Board of Christian Social Responsibility.

The true costs for that cup of coffee (or tea)

Imagine paying just 1% of what it usually costs you for coffee at the diner, or 5% at the supermarket? That's what small coffee farmers receive each time you have your favorite brew. Middlemen pocket the rest. Fair Trade aims to make things more equitable. It advocates for the payment of higher prices to producers in developing countries by connecting them to customers with fewer middlemen. The notion was started in the 1940s and 1950s by religious groups and politically oriented non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that wanted to improve trading conditions and secure the rights of marginalized producers and workers, especially in the South. Fair trade also helps producers develop knowledge, skills and resources to improve their lives. Products include handicrafts, coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, bananas, honey, cotton, wine, fresh fruit, and chocolate. Our Board on Social Responsibility plans to organize a "Fair Trade" table at the upcoming church fair in May. Please participate by visiting this table.

Pepper Robinson
Ming Ng
Howard Costa
Yvonne DeNoie



TOWELS FOR THE INN



Throughout the months of March and April your Board of Mission will be collecting NOT just towels, but all kinds of **NEW** personal care items for the guests of the Interfaith Nutrition Network. We invite you to join us in making life a little more pleasant for the people the serves. Items will be collected each Sunday in throughout April.

Spring Fair



We are in need of items for Granny's Attic for our Spring Mothers' Day Plant and Gift Fair. Please search your closets, drawers, basement and attic for small items (no clothing, furniture or appliances please) in good condition. Especially sought after in these sales are: jewelry (old costume in particular), decorator items, candy dishes, antique glass items. Please have all items clean. Any Items may be placed in the box marked "Spring Fair" located on the stage.

Zen Meditation at the Manse

***Mondays @ 7:00am & 6pm**

Tuesdays and Fridays @ 7:00am

Beginning May 2, Sunday Evenings at 7:30pm Zen Meditation and Dharma talk.

Bible Study on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5, 6, 7) Monday March 29. At the Parsonage, 64 Hamilton Street, 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Schedule

April

- 19 Bible Study continues, Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)
- 23 Souper Group 4pm
- 24 Metro Association Meeting, Pelham
- 25 Plant Pre-Orders due
- 26 Bible Study continues, Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)
the Parsonage
- 29 Christian Education meeting 7:45pm

May

- 1 Introduction to Zen 10am-12pm at the Parsonage
- 7 Board of Deacons meeting 10:30am
- 8 Spring Plant and Gift Sale 9am-3pm
- 10 Board of Elders meeting 10am
Trustees meeting 7:30pm
- 13 CSR meeting 7:30pm
- 20 Christian Education meeting 7:45pm

Souper Group



The "Souper Group" will be meeting during the month of April on Friday 4/23. They will be cooking up batches of their delicious Lentil and Bean 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.

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