



Pete's Dragon

United News

October 5, 2011

The United Church of Rockville Centre, UCC

Volume 12, Issue 5

Forgiveness is a major part of life that almost everyone has trouble doing. Learning to forgive someone that has wronged us is a very long and difficult process that must be done. Without forgiveness we can not let go of the bitterness and resentment we have towards someone, and without letting go of these things, they start to eat back at us spiritually, emotionally, and eventually physically. When we remain angry for extended periods of time it definitely takes a toll on our bodies.

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Communion Brings Together!



by Rev. Peter Dennebaum

I was very touched by last Sunday's Communion. Something happened, which was bigger than us. There was a spirit; it was spirit-uually.

The word "communion" comes from the Greek word *κοινωνία* (koinonia) and is used by Paul e.g. in 1 Kor 10,16. Like its Latin translation "communio" it means 'community' or 'alliance' or 'gemeinschaft'.

From the communion table we stayed in 'gemeinschaft' by gathering for an hour for a congregational meeting. It was important to hear the congregation. In a congregational system, worships and congregational meetings/hearings are the most important gatherings. It is good to have both connected.

Church Council decided this week that for the next several Communion Sundays a Congregational Meeting/Hearing will be held following worship. This will help the leaders of the church make the right decisions for you. Having these meetings will help whole church becomes a sounding board and insure that everyone's voice is heard.

The challenge of this transition time is not only to find new and efficient ways of working together. Also, more importantly, to find out what type of church you want to become and where you want your church to be in the future.

Therefore, the Elders decided to ask church council to open up the conversation about different forms and types of worship at the congregational meetings/hearings.

Listening to each other and then acting with each other – isn't this an essential part of our faith? Isn't this why we have become member of the church? Isn't this what we so often wished would happen not only in our church but also in our jobs? In our world? ...

In church we train for a better world; come and join the journey!

Blessings Peter

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My experience... has given me an unshakable faith in the creativity of human beings. It leads me to believe that humans are not born to suffer the misery of hunger and poverty. They suffer now as they did in the past because we turn our heads away from this issue. *Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize winner, 2006*



Date: October 16, 2011
 Location: Baldwin Park, 3232 Grand Avenue, Baldwin
 Registration: 12:00 Noon - 2:00 p.m.
 Walk: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



October 16th is also World Hunger Sunday

Due to the current serious hunger situation here in our community, the Board of Elders are requesting that all members bring food donations on Sunday October 16th for the Long Island Council to distribute to those in need. The children will collect the food from each of us during the children's message.

We poor people are invisible to others – just as blind people cannot see, they cannot see us. Pakistan

Below: Anna Matthews honors the UCC Mission:1 by posting a blog about food and hunger issues for the first eleven days of November at www.elevendaysoffoodawareness.blogspot.com



It wasn't my turn.

Response of a U.S. child who had fallen asleep at school when asked if he had eaten breakfast that morning.

THE FACE OF HUNGER
 Around the world

- In a little less than two years, the number of people who are living in poverty has increased by 100 million and the number of people who are hungry by more than 75 million. *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Population Reference Bureau*
- 1.02 billion people are undernourished worldwide – more than one of every seven people on the planet. *World Food Program (WFP)*
- Each day almost 16,000 children die from hunger related causes – one every five seconds. *The Lancet*
- Most of these people are not victims of famine, but suffer from what the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) calls a “covert famine” of chronic hunger and malnutrition, stunting childhood growth and development, sapping energy and potential. *FAO*
- Hunger and malnutrition are the number one risk to global health, killing more people than AIDS, malaria and TB combined. *WFP*

If you can't walk with us please consider sponsoring one of the walkers.

Please speak with Leigh Latimer or Megan Asuncion for more information or to sponsor a walker.

Nov 6 - SAVE THE DATE....Global Mission Sunday...more information to follow.

VOICES

In the final analysis, hunger is not measured in numbers. It is measured in people, in individuals with hopes and dreams like anyone else. These voices of hungry people speak to their reality and to our challenge.

For the middle classes, [the food crisis] means cutting out medical care. For those living on \$2 a day, it means cutting out meat and taking children out of school. For those on \$1 a day, it means cutting out meat and vegetables and eating only cereals. And for those on \$.50 a day, it means total disaster.

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:

October Calendar

WEEK 1

Saturday, October 8

9 am: Please join Tom Hodge in the front of the church. He will be planting Tulip bulbs. Just bring a trowel and your muscles!

Sunday, October 9

10.30 am – Worship Service

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: Anna Matthews

1st reading: Matt 22: 1-14

2nd reading & sermon text: Exodus 32:1-14

Sermon Title: **God Matters**

Ushers: Marcie Agee and Kevin Oldis

12 pm - Coffee Hour Host: Brigitte Ermansons

*There is no Pre-Confirmation Class this Sunday.

**Recycling & Medication Sunday - Remember to bring your electronics And medications to church.

Contact: Janet Matthews.

WEEK 2

Sunday, October 16

10:30am: Worship Service - World Hunger Sunday

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: TBA

1st reading: Matt 22: 15-22

2nd reading & sermon text: Exodus 33:12-23

Sermon Title: **Willing Relationships**

Ushers: Maia and Val Vierengel

12 pm: Coffee hour Host: Christian Education

12 pm: CropWalk registration at Baldwin Park.

1 pm: CropWalk begins.

*The Pre-Confirmation class will be participating in the CropWalk today.

**Please remember to bring food donations to church today for the World Hunger Sunday collection.

WEEK 3

Tuesday, October 18

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

Sunday, October 23

10:30am: Worship Service

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: TBA

1st reading: Matt 22: 34-46

2nd reading & sermon text: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Sermon Title: **God's Story, Our Stories**

Ushers: Anna Matthews and Don Calma

12 pm: Coffee hour Host: The Goodwin's

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

**Stop Program today at N. Woodmere Park on Branch Blvd. N. Woodmere.

WEEK 4

Monday, October 24

7:30pm: Board of Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, October 26

7:30pm: Trustees, in Peter's office

Sunday, October 30

10:30am: Worship Service

Preaching: Rev. David Seiple

Worship Leader: Marge Pietrera

1st reading: Matt 23:1-12

2nd reading & sermon text: Joshua 3:7-17

Sermon: **God With Us**

Ushers: Carolyn Colville and Jeanne Treccasi

12 pm: Coffee hour Host: Marge Pietrera

10 Things You Should Never Buy Again:

1. Styrofoam cups
2. Paper towels
3. Bleached coffee filters
4. Teak and mahogany
5. Chemical pesticides and herbicides
6. Conventional household cleaners
7. Toys made with PVC plastic
8. Plastic forks and spoons
9. Farm raised salmon
10. Rayon

To find out why visit www.coopamerica.org and click on unshopping.

5 Things You Should Always Buy Green:

1. Paint - Look for: Low or, ideally, no-VOC paint.
2. Paper - Look for: Paper products with a high post-consumer recycled content.
3. Light bulbs - Look for: Compact fluorescents.
4. Appliances - Look for: Appliances with the Energy Star label.
5. Fruits and Vegetables - Look for: Organic, local, in-season produce.

Most important to buy organic to avoid pesticide residue: Apples, Bell Peppers, Celery, Cherries, Imported Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Potatoes, Raspberries, Spinach, Strawberries

To find out why visit www.coopamerica.org and click on Responsible Shopper

Our Planet

More News From

THE WATER FRONT

Quick 'straw poll' – raise your hand if you've been told the safest way to dispose of out-of-date or unused medications is to flush them down the toilet.

Me too, but guess what. The very well-meaning people who told you that were VERY VERY wrong.

It turns out that waste water treatment plants do nothing to the chemicals in our pharmaceuticals, so they go merrily on out to wherever the 'treated' water goes. And, incredibly, in enough quantities that they are threatening every imaginable resident of the Earth's waters, including the bays and prime coastal fishing areas off Long Island's South Shore. Antibiotics, antidepressants, pain killers, contraceptives – you name it – are causing mutations in fish that make them a) inedible and b) unable to reproduce. (Documentation available on request.)

What to do, what to do? Well, residents of the Town of Hempstead CAN in fact DO something. In addition to the STOP program (Sunday, October 23rd) for safe disposal of household chemicals, the Town offers E-cycling 4 times a year. And just recently in addition to your cast-off TVs, CPUs, cell phones, digital alarm clocks, and whatever, the Town has begun 1) accepting pharmaceuticals, and 2) providing watch-while-they-do-it document shredding (only at E-cycling, not at STOP.)

SO: Bring your old drugs to church on Sunday October 9. We'll look for a volunteer or two to drive them to Lido Beach Town Park on Saturday, October 15. AND PASS THE WORD – you do not have to be UCC to get in on this simple action – you just have to care about your grandchildren, present or future.

Participate in E-Cycling!

Don't throw your computers, TV's, DVD players and other electronic components simply away: They contain toxic materials and those would enter our waste stream and the environment.

Saturday, Oct. 15th @ Town Park Point Lookout Parking Field, Lido Blvd. Point Lookout, New York.

For more information: <http://townofhempstead.org/content/cs/ecycling.html>

Keeping Our Church Beautiful on the Outside!

Please join Tom Hodge on Saturday, October 8 at 9am to help him plant tulip bulbs around the outside of the church. The only requirements are a small shovel (trowel), muscles (minimal), and tons of interest in keeping your church beautiful.

All Church Brunch

The Sunday Night Club will be sponsoring our annual All Church Brunch on Sunday, November 6th following worship. If you have any questions please call Liz Barnett @ 766.4856 or the Church Office @ 766.2975. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, please take a moment to sign-up so we know how many will be attending.

Oh Beautiful
for smoggy
skies, insecti-
cided grain,
For strip-
mined moun-
tain's majesty
above the as-
phalt plain.
America,
America, man
sheds his waste
on thee,
And hides the
pines with bill-
board signs,
from sea to
oily sea.
~George
Carlin



Last month 1,253 people were arrested in an act of civil disobedience in front of the White House- including Rev. Jim Antal, Massachusetts Conference Minister, and Rev. Mari Castellanos of the UCC Washington office. They were protesting the construction of a pipeline carrying dirty sludge from Alberta, Canada to be refined on the Texas coast.

The pipeline would cross six states, several major rivers, the Ogallala aquifer, and the nation's breadbasket – all potential sites for major disasters like the BP Gulf oil spill. Mining the tar sands requires leveling the boreal forest in western Canada, trampling the homes of native populations, using enormous amounts of water for processing, and the use of natural gas to heat the tar sands just to get the crude to flow.

Opposition to the project has been bi-partisan and widespread. NASA scientist James Hansen says that mining the tar sands will have such a negative impact on climate change that "it is essentially game over" for the environment.

As people of faith, we are called to take care of Creation now and for the generations after us. TransCanada, the foreign oil company proposing this project, needs the approval of the State Department and the President to build the pipeline. Tell President Obama to reject this dirty and destructive pipeline in favor of clean energy.



Rev. Mari Castellanos is arrested in front of the White House as part of a mass demonstration against the Keystone XL Pipeline.

National Call in Day for a Faithful Budget

In the face of the nation's fiscal and employment crises, Congress needs to hear your voice: a moral voice of reason, calling for love of neighbor.

Twelve legislators, known as the deficit "Super Committee," have been given immense power over U.S. federal budget decisions that will impact many years to come. Social safety net programs such as WIC, SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and others are in danger of drastic cuts.

Today we have an opportunity to lift our voices with Christian, Jewish and Muslim advocates across the nation. Recently we asked you to study, discern and discuss the work of the super committee and the role of the federal budget in shaping our nation. Now is the time to take action by joining this interfaith call-in day!

Please call your Senators or Representative and ask for a Faithful Budget that preserves the dignity and protects the well-being of God's most vulnerable people.

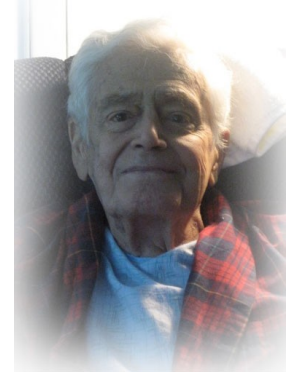
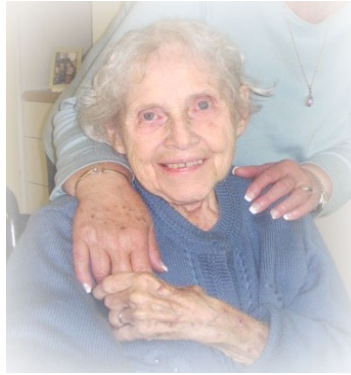
Please forward this email to friends, family, and your faith community.

Call in number 1.888.784.0527

Who to ask to speak with Rep. Paul Tonko (House Budget Committee)

Calls MUST be made by the close of Thursday, October 5th

HOME COMMUNION



Even though they cannot join us on Sunday in worship, they are all still a part of our church community and our hearts. Home communion is an important aspect of our church.

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 back! They will begin cooking up their delicious soup on Friday, October 7th (chicken soup is on the menu).

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.



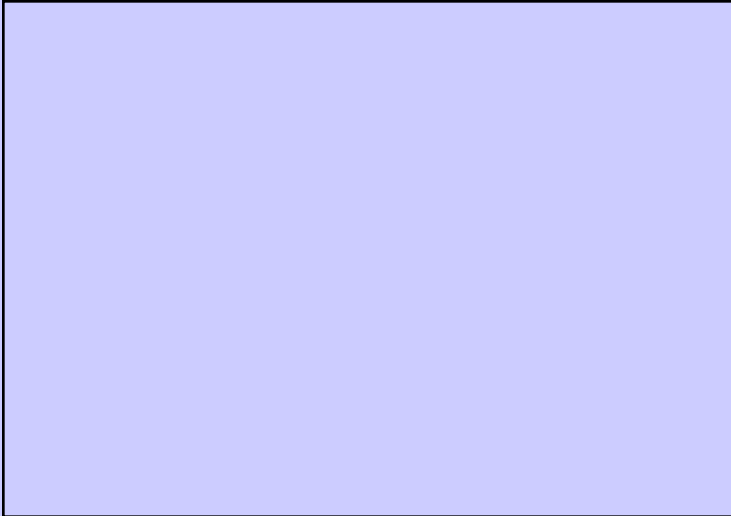
We would like to start a "Power Kids" page in our monthly newsletter. In order for this to happen we are asking anyone under the age of 18 to send in any and all pictures, articles (on issues you feel are important), links, and jokes to: ucof.rvc@verizon.net. This would be a great start for the children and young adults to participate in the newsletter... we can't wait!

**United Church
Of
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**“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

The Congregational Meeting



Right:
Moderator
Kevin Oldis
explains the
issues to the
congregation.
Left: The ques-
tion and answer
portion of the
program.



Right:
Kevin Oldis
discusses
the possibil-
ity of
restructuring
the church
with the
congrega-
tion.



Fall Meeting of the Metropolitan Association - Saturday, November 12, 2011, 9 AM - 2:30 PM at the Garden City Community Church, 245 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530. Watch your email for the official Call Letter and Registration information. All churches are encouraged to have church delegates present at this meetings.

We're currently trying to give a name to the newsletter. We have not heard from anyone as of today, offering a suggestion for our newsletter name. Please send us you sugges- tions and Rev. Peter will con- sider all submissions! We're waiting....

OCTOBER

Ushers
9 Marcie Agee & Kevin Oldis
16 Maia & Val Vierengel
23 Anna Matthews & Don P.
30 Carolyn Colville & Jeanne Treccasi

Hospitality
9 Brigitte Ermansons
16 Christian Education
23 The Goodwin's
30 Marge Pietrera

Pete's Dragon is a publication the congregation of the United Church of RVC. Please feel therefore free to share with us in Pete's Dragon a story from your life, an exciting project you do in your professional life or tell us an important project you do within your commission.
Peter