

God is still speaking, at ...



THE UNITED CHURCH
of
Rockville Centre

November 16, 2009

Volume 11, Issue 8

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, immediately to be followed by Advent and Christmas, it is a good time to look carefully at the people and things in our lives that bring us satisfaction, meaning and joy.

In a world of huge stresses and strains, a shrinking economy and widening terrorism, we need a faith anchored in the eternal beneficence of God who brings us all things good, heartwarming and uplifting. The gift of family, specific people who enhance our well-being, people who trigger a smile or make us laugh, the beauty of trees, sky and ocean--even making a list of these shifts our mood toward joy and gratitude, for each of these are gifts of God, God's again breathing vitality into our hearts and minds.

Especially as we enter Advent, let us pay attention to our experiences of waiting, of longing, of what our hearts are missing; for it is out of our awareness of need that, paradoxically, hope can be born. This is the meaning of Advent. We long for a deeper soul connection, a livelier sense of being rooted in and connected to our faith.

The Board of Christian Social Responsibility reminds us not to be seduced into frenetic consumerism on Black Friday---or any other day. Our own Pageant and White Gift celebration remind us of helping others. This season is a great opportunity to deepen our faith and remember that the central point if all we do is love.

So let us not get caught up in "getting and spending" nor in much busyness, exhaustion or debt. But let us find ways of being together to enjoy each other and love one another with the same love with which God loves us and we love God. Thus may we all find our way to the Christ child even now being born within us.

Blessings abound!

Pastor Bob

The Sunday Night Club



Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on 1/10/10. It will be a Pot Luck supper. The Supper chairs are the Young's. More details to follow.

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

Pat Barnes & Stan Weiner

Neighbors in Need

Who is My Neighbor?

It is the homeless hungry person. It is the men, women and children who eat at the food pantries and soup kitchens. It is all those around the world who struggle after earthquakes, floods and famine. It is the soldiers returning from war and those who live in jails. At United Church we respond to helping our neighbors with our Neighbors in Need offering. This year we will take our NEIGHBORS IN NEED offering on Sunday, November 22nd. If you are unable to attend services that day you could send your donation to the church office.

Dear United Church Family,

I want to sincerely thank you for your very generous donation and your immediate response to the Roof/Wall Project at the Five Towns Child Care Center. When we made our appeal we were totally overwhelmed. Overwhelmed with the mess we discovered when we took down the siding and overwhelmed as we thought about how we would get the money to pay for the work

As we went forward with this building project, it felt like every time we turned around there was another large bump in the road. At times it seemed that this project had a life of its own. Needing a new roof and walls was an unexpected challenge. But with the help of caring generous people, each one making a difference, we have made the Center safe and beautiful for the next 70 years and we can continue to serve the children and families in this community.

For the children, families, staff and Board of Directors, I again thank you for your very generous donation to our building project. You are an important part of all our success. Thanks for all that you do to for the children and families of this community and for making a difference in our lives.

With much love,
Pepper

Bakers Needed!!

It's time for the United Church's Christmas Fair. The goodies are always a hit and if you are able to bake up a batch of your special recipe to be sold at the fair, whether it be cookies, brownies, breads, etc... we would be thrilled. Please let either Brigitte Ermansons or Carolyn Colville know what incredible edibles you might be able to donate. Thank you so very much for participating.

Upcoming Program Schedule

The next book study will be Monday, November 23rd, 7:30 at the parsonage. We will read and discuss the last chapter of "A Year to Live."

The next book we will study will be "The Shack" by William P. Young, starting on January 6, at the parsonage at 7:30 p.m.

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

Must Have Toys, Bikes, Games, Video Gadgets and More

The Holiday shopping bombardment has begun and we even have new vocabulary - Shoppertunistic – encouraging us to not let go of the opportunity to shop.

Saturday October 31st I had to go into Kohl's to return some things for Matthew. As I walked toward the back and the customer Service area I found myself surrounded by Christmas Holiday Decorations. There were decorated Trees and Santa's, glass houses and holiday doormat, Christmas dishes and Christmas balls. They were so many bright and shining objects drawing you in to the area. But it was filled with nothing that I needed.

It was Halloween Eve.... I began to think about needs and wants. I began to think about all the people in the world that are struggling for shelter, food and clothing, basic needs while we are being offered all these pretty things that we don't need.

Members of the Board of Christian Social Responsibility have been struggling with issues surrounding consumerism since last Thanksgiving. We have been talking about doing something since the death of a young man last Black Friday (the Friday after Thanksgiving) at the Wal-Mart in Valley stream.

How do we be conscious of the difference between wants and needs? How do we respond when we are bombarded by advertisings push to consume? How do we respond to manufactured needs? How do we behave as Christians when so many are homeless and hungry? How to live mindfully?

Some of the members of the Board of Christian Social Responsibility are planning to boycott Black Friday. We are planning to not shop on that day in a personal protest to the consumerism surrounding the Christmas Holidays. We are inviting you to join us.

Pepper

A Message from Missions

You are an amazing congregation. You have responded generously whenever asked. Since the July we have as a congregation helped our Neighbors with:

Five Towns Child Care Center Roof/Wall Appeal	July
School Supplies	August
Strengthen the Church (new UCC offering)	September
Crop Walk	October

Thanks you for your generous support of the work of the Board of Mission.
From your Board of Missions

LICC Food Pantry

Food donations are 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 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.

Upcoming Events

November

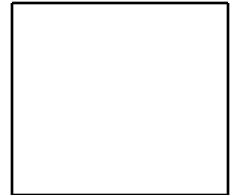
- 21 Metro Association Fall Meeting @ Corona Congregational Church Queens
Saturday Night at the Movies – Consuming Kids will be showing at
Brigitte Ermansons' @ 7pm**
- 22 NIN Offering
Greening of the Church, tree decorating, and cookie decorating party
following worship service. All are invited!**
- 24 Thanksgiving Interfaith Service 7:30pm at the Church of the Ascension**

December

- 5 Christmas Fair 9am-2pm**
- 6 White Gift Pageant Rehearsal following worship service
Poinsettia orders due**
- 7 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30pm
Board of Christian Social Responsibility 7:30pm**
- 13 White Gift Pageant Rehearsal following worship service
White Gift Pageant 5pm**
- 24 Candle Light and Carols Service 7:30pm**

***A reminder to all chairpersons – It's annual report time soon!**

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



White Gift Pageant



Join us on Sunday Evening, December 13th at 5 PM. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to our White Gift Pageant. The Pageant consists of carol singing, the Christmas Story dramatized by our young people and adults in full costume, and the offering of our gifts. **We welcome All in the community to join us.**

The pageant provides an important opportunity to get in touch with the true meaning of Christmas. It is a good way to observe the Advent season and to experience the story of the birth of Jesus through this moving presentation.

This year the Board of Missions will be working with The INN to brighten people's Christmas. The Interfaith Nutrition Network is one of the recipients of our mission funds. They provide food and shelter in many communities here on Long Island. They will be using our White Gifts to stock the shelves of their Christmas Shop. The Christmas Shop is available to their clients to enable them to shop for their children. We ask that you purchase your gift using the guidelines here. Please remember to wrap your gift in white paper. It is not necessary to label your gift. All gifts must be **NEW**.

The items needed are:

Toys/Games - all ages

Children's clothing - size newborn to boys/girls size 16

Clothing for teens - this means adult sizes including XL

Socks & underwear - in sizes for children & teens

Children's books - especially books reflecting different cultures

Gift Certificates for Teenagers (Old Navy, Target, FYE, etc...).

The Board of Missions and the staff at the INN thank you for brightening the season for the women, men, and children they serve. If you have any questions please call the church office @ 766-2975.
