

## “I wish you a blessed Advent Season!”

What is Christmas?  
 It is tenderness for  
 the past, courage  
 for the present,  
 hope for the future.  
 It is a fervent wish  
 that every cup may  
 overflow with  
 blessings rich and  
 eternal, and that  
 every path may  
 lead to peace.

~ Agnes M. Pharo

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by Rev. Peter Dennebaum



Last Sunday we lit the candle of peace. Before that we lit already the candle of hope. On the next two Advent Sundays the candles of joy and love will follow. I invite you to find new hope, peace, joy and love in your private life.

What do you **hope** for? Where can you bring a more of **peace** into your relationships? Where can you find more **joy** in your life? What might other people hinder to **love** you in such a way that your life would be more satisfactory for you?

Advent is the time where we Christians prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of the divine to earth, the coming of humanity into a poor manger. Therewith the kin-dom of God touches again our earthly life, calling to do the same: To provide humanity by (1) being in relationship with suffering people, poor, homeless, isolated, addicted, imprisoned, jobless and (2) working with them together for systemic and individual justice. Both together avoid ignorance and lead into refreshing new relationships.

Our church shall be a place of **HOPE** for all people on Long Island, visitors and our mission partners all over the world!

Our church shall be a place of **PEACE** for all of those, who meet us – because where ever we are we are church!

Our church shall be a place of **JOY** for all of those, who are tired to hear banal religious phrases, but are searching for clear statements and witnesses to the poor!

Our church shall be a place of **LOVE** for all of those, who are lonely and are seeking the love they deserve as children of God; we shall be the last resort!

Watch out for the signs of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE in your life! With Christmas a new time is coming!

I wish you a blessed Advent season & MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Yours, Peter

Website: [www.uccrvc.org](http://www.uccrvc.org) Email: [ucof.rvc@verizon.net](mailto:ucof.rvc@verizon.net) Phone Office: 516.766.2975; Phone Peter: 516.554.6032



“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.”

~Mother Teresa



The Board of Missions distributes the gifts that you bring to the White Gift Pageant to the Interfaith Nutrition Network, so they can brighten Christmas for others in our area.

Join us on Sunday Evening, December 11th 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 ask that you purchase your gift using the guidelines listed here. [http://www.ucrcv.org/Pageant%20Flyer\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ucrcv.org/Pageant%20Flyer_2011.pdf)

Please remember to wrap your gift in white paper. It is not necessary to label your gift. All gifts must be **NEW**.

### 5 For 5

In support of our denomination your Board of Mission has made a commitment that our Church will strive to be a 5 for 5 church again. Here are the UCC's special mission offerings:

**Our Church's Wider Mission**, basic support.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**, Supporting partners in more than 70 countries with ministries that fund development projects, feed the victims of famine, provide services for displaced people, and respond to natural disasters.

**Strengthen the Church**, Supporting church growth and leadership development in the conferences and through the national office of Local Church Ministries.

**Neighbors in Need** expresses the United Church of Christ's commitment to ministries of justice and compassion in the U.S.

**Christmas Fund** helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired church workers, and emergency assistance to clergy families in need.

### News from the Nursery School Director



It has been a very exciting and busy month in the Nursery School preparing for Jesus' Birthday. The children have been practicing for their Christmas show which will be held on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 and 10:15. This very heart warming show is open to all. The show is about 40 minutes of Christmas Carols sung by our four year olds with Frank Scafuri on piano. Please join us for refreshment after. I would like to thank everyone that came to our first Holiday Shopping Night. Everyone was so helpful in decorating the beautiful tree and getting the hall ready. I was very pleased that so many of you joined us to make it a great night. We raised a significant amount of funds for the school. Thank you for your donations of time and money.

Our first Breakfast with Santa is this Saturday. The event is run by the company, "Happily Ever After". We have two seating's and we are looking forward to a morning full of friendship and fun for everyone.

The families of the school have been invited to the White Christmas Pageant this Sunday. Many have expressed an interest in spending an hour with their families to witness the true meaning of Christmas. I can't think of a better way to get in the Christmas spirit and I look forward to it.

The children will be meeting with Peter in Church to have worship once a month starting next week. Peter and the teachers will lead the children in song and prayer and discussion of Christmas as well as many other loving themes.

The Nursery School has been collecting hats and mittens for our giving tree. The children have been bringing in items to fill the tree to give to those that are in need. They are very excited when we make a big deal about how happy they will make another child with their gift. I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful support I have received. I am overwhelmed with the kindness you have all shown me. I hope all of you have a Happy and Healthy Christmas.

Janice

## December Calendar

### WEEK 1

#### Saturday, December 10

Breakfast With Santa Rickert Hall  
Hosted by the Nursery School.

#### Sunday, December 11

**10:30am:** Worship Service - Third  
Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: Marcie Agee

Reading: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Sermon Text: Psalm 126

Sermon Title: **Hope Restored**

Lighters of the Advent Candles: Isabelle Ramsdell, Margaret Mbugua, Yvonne DeNoie, and Peter Dennebaum

Ushers: Mia and Val Vierengel

**12 pm:** Coffee hour Host: Leigh Latimer

**12:15pm:** Pageant Rehearsal; No Pre-Confirmation Class this Sunday.

**5 pm:** White Gift Pageant (invite your friends.

### WEEK 2

#### Friday, December 16th

**5:30pm:** Milk and Cookies with Santa drop off hosted by the Nursery school.

#### Sunday, December 18th

**9:15am:** Christmas breakfast with Peter in the Manse.

**10:30am:** Worship Service - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: Linda Volkert

1st reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

2nd reading & sermon text: Luke 1: 26-38

Sermon Title: **God With Us**

Lighters of the Advent Candles: Pre-Confirmation Class

Ushers: Ming and Isabelle Ramsdell

**12 pm:** Coffee hour Host: Sunday Night Club

**12:15pm - 1:15pm:** The Pre-Confirmation class will meet @ 12:15pm, the parents will join us @

### CHRISTMAS EVE

#### Saturday, December 24th

**5pm:** Worship Service - Christmas Eve

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: Lois Carlsen

1st reading: TBA

2nd reading & sermon text: TBA

Sermon Title: **TBA**

Ushers: David and Marcie Agee

**12 pm:** Coffee hour Host: There is no coffee hour following Christmas Eve Worship.

\*The Pre-Confirmation class will not be meeting today.

### WEEK 3

#### Tuesday, December 20th

Last day of Nursery School

#### Saturday, December 24th

**5pm:** Worship Service - Christmas Eve Service.

#### Sunday, December 25th

**10:30am:** Worship Service - Christmas day.

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: Marcie Agee

1st reading: John 1: 1-14

2nd reading & sermon text: Psalm 98

Sermon Title: **Sing with Joy**

Lighters of the Advent Candles: Beth, Ryan, Susan, and Kevin Oldis and Irene Randazzo

Ushers: Anna Matthews and Don Calma

\*The Pre-Confirmation class will not meet today.

### WEEK 4

Marianne will be out of the office this week (12/25/11 - 1/1/12). If you need to speak with Peter during this time please call his cell phone 516.554.6032.

#### Sunday, January 1st

**10:30am:** Worship Service - New Year's Day

Preaching: Rev. Peter Dennebaum

Worship Leader: TBA

1st reading: Isa 61: 1-6

2nd reading & sermon text: Matt 2: 1-12

Sermon Title: **Called to Gift**

Ushers: TBA

**12 pm:** Coffee hour Host: Board of Social Responsibility

\*The Pre-Confirmation class will not be meeting today.

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.



# The Nursery School Shopping Night was a Great Success!



The Nursery School Director, Janice Burke, displays some of the jewelry that was on sale at Shopping Night.



Tom Hodge sold Poinsettias at the Nursery School Shopping Night.



The Boy Scouts sold Christmas wreaths.



Brigitte was there too, selling her handmade booties and infant sets.

Isabelle, Carolyn, Sue, Tom, and Peter pitched in to put up and decorate the Rickert Hall Christmas tree in time for the sale.



**Our Planet**

**This is the LAST collection for 2011  
Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (S.T.O.P)**

2011 Collection Dates  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

|                             |                    |                                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday<br>December 11, 2011 | <b>East Meadow</b> | Eisenhower Park<br>Parking Field 3 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|

For further information please call (516) 378-2200.

**ITEMS ACCEPTED AT S.T.O.P.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Aerosol cans<br>Ammonia<br>Antifreeze*<br>Asbestos (double bagged)<br>Bleach<br>Bug & Rodent killers<br>Car Batteries<br>Chemistry Sets<br>Degreasers<br>Disinfectants<br>Drain Cleaners<br>Fertilizers with Herbicides<br>Flammable Liquids (fire starter)<br>Fluorescent lamps (including CFLs)<br>in shatterproof containers & ballasts<br>Household Batteries<br>Kerosene* | Lacquer<br>Latex & Oil-Based Paint<br>Oven Cleaners<br>Paint Stripper<br>Paint Thinner & Brush Cleaner<br>Photography Chemicals<br>Polishes & Wood Preservatives<br>20 lb. Propane Tanks<br>Solvents<br>Spot Removers<br>Swimming Pool Chemicals<br>Telephone Books<br>Thermostats (containing mercury)<br>Tires (car - off rims)<br>Varnish<br>Waste Oil*<br>Weed Killers<br>*Limit 6 in 5 gallon containers only |
|--|--|

**DO NOT BRING**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Ammunition</b><br><b>Explosives</b><br><b>Fire Extinguishers</b><br><b>Fireworks</b><br><b>Electronic Recyclable Waste</b> | <b>Infectious or Medical Waste</b><br><b>Propane tanks larger than 20 Pounds</b><br><b>Oxygen tanks</b><br><b>Radioactive Materials</b><br><b>Unlabeled Materials</b> |
|---|---|

**Home Visits**



**Left:** Llyn McLaughlin and Gina enjoyed a visit from Peter, Lois and Brigitte.

**Right:** Jeanne Trecassi's elbow is on the mend! Peter, Lois, and Brigitte paid her a visit this week and she smiled even though she's in a bit of pain... she always smiles.



“You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

~Author Unknown

**As you open your pockets for the Holidays, please keep these facts in mind...**

- The American Red Cross President and CEO Marsha J. Evans' salary for the year was \$651,957 plus expenses.
- The United Way President, Brian Gallagher, receives a \$375,000 base salary along with numerous expense benefits.
- UNICEF CEO Carly M. Stern receives \$1,200,000 per year (100k per month), plus all expenses including a ROLLS ROYCE. Less than 5 cents of your donated dollar goes to the cause.

On the other hand:

- The Salvation Army's Commissioner, Todd Bassett, receives a salary of only \$13,000 per year (plus housing) for managing this \$2 billion organization. 96 percent of donated dollars go to the cause.
- The American Legion National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!
- The Disabled American Veterans National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!
- The Military Order of Purple Hearts National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!
- The Vietnam Veterans Association National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!
- No further comment is necessary. Please share this with everyone you can.

**The Souper Group**

The Souper Group will be cooking up their delicious soup in December on Friday, the 16th and then in January on Friday, the 6th and 20th.

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 contact the church office at 766.2975.

**Board of Elders Announcement**

The Board discussed the valuable input shared by the members at the congregational meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> and recommended the following;

Due to the anticipated increase of attendance in worship on December 4<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve. we will serve Communion by Intinction, as in the past.

Beginning 2012, January and March we suggest we do the new Circle Gathering around the Altar format and in February and April, including Easter, we serve by Intinction.

During the Circle Gathering Peter will encourage us to say a phrase as we serve one another.

**Printer Available - Free!**

Konica Minolta PagePro 1350W, black and white, home use laser printer; not compatible with Mac (printer drivers not available). Has not been used in over two years, but worked fine when last used. Can be picked up or I can bring to worship.

If your interested email Anna Matthews @ [acmatthews1@verizon.net](mailto:acmatthews1@verizon.net)

If no one emails by 12/18, I will put it on Freecycle.

**If you have not sent in your 2012 pledge please do so as soon as possible. Your pledges are needed in order to create budgets for the upcoming year. Thank you!**

**United Church  
Of  
Rockville Centre**

430 Morris Avenue  
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

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

**We're on the Web!**  
**uccrvc.org**



**“You can give without loving, but you can never love  
without giving.” ~Author Unknown**

**The Stew**

**This is a publication the congregation of the  
United Church of RVC.**

Therefore please feel free to share with us 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.

| <b>December</b>                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Ushers</b>                    | <b>Hospitality</b> |
| 4 Meghan and Olivia Asuncion     | Board of Trustees  |
| 11 Mia and Val Vierengel         | Leigh Latimer      |
| 18 Ming Ng and Isabelle Ramsdell | Sunday Night Club  |
| 24 David and Marcie Agee         | None               |
| 25 Anna Matthews and Don Calma   | None               |

Marianne will be on vacation the week between Christmas and New Year's, returning on Monday, January 2nd. If during that week you need to contact Peter please feel free to call his cell phone 516.554.6032.

**Update on Brigitte Ermansons' Fundraising Project**

Brigitte has been knitting up a storm for a Christmas Fair fundraiser! She's sold over 76 sets (that's 152 feet and 1,520 toes that will be covered by her beautiful booties!) She also sold 6 hand-knitted baby outfits. All told Brigitte raised and impressive \$530 exceeding her goal of \$350 by \$180.00. WOW!

