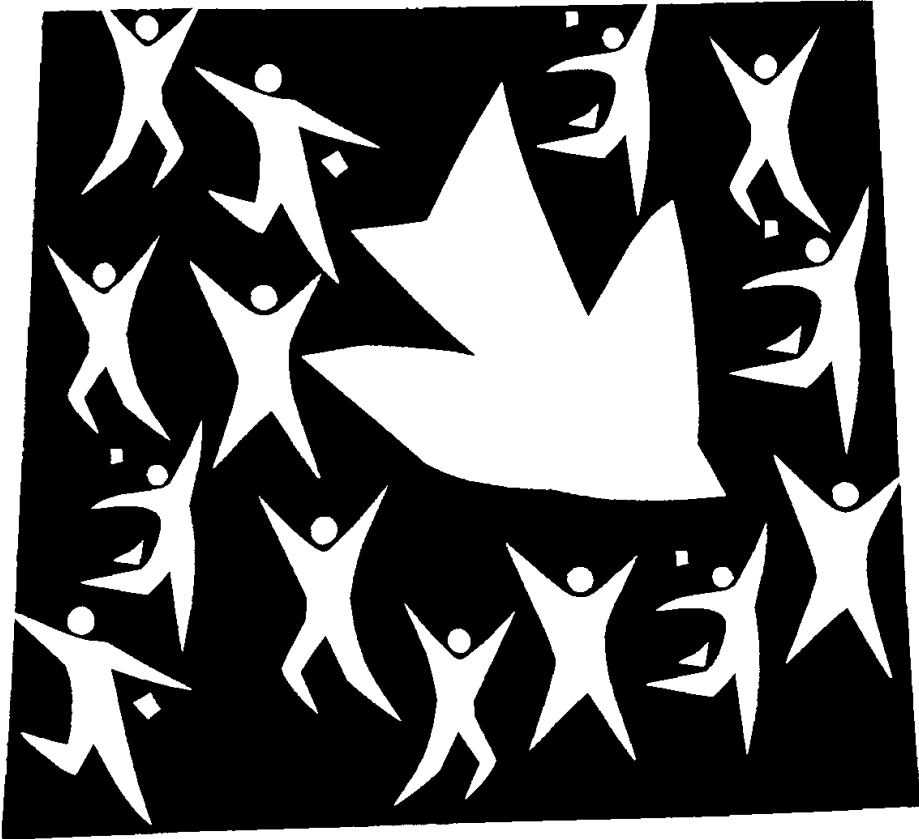


Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

January 24, 2010



Union Church Chapel, Parish House and Office
8101 Ridge Boulevard at Eighty-First Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209
www.ucbr.org ❖ unionchurch@earthlink.net ❖ 718.745.0438

The Reverend Mary Barrett Speers, Pastor ❖ Vince Peterson, Minister of Music
Ed Huml, BRUCA Program Director ❖ Jody Levine, Playgroup Director and Administrator

You will always be welcome here. This is God's house and a happy church home.
Let us be your church family, for we are all beloved children of God.
Join us regularly for Christian worship, nurture, and the doing of God's work in the world—
that you might have life, and that more abundantly.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

*We use this time to make the transition between “getting here” and “being here”.
Take these few minutes to find the still, deep places within you, where God's Spirit dwells.
Relax the body; quiet the mind. Focus on breathing, feeling, being.
Be receptive to your center—your reservoir of inner peace, strength, love.
Be aware of being together in silence with others. Feel the spirit of the community.*

PRELUDE *Elk River Blues* Old-timey fiddle tune Rev. Mieke Vandersall, Presbyterian Welcome

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *The Heavens Are Telling* (Psalm 19) from Haydn's *Creation*

✚ **HYMN** no. 302

I Danced in the Morning

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

during the Epiphany season

God of grace and glory, in this season of light we thank you for coming to dwell among us as the Christ, the light of the world. We know that Jesus calls us to be the light of the world, and still we burn so dimly. We lift up to your light those times when, ignoring the words of Jesus, we still find excuses to turn away from the needy; to be skeptical of cries for justice; to be too busy to strive for peace. In the fullness of your mercy, cleanse us of fear and self-reproach, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

SUNG RESPONSE no. 576 *a Gloria ordinarily follows the Assurance. This one is from Taizé:
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest...Alleluia, Alleluia.*

✚ **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

please exchange the Peace of Christ with your neighbors

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hymnal #322 Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me...melt me, mold me, fill me, use me...

FIRST LESSON: **Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10** Inquirer Derrick McQueen
Derrick McQueen is an elder of the St James Presbyterian Church in Harlem, a board member of
Presbyterian Welcome, and our seminary intern this year

ANTHEM *Psalm 19 in the Hebrew Language* Cantor Daniel Pincus
Daniel Pincus is an old friend of Rev. Speers and sang the psalm at her ordination 20 years ago.

SECOND LESSON: Luke 4:14-21

SERMON: **What Is Your Strength?** Rev. Speers

+REAFFIRMATION OF ORDINATION VOWS Elder Margaret Santos
Margaret Santos, a former Moderator of Presbytery, will lead all ministers, elders, and deacons
in reaffirming the ordination vows of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Marge is an elder of the
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, which sponsored Rev. Speers for ordination 20 years ago.

+HYMN no. 398 *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

OFFERTORY *How Can I Keep from Singing?* Traditional Quaker hymn

+DOXOLOGY no. 592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION
**Holy One who gave us birth, renew within us the spirit of your dear child
Jesus: fill us with such love and awe and delight that we become a blessing to
everyone we meet, and send into your world through us the peace, the
shining hope, the abundant life we have through the one who was, and is, and
is to come, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord...

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Hymnal p. 16: "debts"*

+HYMN IN RECESSION no. 420 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
...and let the whole church say, **Alleluia! Amen.**

CLOSING MUSIC *Please refrain from conversation out of kindness to those praying or listening. Some
of us may feel the impulse to applaud, but remember, before you follow that impulse, that the artists are
praying—they are offering their music to the glory of God.*

+All who would like to may stand; unison prayers are in bold.

Announcements

Visitors, welcome! Please join us after worship for refreshments and conversation, and please sign the guest book in the back of the Sanctuary so that we may get to know you better.

Many thanks to all worship leaders: Cantor Daniel Pincus, Vince Peterson and the choir; Elizabeth Gorgas, liturgical dance; Michele DiBartolo and Kristin Miller for coordinating today's repast; all who contributed to today in every way; Maryellen Van Royen (Communion 'bishop') Kristin Miller (coffee hour 'bishop') and Jennifer Segna (Sunday school 'bishop').

Session has decided to reduce our weekly paper use, and invites you to open your pew Bibles to the Scripture readings for the day. It's good practice finding your way around the Bible, too!

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: 1/24—Leinda Mouacdie; 1/31—Virginia Villano; 2/7—Susan Ulllyette; 2/14—Viola Ferretti; 2/21—Alice Seely; 2/28—Severin Norstrand; 3/7—Malcolm Tannahill; 3/14—June Aram; 3/21—Janet Louisa; 3/28—Helene Ogurek.

Prayer List requests should come to the church office by telephone **718.745.0438**.

Continue to pray for the restoration of creation; for all living in the midst of war, poverty, natural and economic disaster; for prisoners and all who watch and pray for them, especially the Church of Gethsemane. Continue to pray for/stay in touch with: Jennifer Segna's grandmother, the family and friends of Arabella Meadows-Rogers, New York City Presbytery, Carolyn Ramsay, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also the Matthews family, PHEWA and the family and friends of Nancy Lee Head; Donna, Janet, Geraldine, John and the Vandermarcq family, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

January Food Bank: The food collection box is on the table in the Sanctuary vestibule.

This Week and Ongoing

Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study meets Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm in the Parish House.

Yoga continues on Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 in the Parish House. \$15/session, pay as you go; wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel and a yoga mat if you have one.

Looking to the Future

Session meets tomorrow, January 25, at 7pm in the Parish House

Annual Congregational Meeting with election of officers Sunday, February 7

Sunday, Feb 7 at 4pm: the third in John Gingrich's "Just Strings" series of string quartet concerts. For information call 212.799.5080 or email gingarts@erols.com

Wednesday, February 10: our schools concert with the Academy of Union Church: tangos for orchestra by the Argentinian composer Astor Pizzaiolo, and the "Surprise" Symphony of Haydn. All hands are needed to help out with 500 children at each performance. Come see Union Church filled to the brim with music lovers!

Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, which is February 17 this year.

A Gift in the Lenten Season: Blood Drive Thursday, February 18, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 414 80th St, first floor gym 3-8:30pm. Bring a photo/signature ID; must weigh at least 110 pounds and be between ages 16-75. For an appointment call 800.933.2566

Sunday, February 21: First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 21 at 4pm: Union Church Concerts presents the Chichester Psalms of Leonard Bernstein (a Brooklyn native and now an eternal resident), with choir, soloists, and members of the Academy of Union Church.