

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

Homecoming



September 13, 2009

Parish House, Bay Ridge-Union Center for the Arts (BRUCA) and Office

8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

718.745.0438

unionchurch@earthlink.net

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

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

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

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. Be aware of being together in silence with others. Feel the spirit of the community.

INTROIT

Behold, I Make All Things New John Bell (Iona Community)

+CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 146

I will praise the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praises to God my whole life long.

Put not your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

Happy are those whose hope is in the LORD their God:

Who keeps faith forever; who gives justice to the oppressed.

The LORD watches over the strangers; the LORD upholds the widow and the orphan.

The LORD will reign forever! Praise ye the LORD! AMEN.

+HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 458

Earth and All Stars

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

Great Mover of the Universe, your ways are not our ways. You have placed the rhythms of life within us, you draw forth a counterpoint of melodies from us, and you prepare for each of us a home among the heavenly choir. For these and all your bounties, we thank you. Forgive us that too often we hear only alarms while the music of the spheres surrounds us; that we feel alone while the faithful of the ages sing with us; that we despair while your Spirit is our very breath. Unstop the ears of our ears, make strong and true our voices in your praise, and help us to sing together as we walk with joy in all your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose strong name we pray...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

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

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. AMEN.

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: James 2:1-10,14-17

ANTHEM

The Summons

John Bell

SECOND LESSON: Mark 7:24-30

SERMON: Breaking the Cobwebs

Rev. Speers

✚HYMN no. 512

Living Word of God Eternal

OFFERTORY

I Was Glad

Eugene Butler

✚DOXOLOGY no. 592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God from whom all blessings flow, tune us to your will, fill us with your melodies, and send into your world through us, and through all that we offer you, the song of everlasting life in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE *God's offering to God's people*

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

with responses as in the Hymnal p. 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal p. 16: "debts"

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION

please come to the table and dip your bread in the cup

PRAYER OF RESOLUTION no. 597

an Appalachian melody

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

And forget not all God's benefits.

Let us pray:

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your holy child Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who gives us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Christ, and pledge ourselves to serve you and the world you so love, even as in Christ you have served us. AMEN.

✚HYMN IN RECESSION no. 518

Sheaves of Summer

✚CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

...and let the whole church say, Alleluia! Amen.

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH

please keep silence out of kindness to those who wish to listen or pray. Some of us like to applaud but this is not required; the artists offer their work to the glory of God.

✚please rise as you are able; unison prayers and responses are in bold

James 2:1-10,17-4-17 NRSV

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Have a seat here, please’, while to the one who is poor you say, ‘Stand there’, or, ‘Sit at my feet’, ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7:24-30 NRSV

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, ‘Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ ²⁸But she answered him, ‘Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’ ²⁹Then he said to her, ‘For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.’ ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Bruce MacIntyre
in loving memory of his father, James C. MacIntyre**

Announcements

Visitors, welcome! Please join us after worship for refreshments and conversation, and please sign the Union Church guest book (at the back) so that we may get to know you better.

Many thanks to all worship leaders: Vince Peterson, the preparers of today's refreshments; Maryellen Van Royen (Communion bishop) and Kristin Miller (coffee hour bishop).

Thanks to Jennifer Segna for the **new, revitalized food collection box**, and for the great monthly themes! **September is *Back to School***, peanut butter and jelly (plastic jars, please).

All of us enjoy the Coffee Hour at the close of worship. Most of us do a lot for the church (we're a small church). No matter how much else you are doing, **you too can sign up for at least one coffee hour per season**, and make the Program and Mission committee really happy. Then, while you're signing up for a coffee hour, **sign up for the same week as lector** (since you'll already be here) and make the pastor really happy, too.

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 9/13—Percival Buerk; 9/20—Winifred and Gilbert Kretschman; 9/27—Ernest V. Skoldberg, Sr.

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: Elizan and Areliz Morales as they begin their married life together, Edmundo and Edith Quinones, Ruby Moy and her family, Arabella Meadows-Rogers, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Janet, Geraldine, John and the Vandermarcq family, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

This Week and Ongoing

Yoga classes meet Monday and Wednesday evenings 6:45-8:15pm in the Parish House Chapel. No experience necessary! Please speak to Kristin Miller.

Don't know much about the Bible? Teaching Sunday School is the best way we know to learn more *and* make new friends at Union Church. See Michele or Kristin, or come to the...

Program/Mission meeting tomorrow evening, Sept 14 at 6:30 pm, to follow up on the last meeting at the end of August and to plan Sunday school and other fall and Advent activities.

Bay Ridge Food Co-op tomorrow 7pm in the Parish House. This is a meeting for all who want to be "charter members" of this new organic food co-op. See Kristin or Joe Lynch.

Playgroup and BRUCA begin the week of **Sept 21**, with **Open House** this week: 745.0438

Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs meets first Mondays at 11am in the Sanctuary, except for holidays. This month's meeting will be 11am **tomorrow, September 14.**

Fall Reflective Saturday 9-12 Sept 19 in the Sanctuary. Ask Lynn Penney for details!

"Just Strings" new Sunday quartet series opens in our Sanctuary 4pm Sun Oct 4:

Miami String Quartet, in residence at Kent State and the Hartt School of Music. Admission \$20

Program: Haydn "Emperor" Quartet, Op. 76 #3

Ginastera Quartet #1

Dvorak "American" Quartet, Op. 96 contact: John Gingrich: gingarts@erols.com

Taizé Evensong moves back to the first Tuesday of every month, beginning 7pm October 6.

This year Taizé moves to our new renovated Parish House Chapel, 8101 Ridge Boulevard.