

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard



September 20, 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

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

✚CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed are those who walk not in the counsel of the wicked,

Nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers,

Blessed are those whose delight is in the law of the LORD:

**They are like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields fruit in its season,
Whose leaf does not wither.**

In all that they do, they prosper. AMEN.

✚HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 423

Jesus Shall Reign

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for this our home; for the earth, home to all your children; and for the gift of life. Keep us mindful of your Spirit in everyone, and show us where we have failed to see the face of Jesus, where we have seen only our own unloveliness, in the faces of others. In your great mercy, draw us back near to you, forgiving us, loving us, removing all fear and shame, and freeing us to be all you created us to be, through the life, death and resurrection of 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 3:13-18

ANTHEM

SECOND LESSON: Mark 9:30-37

SERMON: Who's the Greatest?

Rev. Speers

+HYMN no. 340

Eternal Light, Shine In My Heart

OFFERTORY

+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.

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

blue hymnal p. 16: "debts"

+HYMN IN RECESSION no. 412

Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds

+CHARGE AND BLESSING

...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 3:13-4:3, 7-8a NRSV

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

Mark 9:30-37 NRSV

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Gilbert and Winifred Kretschmann,
by Paul, Diane, and Kate Kretschmann, and by Jan and Lambert Orkis**

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 Lynch family for 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.

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 9/20—Winifred and Gilbert Kretschmann; 9/27—Ernest V. Skoldberg, Sr. ; 10/4—Nancy Gatto; 10/11—Bernice Reid; 10/18—Thomas J. Ferretti; 1-/25—May Crawford; 11/1—Rev. William Gray Tolley; 11/8—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/15—William Reppke; 11/22—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman; 11/29—Beatrice Goddard.

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 Donna, Janet, Geraldine, John and the Vandermarc 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 today after worship, to follow up on the last meeting at the end of August and to plan Sunday school and other fall and Advent activities.

Playgroup and BRUCA begin **THIS WEEK:** 745.0438

Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs meets first Mondays at 11am in the Sanctuary, except for holidays.

"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.