

Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York

September 21, 2008



Chapel, Parish House and Office
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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

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING "RALLY DAY"

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.

INTROIT

Jesu, Tawa Pano [Jesus, We Are Here]

Patrick Matsikenyiri, Zimbabwe

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 105:2,4

Sing to the LORD, sing praises,

and speak of all God's marvelous works.

Search for the LORD and the strength of the LORD;

I will seek the face of God as long as I live.

+HYMN IN PROCESSION *(insert)*

Walk With Me

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

The Children of the Church School

God, you believed in us before we were born.

**You put us in families so we would learn how to get along with people,
and you give us your whole world to care for.**

Help us to trust you in return. Help us to listen when your Spirit speaks.

Help us to say what you want us to say, and do what you want us to do.

Teach us real freedom.

**Help us to learn and grow together,
so that we become like your dear Son,
our brother, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**May our hearts beat with your heart,
sing with your song, love with your love,
through the faith of Jesus, 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.

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

COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

The congregation responds:

In the love of Christ we encourage you,

And we pray that God will continue to bless you.

May the Peace of Christ go with you, as you learn and grow together. AMEN.

✚THE PEACE OF CHRIST *please send forth the Church School with the Peace of Christ.*

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: Exodus 16:2-15

ANTHEM : PSALM 105: 1-2, 4-5, 37-43, 45 with refrains (see insert)

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 20:1-16a

SERMON: A Wilderness Experience Rev. Speers

✚HYMN no. 281 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

OFFERTORY *I Will Choose Christ* Tom Booth

✚DOXOLOGY no. 592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

You call to us to seek you, O Christ, and to find new ways to share our joy with people everywhere. We offer our selves and our substance to do your work in the world, asking that you follow our offerings with your blessing, and keep us always in the guidance of your Holy Spirit. AMEN.

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

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. 446 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

✚CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

CLOSING MUSIC

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 musicians offer their music to the glory of God.

✚all who would like to may stand; unison prayers are in bold.

PSALM 105: 1-2, 4-5, 37-43, 45 Tone 4, Salvation History, with refrains as marked

REFRAIN

♩ = 126 Tell out the deeds of the Lord; — tell out the wonders God has wrought.

TONE 4 (B)

*

1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name; *
make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

**2 Sing to the LORD, sing praises, *
and speak of all God's marvelous works.**

4 Search for the LORD and the strength of the LORD; *
continually seek the face of God.

**5 Remember the marvels God has done, *
the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth, R**

37 God led out the chosen people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

**38 Their oppressors were glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.**

39 God spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.

**40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and God satisfied them with bread from heaven. R**

43 So God led forth the people with gladness, *
the chosen ones with shouts of joy.

[Unison]

**45 that they might keep God's ordinances *
and observe the laws of the LORD.**

Hallelujah! R

**Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Ernest V. Skoldberg, Sr., by Eleanore Skoldberg**

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 leaders: the Sunday School teachers, Vince Peterson and the choir; Liz and Nick LoPorto for today's refreshments; Malcolm Tannahill and the ushers; 'bishops' Mary Cusack (Communion) Kristin Miller-Lynch (coffee hour), and Isabel Morales (Sunday School).

There are still opportunities to read Scripture and provide refreshments: sign up today!

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, September 21—Ernest V. Skoldberg, Sr.; September 28—Shikri Coury; 10/5—Nancy Gatto; 10/12—Bernice Reid; 10/19—Thomas J. Ferretti; 10/26—May Crawford; 11/2—William Reppke; 11/9—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/16—Rev. William Gray Tolley; 11/23—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman; 11/30—Beatrice Goddard.

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

Continue to pray for/stay in touch with: Dolores Cleary, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Barbara Briggs, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; Kevin, Maribelle, the Boynton family. Please call the office to add names to the prayer list.

we need volunteers to stay an hour or so after church today to tidy the garden for the upcoming Presbytery meeting the following Saturday, September 27 (see below).

Looking to the Future

Stated Session meeting tomorrow, September 22, at 7pm in the Parish House.

Tuesday evening Bible study organizing meeting this coming Tuesday, Rev. Speers's study 7pm.

Bible study at Redeemer-St. John's Lutheran Church resumes Wednesdays. See Rev. Speers.

Support group for parents of children with special needs starts October 6, 11-1: call Isabel Morales 800.405.8818 if you or a friend would be interested.

Union Church Concerts: Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* 4pm Sunday, October 19, with orchestra, soloists, and Mark Shapiro narrating. Bring the whole family!

Sunday, Nov 2: Fifth Annual "Marathon of Prayer and Praise"—Bethlehem Lutheran Church, diagonally opposite the last year's location, on Fourth Avenue at Ovington.

Presbytery Meeting September 27

Presbytery of New York City meets here at Union Church Next Saturday, September 27:

This fall marks the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Peggy Howland, right here at Union Church with **George Bonnell** in 1958! **Isabel Morales and Michele DiBartolo** are "hospitality bishops" for this big event. **When they call you, say YES!**

Peggy Howland and Jo Tolley will be here for the event. **Vince Peterson** will lead a "pickup choir" of volunteers from choirs all over the presbytery. Our friend **JANIS RUSSELL, DIRECTOR OF THE LAFAYETTE INSPIRATIONAL ENSEMBLE AND AN ELDER AT LAFAYETTE AVENUE CHURCH, WILL BE THE LEAD SINGER** in the arrangement (by a woman) of Stevie Wonder's *Heaven Help Us All* that Vince and Rev. Speers sang at General Assembly in San Jose. Morning will be in the Sanctuary; lunch onwards in the Parish House.

Presbytery worship starts at 10am; come say hi to Peggy Howland and Jo Tolley, make music with the pickup choir under Vince's direction: stay to help serve lunch (or clean up!) in the gym.