

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard www.ucbr.org

HOMECOMING SEPTEMBER 12, 2010



Parish House, Bay Ridge-Union Center for the Arts (BRUCA) and Office
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718.745.0438 www.ucbr.org www.bruca.org unionchurch@earthlink.net

The Reverend Mary Barrett Speers, Pastor + Vince Peterson, Minister of Music
Ed Huml, BRUCA Program Director + Jennifer Kruger, 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 with 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 FOR THE LORD'S DAY **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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, your breath, 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.
Today, as part of our gathering music, Vince Peterson will teach us some of the new service music he has been composing for Union Church!*

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Luke 15:1-10

When the lost is found: **Let there be joy on earth as there is in heaven!**

When the sinner repents: **Let there be joy on earth as there is in heaven!**

When the children come home: **Let there be joy on earth as there is in heaven!**

When God gathers us together: **Let there be joy on earth as there is in heaven!**

✠HYMN no. 302

I Danced in the Morning

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Eternal God, you are constantly in prayer with us. Your whole creation calls out to us, and the hum of your prayers is there below all the events and all the lives that touch our own. Forgive us for our failure to listen. Forgive us for our failure to seek your will. Forgive us for our failure to reach out to your children all around us. We ask that you tune our wills to your will, that we may vibrate with your abundant life, ringing like bells with perfect harmonics, all of us together in the glorious melody of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose spirit gives us power and 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 in English:

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest;
Glory to God, Glory to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

✠THE PEACE OF CHRIST

please turn and share the Peace of Christ with your neighbors

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INTRODUCTIONS

GREETING FROM OUR INTERIM EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER: Elder Tony De La Rosa

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *composed for Union Church by Vince Peterson*
Speak, O Lord, and I will hear Thee: Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee, While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows: Healing here for all our woes.

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 34:11-16 Derrick McQueen

ANTHEM O Come, Let Us Sing Anthony Piccolo

SECOND LESSON: Luke 15:1-10

SERMON: What Does God Look Like? Rev. Speers

☒ **HYMN** (*insert*) *I Sought the Lord*

COMING HOME: JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY *Sign Me Up!* Kevin Yancy and Jerome Metcalfe

☒ **DOXOLOGY** no. 593 and **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Almighty God, everything we have comes from you. Whatever we do we owe to your Spirit, the life you have placed within us. Follow then these gifts with your blessing, and accept our hearts and our lives as offerings returned to you, that your kingdom come, for we pray in the strong name of Jesus. **AMEN.**

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

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Hymnal p. 13*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*) *Hymnal p. 16*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *"On the night when he was arrested, our Lord took bread..."*

☒ **THE COMMUNION** *please come to the table and dip your bread in the cup*

☒ **THANKSGIVING AFTER THE COMMUNION** *a new melody, by Vince Peterson*

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.

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 brings 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** no. 514 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

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

SENDING-FORTH MUSIC

☒ 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 Union Church guest book (at the back) so that we may get to know you better.

Many thanks to all leaders: Tony De La Rosa, Derrick McQueen, Vince Peterson and the choir (special hello to Justin Randolph), Liz LoPorto and the preparers of today's refreshments; Jane Feazell (communion 'bishop'), Jennifer Segna (Sunday School 'bishop'), and Liz LoPorto (coffee hour 'bishop').

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church.

Continue to pray for our planet and for peace; for all living in the midst of war, poverty, natural and economic disaster, especially the homeless of Pakistan; for prisoners, those recently released from prison, and all who work and pray with them, especially the Church of Gethsemane. Also we pray for: the family and friends of Rev. John Gump, Lorrie Green, Tyler DiBartolo, Eddie Norstrand, the Presbytery of New York City, Carolyn Ramsay, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Bill Louisa, Dolores Cleary, Helen Kretiv; David and Marion and their family, the family and friends of Jim Taylor and Whitney Smith, Jackson, Donna, Janet, Geraldine, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

Prayer requests should come to the church office by telephone **718.745.0438** or email **ucoffice@earthlink.net**. Please also notify the office to remove a name from the prayer list.

Welcome Jennifer Kruger to the Union Church office! Jennifer has extensive office experience and has been Jody's senior assistant in the Union Church playgroup for several years. Jennifer will have the same schedule as Jody did, with playgroup in the morning and office hours after noon until 1:30. She will also be in on Friday mornings. Please call or stop by to introduce yourself.

Pastor's office hours: 11am to 3pm Mon-Wed and of course at other times by appointment. Rev. Speers is often in the office on those days throughout the afternoon and evening. Thursday is sermon day. There are unavoidable shifts in this schedule from time to time for visitation and various meetings, and she would love to see you, so please call first before dropping by.

Upcoming and Ongoing Programs and Events

Sunday School Opening Celebration with commissioning of teachers and students: Next Sunday, **September 19 in 11am worship**. All teachers and students for the year, please be in church on time: the commissioning will begin promptly, followed by the first Sunday School lesson downstairs in the Sunday School room.

Bible Study resumes this month in the pastor's study in the Parish House: speak to Rev. Speers about scheduling a time that works for everyone.

Yoga resumes on Wednesdays 6:45-8:15. See Kristin Miller Lynch for the fall schedule.

Taizé evensong resumes October 6 at 7pm in the Sanctuary, and continues every first Wednesday through the year.

Celebrate Banned Books Week by reading a book that was once banned! What is it? The Bible in English! Read your Bible September 25-October 2!, and then keep on reading...

World Communion Sunday is Sunday, October 3. This is the day of the **Peacemaking Offering** in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.: "If you want peace, work for justice."

Congregations get to keep 25 percent of their offering for local mission.

World Communion Sunday is also the *ninth anniversary* of our ministry together here at Union Church!