

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard www.ucbr.org

September 26, 2010



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

SEVENTEENTH 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.

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Thus says the LORD: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom,
do not let the mighty boast in their might,
do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth,
but let those who boast, boast in this:
that they understand and know me, that I am the LORD,
who acts with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth,
for in those things I delight, says the LORD.

✠HYMN (*insert*) from last week: the children missed it! ***Will You Come and Follow Me?***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *we "clean house" in preparation for receiving the Word of God...*

Almighty and Most merciful God, we know we are safe in the shelter of your love. We are grateful that you are our refuge and our sanctuary. In trust, therefore, we your children bring to you our secrets. We confess to you the unkind words that cannot be taken back, opportunities to help another that we passed by, actions we have taken whose results cannot be changed. We confess to you all the damage we have done that cannot be undone. These sins weigh heavily upon us. We beg your forgiveness, and acknowledge that our only hope is in you. Direct our attention, we pray, to those wrongs we *can* make right, and give us the strength, courage, and faith to do so, through Jesus Christ our Lord...

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *composed for Union Church by Vince Peterson*
Speak, O Lord, and we will hear you: let your will be done indeed.
May we undisturbed draw near you, with your Word your people feed.
Here, of life the fountain flows: here is balm for all our woes.

FIRST LESSON: **Jeremiah 32** *selected verses*

ANTHEM

SECOND LESSON: **Luke 16:19-31**

SERMON: **Waiting to Inhale** Rev. Speers

✠**HYMN** (*insert*) ***What Are They Doing in Heaven?***

OFFERTORY

✠**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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord...

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

✠**HYMN** no. 432 ***Canto de Esperanza/Song of Hope***

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

SENDING-FORTH MUSIC

please keep silence out of kindness to those who wish to pray or listen.
Some of us may feel the impulse to applaud, but please remember that the artists are praying:
they are offering their gifts to the glory of God.

✠please rise in body or in spirit; **unison prayers are in bold.**

A reading from Chapter 32 of the book of the prophet Jeremiah

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. ²At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, ³where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

⁶Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: ⁷Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’ ⁹And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. ¹⁰I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales.

¹⁶After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, saying: ¹⁷Ah Lord GOD! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

²⁰You showed signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all humankind, and have made yourself a name that continues to this very day.

²¹You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and outstretched arm, and with great terror; ²²and you gave them this land, which you swore to their ancestors to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey;

²³and they entered and took possession of it. But they did not obey your voice or follow your law; of all you commanded them to do, they did nothing. Therefore you have made all these disasters come upon them

²⁵Yet you, O Lord GOD, have said to me, ‘Buy the field for money and get witnesses’—though the city has been given into the hands of the Chaldeans.

²⁶The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁷See, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too hard for me?

³⁶Now therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is being given into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence’: ³⁷See, I am going to gather them from all the lands to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation; I will bring them back to this place, and I will settle them in safety. ³⁸They shall be my people, and I will be their God.

³⁹I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me for all time, for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰I will make an everlasting covenant with them, never to draw back from doing good to them; and I will put the fear of me in their hearts, so that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹I will rejoice in doing good to them, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

⁴³Fields shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, It is a desolation, without human beings or animals; it has been given into the hands of the Chaldeans. ⁴⁴Fields shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, ...for I will restore their fortunes, says the LORD.

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

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: Vince Peterson and the choir, Liz LoPorto and the preparers of today's refreshments; Jane Fezell (communion 'bishop'), Jennifer Segna (Sunday School 'bishop'), and Liz LoPorto (coffee hour 'bishop').

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 of Whitney Smith; Jackson, Donna, Janet, Geraldine, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of the Union Church family: Today, 9/26—Ernest V. Skoldberg, Sr.; 10/3—Nancy Gatto; 10/10—Bernice Reid; 10/17—Thomas J. Ferretti; 10/24—May Crawford; 10/31—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman; 11/7—William Reppke; 11/14—Rev. William Gray Tolley; 11/21—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/28—Beatrice Goddard.

Prayer requests should come to the church office by telephone **718.745.0438** or email **uoffice@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

World Communion Sunday is next 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 our **ninth anniversary** together here at Union Church!

Yoga Wednesdays 6:45-8:15 8101 Ridge Blvd. No experience necessary for this gentle, restorative class. \$15/session, pay as you go; bring a mat, a towel, and wear comfortable clothes.

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

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