

Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

January 17, 2010



Union Church Chapel, Parish House and Office
8101 Ridge Boulevard at Eighty-First Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209
www.ucbr.org ❖ unionchurch@earthlink.net ❖ 718.745.0438

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

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.

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 36:7,9

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

For with you is the fountain of life:

In your light we see light.

+HYMN no. 125

Come Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

during the Epiphany season

God of grace and glory, we thank you for coming to dwell among us as the Christ, the light of the world. But Jesus wants *us* to be the light of the world, and yet we burn so dimly. We lift up to your light those times when, ignoring the words of Jesus, we still find reasons to turn away from the needy; to be skeptical of cries for justice; to be too busy to strive for peace. In the fullness of your mercy, cleanse us of fear and self-reproach, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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 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: Isaiah 62:1-5

ANTHEM *Thy Mercy and Thy Truth, O Lord (Psalm 36)* Psalter/Tallis: Hymnal no. 186

SECOND LESSON: I Corinthians 12:1-11

SERMON: A Plethora of Riches Rev. Fenton

+HYMN no. 394 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

OFFERTORY *Siyahamba/We Are Marching in the Light of God* Traditional South African

+DOXOLOGY no. 592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One who gave us birth, renew within us the spirit of your dear child Jesus: fill us with such love and awe and delight that we become a blessing to everyone we meet, and send into your world through us the peace, the shining hope, the abundant life we have through the one who was, and is, and is to come, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Hymnal p. 16: "debts"

+HYMN IN RECESSION no. 563 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING MUSIC *Please refrain from conversation out of kindness to those praying or listening. Some of us like to applaud, but this is not required: the artists offer their music to the glory of God.*

+All who would like to may stand; unison prayers are in bold.

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
by Eddie Norstrand, in loving memory of Edward J. Norstrand**

Announcements

Visitors, welcome! Please join us after worship for refreshments and conversation, and please sign the guest book in the back of the Sanctuary so that we may get to know you better.

Many thanks to all worship leaders: Rev. Dana Fenton, Vince Peterson and the choir; Jill Stoler for today's refreshments; Maryellen Van Royen (Communion 'bishop') Kristin Miller (coffee hour 'bishop') and Michele DiBartolo (Sunday school 'bishop').

Session has decided to reduce our weekly paper use, and invites you to open your pew Bibles to the Scripture readings for the day. Good practice finding your way around the Bible, too!

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: 1/17—Edward Norstrand; 1/24—Leinda Mouacdie; 1/31—Virginia Villano.

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: Jennifer Segna's grandmother, the family and friends of Arabella Meadows-Rogers, New York City Presbytery, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also the family and friends of Nellie; Donna, Janet, Geraldine, John and the Vandermarcq family, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

January Food Bank: The food collection box is on the table in the Sanctuary vestibule.

This Week and Ongoing

Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study meets Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm in the Parish House.

Yoga continues on Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 in the Sanctuary. No experience or advance registration is needed for this gentle, restorative rasa yoga class. Each evening is \$15, pay as you go; wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel and a yoga mat if you have one.

Looking to the Future

Newsletter deadline (for Feb-March including most of Lent) January 19

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of Rev Speers's ordination next Sunday, January 24 in 11am worship with special coffee hour to follow (the actual anniversary is January 20).

Session meets January 25 at 7pm in the Parish House

Annual Congregational Meeting with election of officers Sunday, February 7

Sunday, Feb 7 at 4pm: the third in John Gingrich's "Just Strings" series of string quartet concerts. For information call 212.799.5080 or email gingarts@erols.com

Wednesday, February 10: our schools concert morning with the Academy of Union Church: tangos for orchestra by the Argentinian composer Astor Pizzaiolo, and the "Surprise" Symphony of Haydn! All hands needed to help out with 500 children at each performance. Come see Union Church filled to the brim with music lovers!

Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, which is February 17 this year.

Sunday, February 21: First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 21 at 4pm: Union Church Concerts presents the Chichester Psalms of Leonard Bernstein (a Brooklyn native and now an eternal resident), with choir, soloists, and members of the Academy of Union Church.