

**lizlo0624 <eloporto@nyc.rr.com>** wrote:

To: Bay\_Ridge\_Parents@yahoo.com

From: "lizlo0624" <eloporto@nyc.rr.com>

Date: Mon, 26 Nov 2007 18:21:59 -0000

Subject: [Bay\_Ridge\_Parents] For anyone looking for an open-minded, laid-back church group:

Hi,

I just wanted to take a minute to let anyone who is interested know about the church that my husband and I started attending last year around this time - **The Union Church of Bay Ridge** (<http://www.ucbr.org>). It is located at **8101 Ridge Blvd.**, and the services are **11am Sunday**. The reason why I am making this post is because I imagine that there may be other folks out there like us, who have wanted to look into a neighborhood church group after many years of being without one (neither of us attended since childhood, and we're both from different backgrounds), or simply looking for something different, or maybe you've never attended and are thinking about exploring the idea - , but either you haven't had any luck finding a group that suits you, or you are concerned that you will not feel comfortable "church shopping" (no joke, this is the exact term that the pastor at UCBR used when she first introduced herself to us - with a sincere smile and a twinkle in her eye, she welcomed us to observe or participate, whichever we were comfortable with). Whatever your reason, this is the place to check out if you are unsure.

I can't say enough good things about this wonderful group, but I'll mention a few to give you an idea. First of all, they are the most open-minded, non-pressuring group of people I have ever had the pleasure to join. It does not matter what your religious or personal background is - you are always greeted with kindness and sincerity - there is no judgement in the air.

Second, the music is beautiful! The minister of music is an accomplished performer and composer, who brings classical, contemporary, and multi-cultural pieces into his mix every week. He leads a modest yet powerful choir - the music is always my favorite part of the service. The pastor herself is also eclectic and inspired in her sermons; she is down-to-earth and realistic, humorous, inviting, and genuine.

Lastly, the congregation itself is a pleasant group of positive people who invite you to join them in their many group activities and talks, but think nothing of it if you choose not to. There are a handful of dedicated attendees who are there every week, but the majority of the congregation comes and goes throughout the year - everyone understands that it is difficult to make it to services every week, and no one ever says "oh, I haven't seen you for a while...".

I'll also mention that they are especially kid-friendly. There is a good-sized playroom for little ones, and quite a few kids are occasionally seen attending the service with their parents.

I know that there are countless, wonderful religious groups throughout Bay Ridge and the surrounding area, and that many of you are probably very happy where you attend. However, for those of you who are looking for a positive place to reflect, I cannot recommend a better place to do it.

I hope that this message finds you all well, and that those of you who are intrigued by what I've said will look into attending soon, or passing this message along to someone you know who may be interested.

Thanks,

Liz