

The Messenger

Upper Ridgewood Community Church
Fairmount & Hillcrest Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Phone: 201 445-4082 / Fax: 201 445-9352 / Web: www.ccur.org

APRIL 2011

Worship Services are at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday
Nursery care is provided for infants to children three years of age
Parents are encouraged to make use of the Nursery
Church School meets from approximately 10:20 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
with children participating in the early part of worship

COMMUNITY CHURCH AT WORSHIP
The Reverend Nolan D. Palsma, Liturgist and Preacher

April 3
HOLY COMMUNION
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Scriptures: Psalm 23; John 9:1-41

April 10
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Scriptures: Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

April 17
Palm Sunday
Scriptures: Psalm 31; Matthew 27:11-54
The Rev. Dr. Gregg Mast, Preaching
The Rev. Nolan Palsma, Liturgist

April 21
Maundy Thursday
Service Time: 7:00 pm in the Easton Great Room

April 22
Good Friday
Tenebrae Service: 8:00 pm in the sanctuary

April 24
Easter
Scriptures: Psalm 118; Matthew 28:1-10

MINISTER'S COLUMN

“Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe” are the words we hear from Jesus again this Easter Season. For some of us, we believe that the resurrection of Jesus is something deep, profound and mysterious. We realize that we cannot get our hands on it or touch it or explain it, but we know it to be true, something of God's love. When we think on the resurrection, it comes down to this: To those who doubt, no proof will do; to those who believe, no proof is necessary. Hear what John Updike says in his *Seven Stanzas of Easter*.

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as His flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then
regathered out of enduring Might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,
make it a real angel,
weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair,
opaque in the dawn light, robed in real linen
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are
embarrassed by the miracle,
and crushed by remonstrance.

I pray that you will seize the opportunity to worship during this Holy Week Season. Many services

have planned. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the details. "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe." Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Pastor Nolan

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DATES

Monday-April 4

7:00 pm Stewardship/Finance Meeting

Thursday-April 7

7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #7 meets in Hess Hall

8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal in the music room

Monday-April 11

7:00 pm Consistory Meeting in the Easton Great Room

Thursday-April 14

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop #7 meets in Hess Hall

8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal in the music room

Sunday-April 17

10:00 am Palm Sunday Service

Thursday-April 21

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday-April 22

8:00 pm Good Friday Service in the sanctuary

Sunday-April 24 **HAPPY EASTER**

8:45 am Senior High Pancake Breakfast in Hess Hall

11:30 am East Egg Hunt

Thursday-April 28

7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #7 meets in Hess Hall

8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal in the music room

Saturday-April 30

8:00 am URCC Work Day

*AA Group meets Monday through Friday at 10:00 am in Room #5

OUR CHURCH SECRETARY, Liz, will be away on vacation from April 9-17th. Please refrain from emailing her at the office during this time. The telephones will be monitored daily.

ON THE WEB: Upper Ridgewood Community Church is on the WEB. Just go on the internet and type www.ccur.org and you will be connected. The site shows the life and ministry of the congregation with text and pictures. We are linked to the Ridgewood Village website under religious institutions. So...check the WEB for URCC...the more "hits" we receive the faster the system works.

EMAILS REQUESTED: If you would like to receive the *Messenger* electronically, and haven't done so already, kindly contact the church office at 201 445 4082 or email Liz directly at ccur2@verizon.net For those of you who live out of state, an updated address/phone number and email address would be greatly appreciated here in the church office.

HOLY WEEK AT UPPER RIDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Palm Sunday Worship (April 17) will begin at 10:00 am with a procession of the chancel choir as a reenactment of the drama of the entry into Jerusalem made by Jesus and his disciples on that first Palm Sunday. The church chancel will be adorned with palms; thematic hymns of the season will be sung and voices will be lifted up saying "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Maundy Thursday worship (April 21) will be held in the Easton Great Room at 7:00 PM. around tables. The word *maundy* (Old French, *mande'*) is derived from the Latin term *mandatum novum*, the "new commandment" of love from the words of Jesus found in the Gospel of John 13:34: "A *new commandment / give to you that you love one another, even as / have loved you, that you also love one another.*" This year's service will feature a series of Old and New Testament readings about meals, nourishment, reconciliation and celebration, along with some songs that respond to the Word. The celebration of the Lord's Supper will conclude this service. Remember to invite a friend.

Good Friday Tenebrae worship (April 22) will be held in the sanctuary at 8:00 PM. "Tenebrae" which is a Latin word meaning "shadows" has been observed in the church of Jesus Christ since the monasteries of the fourth century. On that night, we again recall the flight of Jesus' disciples, Jesus' trials before Caiaphas and Pilate and the approaching hour of his crucifixion. A special liturgy entitled, *The Nails of the Cross*, will be offered by the confirmation class. The Chancel Choir will sing three anthems, plus a solo "The Crucifixion" by mezzo-soprano, Ellen Sheetz. During the liturgy, the candles on the candelabras will be extinguished gradually. The Christ candle will be removed from the sanctuary to remember the time when Christ was in the tomb. After the bell tolls thirty-three times to signify the number of years Christ lived, the Apostles' Creed will be professed and the Christ candle will be brought back as a foretaste of the resurrection on Easter.

Easter Sunday Service (April 24) will be held at 10:00 a.m. On this special day, we Christians celebrate Christ's resurrection and his victory over sin and death. The service will begin in darkness and a remembering of baptism liturgy by the congregation and confirmation class. It is in the baptismal rite and the resurrection of Jesus Christ that we remember that "we are dead to sin and alive to Christ." After the announcement of Christ's resurrection, "Christ is Risen!" "He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" the congregation will break into the hymn, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" with the procession of choir.

CHURCH SCHOOL:

The following is the Church School Schedule for the month of April:

Children & Worship: April 3: Phyllis Palsma: Scripture Lesson: Jesus Last Passover

April 10: No Class

April 17: All School Program

April 24: No Class-Easter Sunday

Grades 4-7: April 3: Denise Ellis

April 10: No Class

April 17: All School Program

April 24: No Class-Easter Sunday

SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, March 13, the Sr. Highs went to “Friends to Friends,” a ministry to group home residents from the area at First Reformed Church in Ridgewood. The Senior Highs fed dinner to the group and served as host and hostesses at each table. After the meal, they experienced a worship service on the cognitive level of the worshippers led by the Rev. Judy Broeker. The joy and simplicity of the service was a blessing to us all. Thank you to Ann-Britt Paulsen for coordinating this event.

The upcoming activities are:

- Senior High Pancake Breakfast-Easter Morning, Sunday, April 24, 8:45 am in Hess Hall. Barbara Hyslop is coordinating this event.
- Holocaust Commemoration Service on Sunday, May 1, 7:30 pm, at Westside Pres. Chr.
- Lock-in on Friday, May 13, 9:00 p.m. until breakfast.
- Senior High Garage Sale on Saturday, June 11th. We are accepting donations on Sunday, April 3 after worship. There will be more days in May and June. Remember to Reduce, Recycle and Resale. Jean Underwood is coordinating this event.

Should anyone have any questions about the Senior High Youth, please direct your questions to Christy Dittrick, Pastor Nolan, Kevin Schloerb or Rawn Seifert.

PROJECT TIMOTHY FOR YOUTH

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity...Do not neglect the gift that is in you...

-1 Timothy 4: 12, 13b

Project Timothy will be held July 7-20, 2011. Project Timothy is a RCA sponsored, hands-on mission experience for high school students who have completed ninth grade and are 14-19 years of age. These mission experiences allow young people to explore ministry in North America and the world. The students learn more about themselves, teamwork, their faith, and their place in the church. Most teams work directly with a church and its ministry in that community. Projects range from vacation Bible school, day camp, and neighborhood canvassing to service projects at missions, food pantries, and homeless shelters to construction and painting. The sites this year are Guyaquil, Ecuador - \$1800, Ocho Rios, Jamaica - \$1500, Budapest, Hungary - \$2700, Washington Heights, NY - \$1300 and Dulce, New Mexico - \$800. Adult sponsors (25 and up) and assistant team leaders (age 21-24) also are needed. The RCA covers the site and travel cost for one adult leader per site. Adult leaders and Project Timothy youth participants are financially responsible for their travel to and from the orientation and debriefing location in Biola University, La Mirada, California. Additional information and the application forms are available on the RCA website, www.rca.org/ProjectTimothy **Deadline for applications is April 15, 2011.** If any Senior High or Adult is interested in participating in Project Timothy this summer, please speak with Pastor Nolan or someone from the consistory. There are scholarships available.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

During the month of month of March, the Confirmation Class had three sessions on the Apostle’s Creed and RCA Worship. They also had the opportunity to serve at “Friends to Friends”, a ministry to group home residents from the area at First Reformed Church in Ridgewood.

Their upcoming schedule is as follows:

April 3 Class Session on the Holy Spirit – 7 pm.
 April 10 NO CLASS SESSION (School Break – Apr. 11-15)
 April 17 Class Session – 7 p.m. (Prepare for Good Friday Service) The kids will serve as readers for the Good Friday Service on Friday, April 22.
 April 21 Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 p.m.
 April 22 Good Friday Service – 8:00 p.m.
 April 24 Easter Breakfast and Worship – 8:45 & 10 a.m.
 April 30 All Church Workday at 8 a.m.

Should anyone have any questions about the confirmation process, speak with Pastor Nolan or one of the elders.

MISSION PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

Community Church has been notified that Church World Service is in great demand for School Kits and Emergency Clean-Up Buckets. The confirmation class has taken on the responsibility to respond to this mission opportunity and invite the congregation to join them. If you assemble a kit on your own, a list of supplies is provided on the table in the church narthex. Or, if you would like to make a donation for either of the kits, we will be happy to purchase the supplies and to assemble the kit for you. Please fill out the form below.

 I would like to support the Mission Project by donating money to purchase:

__ (qty) of School Supply Kits at \$15.77 per kit for a total of: _____

__ (qty) of Emergency Clean-Up Buckets at \$93.44 per kit for a total of: _____

Total donated by ____ check or ____ cash _____

Donated by: _____

Please send to the Church office or leave in offering plate by April 3, 2011. Thank you!
 Upper Ridgewood Community Church, Fairmount and Hillcrest Aves., Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Or you can email Jan Larsson directly at janl@versa-valves.com for any last minute donations.

MUSIC: Holy week and Easter 2011 is just around the corner. The chancel choir is actively preparing for the special music for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter services. Please mark your calendar and join us for this season of meditation, renewal and celebration. Special thanks to the choir members for their dedication and hard work to make this possible. If you would like to join us, please contact Stacie at 201-398-0235 or email syy112001@yahoo.com for more information.

PROPERTIES: Workday – On Saturday, February 26th, fourteen people worked around the church and performed some needed work. Special thanks to Mary Ann and Dick Copp, Don Delzio and his son Nicholas, Doug Dittrick and Gina Boesch, Sharon Hodgetts and John Carlisle, Pat Malone, Nolan and Phyllis Palsma, Charlie Seifert, and Sally Syphen. (My apologies to

anyone I may have missed). Thanks also goes out to those who contacted me to let me know they wanted to come but had a conflict that day.

We were able to polish the wood in the sanctuary, remove the wax on the sanctuary carpet, clean the table tops in Hess Hall, clean the kitchenette, clean the main kitchen, install a new outside fixture at the choir room entrance, repair door hardware in the kitchen and choir room, discard dated material in the church school office, gather and dispose of recyclables, replace light bulbs, replace exit lights and backup batteries

OUR NEXT workday is set for April 30th from 8:00 am to noon. Come when you can, leave when you must. Please mark this on your calendar.

Kevin Schloerb

OUR THANKS to Reverend Lynn Van Ek for leading us on an ‘After Hours’ Lenten Bible Study series this past month. The season of Lent is a time for reflection on the suffering of Jesus as he followed his journey to and through the cross. Lynn’s selected passages from Genesis, Exodus, the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation took us through his journey.

LIFE CYCLES:

James A. George, III, father of Brett George, died on Monday, March 14 at the age of 79 in South Carolina. Services will be private with family only.

William L. Kessler, age 81, passed away on Feb. 2, 2011 in Scottsdale, Arizona. A memorial service was held at URCC on March 26, 2011.

Ken and Marcia Bradsell have transferred their membership to Marble Collegiate Church in NYC.

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bob Wei and Pastor Nolan will be flying to Orange City, Iowa to attend the spring meeting of the Northwestern College Board of Trustees on April 19-20. Northwestern College is one of the three Reformed Church in America colleges in the denomination. Hope College of Holland, Michigan and Central College of Pella, Iowa are the other two. Pray for safe travel for Bob and Pastor Nolan and for a productive meeting of the board.

HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION SERVICE

On Sunday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m., the congregation of Upper Ridgewood Community Church is cordially invited to the Holocaust Memorial Service at Westside Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood. The service, led by the Ridgewood Ministerial Association, will offer an opportunity for the community to stand together with our neighbors in remembering, mourning and honoring those of all ages who were taken from their homes and businesses to places of humiliation, abuse and death. The Confirmation Class and the Sr. Highs will be attending this service.

SOCIAL HOUR HOSTS AND USHERS: The volunteer sign up lists for Social Hour hosts are posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer. Just a reminder that hosts only prepare for Coffee Hour and only bring a small jug of milk (no snack) and no longer serve as greeters in the narthex. This change was made to make the job a bit easier for everyone. Each Sunday a member of the consistory serves as Head Usher at worship. Should you wish to assist on any Sunday, just sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. **This social time after worship is a vital part of our church.** Please make an effort to sign up because everyone’s help is needed.

NEXT FOOD SUNDAY: April 17 is the next date for the food collection for the Food Pantry at St. Paul's Parish in Paterson. This food pantry provides emergency food supplies and household products to individuals and families in need. Persons are referred to this food program by ten different social service agencies, government offices and churches in the area. The next time you shop, please put a few extra items in your shopping cart for someone else.

-----**Cut Here and Send to Church Office**-----
EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Given by _____

In Memory of _____

In Celebration of _____

**All Memorial Gifts are due in the Church Office no later than Tuesday, April 6, 2011*

Start your Easter Morning at the

Annual Senior High Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 24, 2011

8:45 – 9:45 am

Hess Hall

Suggested donation at the door:

\$7/Adult \$5/Child

All proceeds go to benefit Senior High Workcamp 2012
Pancakes/sausages donated by Ridgewood's own "Country Pancake House"

Count us in for the Easter Pancake Breakfast!!

Name: _____

of Adults: _____ # of Kids _____

Yes: # of Kids to participate in Egg Hunt: _____

