

# *The Messenger*

## **Upper Ridgewood Community Church**

Fairmount & Hillcrest Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201 445-4082 / Fax: 201 445-9352 / Web: www.ccur.org

## **FEBRUARY 2012**

*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

**February 5**

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**HOLY COMMUNION and**

**BOY SCOUT SUNDAY**

**Scriptures: Psalm 147; Mark 1:29-39**

**February 19**

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Scriptures: Psalm 50; Mark 9:2-9**

**February 22**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

**Scriptures: Psalm 51; Matthew 6:1-6**

**February 12**

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Scriptures: Psalm 30; Mark 1:40-45**

**Guest Minister: Rev. Lynn Van Ek**

**February 26**

**Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Scriptures: Psalm 25; Mark 1:9-15**

## **MINISTER'S COLUMN:**

Last month, the consistory held its annual retreat to address the mission and ministry of Upper Ridgewood Community Church. After a wonderful gathering and dinner at the Barclay's on Friday night, the consistory convened on Saturday morning in the Easton Great Room. The Rev. Judy Broeker, pastor of the First Reformed Church of Ridgewood and Friends to Friends, a ministry to group home folk, was the first to meet with the consistory to discuss the possibility of a shared ministry. While the two communities of faith would remain separate and unique in their ministries, they would support one another in mission with one governing body. After the presentation and a time of questions and answers, an initial step to build relationship between the two communities was proposed by Pastor Judy. She requested that the congregation of URCC begin to worship and provide a birthday celebration on the first Sunday of the month for the Friends to Friends community in the coming year. This is expected to begin in March 4. While the consistory is going to provide some of the leadership for this, there is the hope that it will expand into the congregation and become a continued mission for URCC.

The second half of the morning was spent with Marilyn Paarlberg, executive coordinator for Room for All. RFA was founded in 2005 to "support, educate and to advocate for the full participation of LGBT persons in all the aspects of the life and ministry of the Reformed Church in America as compelled by the inclusive love of God as revealed in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." The consistory invited her to come and make a presentation because they wanted to be informed as to what it means to be a welcoming and affirming congregation. After the presentation, and after some very thoughtful questions and responses, the consistory didn't take any actions but felt that they had a better understanding of the delicate subject within the Reformed Church in America and its congregations.

On Sunday, January 15, I preached a sermon how God's call is sometimes confusing because it pulls us out of the familiar and comfortable. However, when the boy Samuel and the prospective disciple, Nathanael, processed their confusion and followed the call of the Lord, great things happened. Pastor Judy from Friends to Friends told the consistory at the retreat that the church has to get beyond its fear of working with disabled people because they will teach you something about the kingdom. Having pastored a congregation who had a "group home" residents worship with us, I can attest to that. Here is one example. John who was autistic always brought a dollar to worship to place in the offering plate every Sunday. One Sunday, he could not find his dollar. The offering plates had gone by and he still had not found his dollar. John stood up in the middle of the congregation, rifling through his pockets to find the dollar. The doxology began to play and the ushers brought forward the offering. As the doxology ended and the people were settling into their seats, John found his dollar. Instead of waiting until after the service to put his dollar in the offering plate, he took that dollar and marched up onto the chancel, placed it in the offering plate and sat down. It gave all of us pause. Oh that all our stewardship would be that urgent.

May God continue to bless the ministry of Upper Ridgewood Community Church as she moves into a future that God gives so graciously.

Peace,  
Pastor Nolan

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DATES

*Wednesday-February 1*

8:45 am Tarvin Realtors Brokers Class meets in the Easton Great Room

*Thursday-February 2*

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

8:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal in the music room

*Friday-February 3*

Girl Scout Troop Sleep In till Saturday Morning 9:00 am

*Sunday-February 5*

Boy Scout Sunday during Worship

Senior High SUPER BOWL Sub Sale Pick-up in Fromm Foyer after worship

*Monday-February 6*

8:45 am Tarvin Realtors Brokers Class meets in the Easton Great Room

7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #7 Board of Review in Room #5

*Wednesday-February 8*

8:45 am Tarvin Realtors Brokers Class meets in the Easton Great Room

*Thursday-February 9*

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

8:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal in the music room

*Wednesday-February 15*

7:00 pm Consistory Meeting in the Easton Great Room

*Thursday-February 16*

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

8:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal in the music room

*Wednesday-February 22*

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

*Thursday-February 23*

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

8:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal in the music room

\*\* AA Groups meets Monday through Friday in Room #5

**ON THE WEB:** [www.ccur.org](http://www.ccur.org) We are linked to the Ridgewood Village website under religious institutions. So...check the WEB for CCUR...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](mailto: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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE:** Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and a time of penitence and renewal for all Christians. On Wednesday, February 22, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., there will be once again interactive Ash Wednesday Service in the Easton Great Room at the Upper Ridgewood Community Church. The liturgy will include a prayer path with stations at which the worshipper may stop to reflect and pray. One of the stations will offer the imposition of ashes, a central part of the worship service. It will be conferred on those who desire it either on your forehead or forehead. The last station will include Holy Communion and will invite the worshipper to commit to a specific spiritual practice during Lent. Plan to attend and invite a friend.

## **LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Please mark down on your calendar the upcoming worship services for the Lenten/Holy Week Services.

“After Hours” Lenten Study-March 4, 11, 18, 25

Palm Sunday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 6, at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m.

## **CHURCH SCHOOL:**

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

*Children & Worship* Feb 5: Teacher Open

12 Sally Sypen

19: Dawn Heerema-All Church School Session

26: Teacher Open

*Grades 4-7:* Feb 5: Mary Ann Copp

12: Mary Ann Copp

19: Dawn Heerema-All Church School Session

26: Teacher-Open

## **THOUGHTS FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR:**

Resiliency

Recently I have been experiencing an awesome gift God has bestowed on believers; resiliency. I am blessed with a class of 19 women in Paterson from every stage of life who are looking upward instead of inward. Most have openly confessed their unabashed love for God. Their stories are heart wrenchingly sad or triumphant or unresolved, but yet some light inside each woman is still burning. One special woman shines with a radiant beauty and calm. She doesn't know what her next step in life is, yet I haven't seen her walk falter yet. She is moving blindly forward; a confidence I place fully in God's hands.

I sit here with tears in my eyes as one of my favorite shows comes to an end. I have faithfully watched Extreme Home Makeover for almost a decade now. It is leaving the air after changing the lives of over 200 families and tens of thousands of volunteers and at least one viewer. Cheesy, I know. But I loved the message the show provided. Hope. Faith in the goodness of people. Often a love of God. And of course, resilience. What a beautiful story each episode offered, and yet without a tragedy there would have been no opportunity to offer a gift of a home and a life started anew. How then do we share the tools needed to survive life's harsh reality?

An old colleague of mine who is very wise (she would love that I wrote that) once shared a beautiful metaphor she had read. She read that our life is like the back of a tapestry riddled with knots and loose threads and mismatched colors. It doesn't make much sense to us. Day after day we gaze at this mess of a life and wonder what God is doing with us. But we must remember that God sees the finished tapestry as he weaves and patiently waits to show us how the colorful threads come together in his hands.

So...patience. Resilience. Unfaltering faith. Teach these gifts to the children so that they too will face their struggles in life with an upturned face and lifted hands to God. It is our opportunity to give back to Our Father for the many blessings we have that we do not deserve.

In faith,

*Dawn Heerema*

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:** The Senior Highs gathered on Sunday, January 8, to finalize their schedule for the remainder of the year. On Saturday, January 21, the Senior Highs were to provide a lunch and a movie to our neighbors at “Friends to Friends” at First Reformed church but the heavy snow that day cancelled the event.

On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> “Super Bowl Subs” will be sold by the senior high to support upcoming mission trips. Orders may be placed by completing the order form in this newsletter or by calling the church office. Subs will be ready to be picked up on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, Super Bowl Sunday. Many thanks to Bob and Susan Wei for coordinating this fundraiser.

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

**Prattsville Update:** This past summer, Hurricane Irene caused major flooding in the town of Prattsville, home to one of our Reformed Churches. The Sr. Highs and their sponsors traveled to Prattsville in November to help out in the cleaning and remodeling of Reformed Church parsonage. Here is an update from Greg Town, one of the pastors.

*We're happy to report that the electrical work on the parsonage in Prattsville is coming along nicely, and should be finished within the next week. Because we are moving along on that, we scheduled the spray-foam insulation for Jan 30! Which means we will be ready to drywall soon after that. So we're shooting for Saturday, Feb 4 (9am until 5pm) to install the drywall in the parsonage (taping will have to wait until we get heat in the place). If you have experience with dry-walling (I know there are some of you out there!) or know of any skilled folks whom you could convince to come, we hope you can be here to give guidance to those who don't have as much experience, since our general contractor can't be in every room at once. We're hoping to get a large enough group of people together to get a small group of folks working together in each part of the house. Please bring whatever tools you might have to make the job easier - cordless drill, utility knives, jab-saw/keyhole-saw, 4ft T-square, quart size glue gun (we have the adhesive ordered), etc, etc. Oh and dress warm or in layers, b/c there isn't any heat yet. If you are not able bodied or cannot do heavy lifting, please do not plan on coming, this is a job for strong backs and arms and legs. If you can make it on that day, or can put together a group to bring, please let us know if you are coming, how many are coming with you and if there is a specific time range you'll be available (other than 9-5). If we get a few hundred people who are coming 🙌, we'll put the extra volunteers to work out in the community!!! Please let us know if you are coming, because if the date should have to change, due to a lack of materials or volunteers, or due to inclement weather, we'll be able to get a hold of you. Lunch will be provided. If you are a conduit of communication (you know who you are), please feel free to put this announcement out for others in whatever ways you feel appropriate.*

*Thanks for all your support and prayers, we've definitely needed all of it!! We look forward to seeing you again sometime soon!*  
*Peace - Greg Town*

**Note to the congregation:** The Sr. Highs are planning to go up to Prattsville again the week of April 9-15. Not all the Sr. Highs can go but would like to invite members of the congregation to join the members who can. Toward the end of March, Pastor Nolan will contact Greg Town to see what work is available. More details to come in subsequent newsletters and bulletins.

**MUSIC:** The URCC chancel choir began the 2012 year with music of Epiphany, commemorating the visitation of the Magi. It was a beautiful end to the Christmas season. We hope everyone had a great holiday time. In January, we also had two special musical offerings - the men's choir and women's choir. We thank Pastor Nolan and all the men who came and sang with the beautiful quartet on January 22. It was certainly a rather different style and inspirational singing. For all women who would like to sing, please come and join the women's choir rehearsal on January 26th and sing at Sunday service on the 29th. If you need more information, please contact Stacie Yao.

**BOY SCOUT SUNDAY:** The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. On **Sunday, February 5**, Community Church will note Boy Scout Sunday as a part of the liturgy with the assistance of its own Troop #7. Plan to attend.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY:** Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb 22, the season of Lent will remind us once again of the ministry and passion of our savior, Jesus. As we prepare for the events of the final days of his life leading up to the crucifixion/resurrection event we are again afforded the opportunity to gather around the words of scripture in the "After Hours" Lenten study. Meeting from 11:15 am until 12:15 pm in room 5 on the four Sundays in March, Rev. Lynn Van Ek will facilitate discussions around the various names and titles given to Jesus and how each serves to identify his life and mission in a variety of ways. Topics will include: Son of God, Son of Man, Begotten Son, Beloved Son, Eternal Son, and Jesus Christ as well as others.

Participants are encouraged to bring questions and comments in order to enhance the discussion.

**ACCESSIBILITY FUND:** The accessibility fund has grown to \$6225 named in honor of Pastor Nolan's 30 years of ordained ministry. The consistory has done a site survey and has received proposals from Handi-Lift Inc. to make the Upper Ridgewood Community Church facilities more accessible to all. More information will be forthcoming. If you have not given or pledged to this fund and wish to do so, please send a check to the church office with your intentions.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS IN MARCH**

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one-hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 10. Daylight Savings Time begins earlier this year on Sunday, March 11, at 2:00 A.M.

**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:** February 19 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.

**REMINDER: URCC WORK DAY:** URCC Workday will be on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. There are jobs for all kinds of talent. From changing light bulbs to minor electrical work, from dusting to painting, from cleaning wax from the sanctuary carpet to minor carpentry work. Many hands make light work. Come when you can; leave when you must. The coffee will be on.

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URCC Senior High Youth Group

# SUPERBOWL SUB SALE

Proceeds to support  
Senior High Workcamp 2012

February 5<sup>th</sup>

Cost is \$10 a Sandwich with chips

Two Choices

**Traditional Italian Sub**

(Ham, Salami, Provolone, Lettuce and Tomato)

OR

**Vegetarian Sub**

Submarine Sandwiches are prepared by NY Bagel

**Pick-up at URCC on February 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Between 11am and Noon**

-----cut here-----

YES!!! I/We would like to support The Senior High Workcamp 2012!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Traditional Sub Sandwich	# _____	x \$10 each	\$ _____
Vegetarian Sub Sandwich	# _____	x \$10 each	\$ _____
Total	# _____	Total \$	_____

Pre-Pay by Check Payable to: URCC

Drop Off or mail this order form and payment to URCC

35 Fairmount Road Ridgewood NJ 07450

Deadline: Wednesday February 1, 2012

