

The Messenger

Upper Ridgewood Community Church

Fairmount & Hillcrest Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

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

MARCH 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

March 6

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

HOLY COMMUNION

Scriptures: Psalm 2; Matthew 17:1-9

March 9

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Scriptures: Psalm 51; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

March 13

First Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 32; Matthew 4:1-11

March 20

Second Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 121; Matthew 17:1-9

March 27

Third Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Psalm 95; John 4:5-4

MINISTER'S COLUMN:

Dear Friends

Lent begins this month---a time of self-examination as we prepare for Easter. In the February 10th edition of The Record, I found an article that provides a new way to go through a process of self-examination. It is a new app (short for application) for iPhone users. Called an "examination of conscience," it basically allows the user, namely Roman Catholics who haven't been to confession in a while, keep track of their sins. The app takes the user through the Ten Commandments with a bunch of questions attached to each. This is not meant to replace the penitential sacrament but to prepare the user for the confessional. After I read the article, my Reformed theology kicked in. The Ten Commandments are never used to point to our sin; rather, they are used to point out how we are to live in gratitude for the gift of God's grace to us. If we are truly grateful for what God has done, then we respond by keeping the commandments which honors God and neighbor.

As we enter into Lent this month and as we examine ourselves prior to the Easter celebration, remember God's mighty acts through Christ and respond in gratitude by keeping the commandments.

The peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Nolan

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday-March 1

6:30 pm Student Supervision Committee of Classis in the Easton Great Room

Wednesday-March 2

1:00 pm Adult Bible Group meets in the Easton Great Room

Thursday-March 3

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

8:00 pm Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room

Sunday-March 6

11:15 am 'After Hour' Lenten Study with Rev. Van Ek in Room #5

Wednesday-March 9

8:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service in the Easton Great Room

Thursday-March 10

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

8:00 pm Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room

Saturday-March 12

Daylight Savings Time

Sunday-March 13

11:15 am 'After Hour' Lenten Study with Rev. Van Ek in Room #5

4:30 pm Senior High Friends to Friends Dinner- at 1st Reformed Church

Tuesday-March 15

7:00 pm Consistory Meeting in the Easton Great Room

Thursday-March 17

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

8:00 pm Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room

Sunday-March 20

11:15 am 'After Hour' Lenten Study with Rev. Van Ek in Room #5

Wednesday-March 23

7:00 pm Deacons Meeting in the Easton Great Room

Thursday-March 24

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

8:00 pm Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room

Saturday-March 26

1:00 pm Memorial Service for William Kessler in the Sanctuary

Sunday-March 27

11:15 am 'After Hour' Lenten Study with Rev. Van Ek in Room #5

Monday-March 28

7:00 pm Elders Meeting in the Easton Great Room

Thursday-March 31

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

8:00 pm Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL:

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

Children & Worship Mar 6: Sally Sypen-"Jesus in the Wilderness"; Matthew 4:1-11;
Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-15

13: Sally Sypen-"Jesus & the Children"; Matthew 19:13-15;
Mark 10:13-16

20: Phyllis Palsma-"Jesus & Zaccharius"; Luke 19:1-10

27: Phyllis Palsma-"Jesus the King"; Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11;
Luke 19:29-14; John 12:12-19

Grades 4-7: Mar 6: Susan Wei

13: Susan Wei

20: Susan Wei

27: Susan Wei

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

During the month of February, the Sr. Highs held a sub sale which raised \$268 for their 2012 Mission Trip. On Sunday, February 13, the kids gathered with their parents to discuss the impending 2012 mission trip and to address the remaining activities and fundraisers for the year. Kevin Schloerb also made a presentation of his mission trip to Haiti.

During the month of March, The Senior High Youth will be serving and sharing dinner with the Friends to Friends Ministry for the disabled on March 13 at 4:30 p.m. All Senior High youth are needed for this annual tradition. Please contact Ann-Britt Paulsen at 201-670-4255 or abpaulsen@hotmail.com to sign-up for food and supplies to bring. The members of Friends to Friends are counting on us and they really appreciate our participation. Thanks for your help. Worship follows at 7:00 pm.

SAVE THE DATE: Senior High Pancake Breakfast-Easter Morning, Sunday, April 24, 8:45 am in Hess Hall. Barbara Hyslop is coordinating this event.

SAVE THE DATE: Senior High Garage Sale on Saturday, June 11th. Start saving your “Goodies”. More information at a later date. Jean Underwood is coordinating this event.

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS: During the month of February, the Confirmation Class had a lighter schedule due to Super Bowl and winter break. They still had two sessions on the Sacrament of Lord’s Supper, on Micah 6 - “What does the Lord require of you?” and a service of project by helping out on the workday.

Their upcoming schedule is as follows:

March 6 Class Session – 3rd Mentor Meeting (The Apostles’ Creed) at 7:00 p.m.
March 13 “Friends to Friends” at First Reformed Church
March 20 Class Session (Worship) at 7:00 p.m.
March 27 Class Session (RCA Polity) at 7:00 p.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. Listed below is a list of what is needed for each kit. The School Kit items can be purchased at a local chain stationary store and the Emergency Clean – Up Bucket items from a local home center chain store. It is a project that you may do individually, with a friend or as a family. Please assemble the kits in total. Kits need to be brought to the church no later than Sunday, April 17.

School Kits

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (**no loose-leaf or filler paper**)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener

- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- Pack all items in a plain canvas tote bag (12" x 14" or 14" x 17"). Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.

Emergency Clean-up Bucket:

- One five-gallon bucket with re-sealable lid
- Five scouring pads
- Seven sponges, assorted sizes
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®)
- One 24-28 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- One pair work gloves
- 24-28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon)
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol)

Please provide all liquids in new, unopened plastic bottles. Be sure to send only new materials. Place all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: A Lenten Bible study will take place in the hour after worship on the four Sundays in March. Led by the Rev Lynn Van Ek, the theme “From Creation to Re-creation” will consider selected scripture passages from Genesis, Exodus, the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation.

The season of Lent is a time for reflection on the suffering of Jesus as he followed his journey to and through the cross. This year’s study offers an opportunity to search the scriptures with others in order to grow into a deeper understanding of and relationship with Christ.

Beginning at the beginning, the meaning of God as Creator and humans as creatures made in the divine image will be explored. Comparing and contrasting the creation narratives in Genesis 1, 2 & 3 will show how concepts around the beginning of life lead to understanding Christ as the second Adam as well as the *alpha* and *omega*, the beginning and the end. This study will begin our engagement with the relationship between creation and re-creation.

Exodus tells the story of freedom and promise that only God can fulfill. Were it not for the work of Christ, his ministry, suffering, death and resurrection, we could not inherit this most precious gift. Lent is set aside as an especially meaningful time to open our hearts to an understanding of Christ's prophetic office as the new Moses as well as the office of the priesthood, mediating the divine.

Standing alongside the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the gospel of John offers a unique look at Jesus of Nazareth as the Light of the World, the Resurrection and the Life, the True Vine, the Good Shepherd, the Way, the Truth and the Life, The Gate, and the Bread of Life. Beginning his gospel with the beginning of the cosmos, John's writings will be considered alongside themes in both Exodus and Revelation.

The word *revelation* translated from Greek is *apocalypse* and means *unveiling*. Many interpretations of its symbols have arisen throughout the history of the church. Our purpose on the final Sunday of the series will be to demystify some of its contents as well as to discern its meaning for us today. Looking back to Genesis, Exodus and John, the book will be placed in the context of John's insights about the new creation.

Each session of this series is self-contained. Come and share your thoughts with the class!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and a time of penitence and renewal for all Christians. On Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 8:00 p.m., there will be special 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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES : Mark your calendars for the upcoming Holy Week Services. More details about the services will be forthcoming in the April Messenger.

Palm Sunday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m,
Maundy Thursday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday, April 22 at 8:00 pm
Easter Sunday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m.

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS: Please see end of Messenger.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: The church office was notified last month that a former member of Upper Ridgewood Community Church, William Kessler, died at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona. Bill was a deacon, an elder and vice-president of consistory, a member of the Senior Choir, a

volunteer for C.A.M.P. in Paterson and involved other responsibilities too numerous to mention. A memorial service is scheduled on Saturday, March 26, 1:00 p.m. Plan to attend and celebrate Bill's life. A time of refreshments will be held in Hess Hall after the service.

THE PRESIDENT IS COMING! On Sunday, March 13, the President is coming to worship! No, not Barak Obama but Greg Christy, the President of Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. He, along with Jay Wielenga, Vice- President of Advancement, will grace us with their presence in worship while on an East coast swing. Why Community Church? It is partly due to the fact that Bob Wei and Pastor Nolan are on the Board of Trustees of the college. Come to worship this Sunday and share some conversation during coffee hour with the President of one of Reformed Church in America colleges.

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE THEATRE is coming to a stage near you! *Iowa Ethiopia* is a worship drama about Arlene Schuiteman, a nurse missionary to the Sudan and Ethiopia in the 1960s and '70s. In addition to sharing the story of Schuiteman's surprising gifts of the Holy Spirit, *Iowa Ethiopia* also tells the story of Judaism and Christianity in Ethiopia, from the Queen of Sheba—who is rumored to have borne Solomon's son—to the Ark of the Covenant, which many believe was brought to Ethiopia and remains there today. See *Iowa Ethiopia* on Friday, March 11, 8:00 p.m. at the Warwick Conference Center Chapel in Warwick, NY. A reception will follow with NWC President, Greg Christy. *RSVPs appreciated. Send to events@nwc-iowa.edu* Northwestern College is one of the three colleges of the Reformed Church in America.

THANK YOU FROM FAMILY SERVICES: Marisol Naranjo, Manager of the Bergen South Local Office of Family Services writes the following Thank You to Upper Ridgewood Community Church for their holiday gift donation:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of holiday gifts for the children under the care and supervision of the Division. The gifts certainly brightened the holiday season for them. For some of the children under our care, these were the only presents they received. On behalf of all the children under our care, thank you again for your generosity.

CHURCH OFFICE: In the past few months, the church office has been updating its computer system and software. Through a "Church Windows" program, the church membership and financial records have been computerized for more efficiency. The next step is to bring the maintenance of the church website into the church office for regular posting of news and activities. Many thanks to John Carlisle who has been assisting our secretary, Liz, with the process.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one-hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 12. Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 am.

A.M. ADULT BIBLE STUDY - INTEREST GROUP:

The Bible Study Group will be meeting this year on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 pm in the Easton Great Room. Our meeting this month will be on March 2. Newcomers are encouraged to join the group and drop-in visitors are always welcome.

Christy Dittrock is the facilitator for this group. If you would like more information about the group or are interested in joining, please contact Christy directly at dittchan@optonline.net or 201.444.7436.

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: March 20 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.

PLEASE NOTE that I am including the Easter Memorial Flower Donations list earlier this year. I will be on vacation in Europe with my family during the middle of April...thus asking everyone to please send in your Easter Memorial Flower Request early. In my "attempt" to organize everything well before I leave, this is one area that I will need the congregation's assistance. Thanks everyone.
Liz

-----**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 Thursday, April 7*

