

# *The Messenger*

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

## **NOVEMBER 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

**November 6**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**All Saints' Sunday**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 78; Matthew 25:1-13**

**November 13**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 123; Matthew 25:14-30**  
**Rev. Phyllis Palsma, Preaching**

**November 20**  
**Stewardship Sunday/Reign of Christ**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46**

**November 27**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 80; Mark 13:24-37**

## MINISTER'S COLUMN

Dear Friends:

The first three verses of Psalm 69 seem so appropriate for those who have affected by the flooding caused by Hurricane Irene. These verses touch the depth of feeling of one being caught in a flood. Hear these words of the Psalmist.

*Save me, O God, because the waters have reached my neck!  
I have sunk into deep mud. My feet cannot touch the bottom!  
I have entered deep water; the flood has swept me up.  
I am tired of crying. My throat is hoarse.  
My eyes are exhausted with waiting for my God.*

On November 8-13, the Senior Highs and their sponsors will go on a mission trip to Prattsville, NY, a community devastated by the after effects of Hurricane Irene. Initially, the Sr. Highs were planning to go to Way, Alabama in February of 2012 for their bi-yearly mission trip but when they heard about the need in Prattsville, a town which is home to one of our Reformed Churches, they wanted to do something locally. The group will leave from the church on Tuesday, November 8 at 5:30 p.m. and return early Sunday afternoon, November 13. Housing will be provided by Christy Dittrick, Mike and Tracy Autera and Ann-Britt and John Paulsen in Windham. A commissioning liturgy will be offered in worship on Sunday, November 6. Keep these young people and their sponsors in your prayers as they serve Christ in the greater community and as they respond to the deep need in Prattsville.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Pastor Nolan

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DATES

### *Tuesday-Nov 1*

7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting in the Easton Great Room

### *Wednesday-Nov 2*

8:45 am Tarvin Realtors-Brokers Course in the Easton Great Room

### *Thursday-Nov 3*

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

8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal in the music room

### *Sunday-Nov 6*

10:00 am All Saints' Sunday at Worship

### *Monday-Nov 7*

8:45 am Tarvin Realtors-Brokers Course in the Easton Great Room

### *Tuesday- Nov 8-13*

Sr. High Mission Trip to Prattsville

### *Thursday-Nov 10*

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

8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal in the music room

### *Monday-Nov 14*

8:45 am Tarvin Realtors-Brokers Course in the Easton Great Room

7:00 pm Consistory Meeting in the Easton Great Room

*Wednesday-Nov 16*

8:45 am Tarvin Realtors-Brokers Course in the Easton Great Room

*Thursday-Nov 17*

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

8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal in the music room

*Sunday-Nov 20*

10:00 am Stewardship Sunday at Worship

11:00 am Senior High Thanksgiving Pie Sale-After Worship in the Parish Hall

*Monday-Nov 21*

9:00 am CAMP Turkey Collection from 9-3 pm at 1 West Ridgewood, Ave.

*Tuesday-Nov 22*

7:30 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service-at Christ Church, Ridgewood, NJ.

*Thursday-Nov 24*

Happy Thanksgiving

*Sunday-Nov*

4:00 pm Advent Dinner/Hanging of the Greens Celebration

**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.

**ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY:** On Sunday, November 6, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday. At worship special prayers of remembrance and thanksgiving will be offered for those who have died since last All Saints' Sunday.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on **Sunday, November 6**. If you are shut-in or hospitalized and wish to receive the sacrament, please call the church office.

**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK:** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 5. Eastern Standard Time begins on Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 a.m.

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY:** It is that time of year again when we must focus our attention to the care and upkeep of this church's ministry for upcoming year. Consistory placed Sunday, November 20, as Stewardship Sunday. A special Sunday service is being prepared by Nolan Palsma. During the week prior to Stewardship Sunday you will receive in the mail your 2012 pledge card along with information that will assist you in making your pledge for next year. We ask that you offer your pledge in worship. If you are unable to attend, please mail your pledge to the church office.

**CONSISTORY MEETING:** The next consistory meeting will be on Monday, November 14 at 7:00 pm in the Easton Great Room

## **CHURCH SCHOOL:**

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

*Children & Worship* Nov 6: All Schools Program-Dawn Heerema

13: Church School-Dawn Heerema

20: Church School-Dawn Heerema

27: No Class-Thanksgiving Weekend

*Grades 4-7:* Nov 6: All Schools Program-Dawn Heerema

13: Church School-Dawn Heerema

20: Church School-Dawn Heerema

27: No Class-Thanksgiving Weekend

**CHURCH SCHOOL REVIEW:** This September the children jumped into discussions about who God is and how we can "talk" to God. Who do you picture as you pray? What a hard question for any of us to answer! Then of course that opened up opportunities to eat eggs...that's right... eggs! The trinity is a difficult concept for adults to understand, so to help our little concrete thinkers, we broke apart eggs to see the three parts go the egg; yolk, whites, and the shell. Each creates the egg just as our God includes the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Pretty cool!

We have been focusing on who we are praying to and why. What can you talk to God about? Why did Jesus come to live on earth and what did He do while He was here? We have been watching videos and crafting as we work through these deep topics. URCC was blessed with a discounted video series that is truly wonderful. This cartoon series covers major stories in the Bible in an engaging and visual way. The children seem to really enjoy them, so we will be interspersing our traditional classes with these movies. Each video is full of scripture and characterizations which help to bring the stories and parables to life.

For fun this Fall Harvest season we talked about sharing the light of Jesus as we carved and decorated pumpkins. A special thanks to the families who baked and donated pumpkins for our project. We loved having the teens with us as well that day. We couldn't have done it without you! Please be sure to look for the church school's handiwork outside the main office doors.

The children also came together to create a beautiful card in recognition of Reverend Nolan's 30th anniversary of his ordination. We talked about this achievement and why we are so grateful to have him with us as our shepherd. All of the children are very excited to see the church school's transformation in a few weeks. Keep on the watch for further news about the happenings among the youngest of our church family as we continue to seek God's word.

Blessings,  
Dawn Heerema  
Church School Director



**THOUGHTS FROM DAWN:** With Thanksgiving upon us and Advent looming in the not so distant future, I have been asking myself, “What have I been given that I am truly grateful for? What has inspired and challenged me enough to affect the direction of my life? What can I leave behind as a gift for my children that will last beyond my brief years here on Earth?”

As I sit and pray here, I see the shimmer of silver and peek of teal blue poking out of my stack of books on my desk...my first “real” Bible. Ah, my Bible...that to everyone else may look shabby. To my eyes it is beautiful and still very real. I pull it out and start to sift through the pages. I see the notes I have written in the margins and the highlighted lines in pink and blue and yellow. This Bible represents my conversations with God. My lessons He has taught me through the years. I think back lovingly of my big trip to the Bible House store on Rt. 208 where my mother took me as a young girl to personally look through the Bibles and pick my own. The one that today is still my greatest reminder of my walk with Jesus.

As I look around the pews and see some adults taking notes on the sermons and some children scribbling on paper, but most just following along, I often wonder if you know what you are missing. I have heard that some of my friends here are appalled at the thought of writing in their Bibles. It is too holy to them. However, I ask to consider the benefit of seeing it from another perspective entirely. If something is so holy that you cannot mar it or touch it, is that how Jesus would hope to be received? Wouldn't he want all his little children to run to him and climb on his lap and touch his face with our dirty hands as he tells us a story? This is his communication with us for now. It is all we have. Maybe you are not ready to write in it, but sticky notes or a notepad if you must are good too.

As a teacher I always encouraged my kids to “own” their novels and texts. I share tips on notating in the margins and making dog ears to go back to an important piece of information later. The pew Bibles are a wonderful back up, but I love my Bible. I wonder how many people can say that of their own Bible. Where is your Bible? When is the last time you lovingly held it and looked forward to opening it up again like talking to a friend?

I went to an amazing women's retreat and her oh-so-sweet idea was to create a Bible tote to have at your ready when you need it. She put post-it notes and a pen, a notepad and a bookmark, of

course her Bible...and some chocolate to help you remember Christ's sweetness. Leave it to a woman to work chocolate in, right? But I love the concept; a bag at your side next to your favorite chair. It is ready to go wherever you need to take it. She made this a simple gift idea too. What better gift to give than a lifetime relationship with your Savior, Jesus Christ by immersing yourself in his lessons, life journey, parables and firm hand. The Bible connects each of us to greater humanity. It is inclusive of all peoples, leaving no one out of God's loving embrace.

So, my gift to you this holiday season is the gift of permission...to have a personal, written conversation with God. I challenge you to invite at least one other person on this journey. It is a simple tote with a note of love. A few special sweets and a lifetime of heart-to-hearts with their Father. What more can a person give?

Thank you to my parents for their decision to raise me in the word.

Dawn Heerema

**THANKSGIVING PIE SALE:** On Sunday, November 20, the Senior Highs will hold their annual Thanksgiving Pie and Bake Sale. Buy and enjoy a pie or loaf of bread for your Thanksgiving table. Homemade pies and baked goods will be on sale in Fromm Foyer of the Parish House following worship. Proceeds are directed toward the two mission trips in November and April. Parent coordinator for this bake sale is Tracy Autera.

**CROP WALK 2011:** Thank you to all our "walkers" for this year's fight against hunger.



2011 Upper Ridgewood Community Church Crop Walkers

**CELEBRATION OF ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:** On Sunday, October 23, the consistory and the congregation surprised Pastor Nolan with a special coffee hour on the occasion of his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. It was also announced that due to Pastor Nolan's encouragement to make the church accessible, a special fund has been set up to accomplish that goal. \$5000 has already been realized.



**THANK YOU:** It is with inexpressible joy that I thank you for the wonderful reception on the occasion of my 30<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary. Your presence, the coffee and the cake, the Dutch letters from the bakery in Orange City, Iowa and the rest of the goodies were much appreciated. However, your honoring me by the establishment of a fund to make Community Church barrier free was totally humbling. Thank you for remembering those who have disabilities and who want to be a part of our worshipping community. *Pastor Nolan*

**MUSIC:** As we enjoyed the beautiful fall foliage, sweet scent of apple cider and pumpkin pies, we know that winter is just around the corner. The URCC music ministry is gearing up for the upcoming holiday season. This year, the chancel choir will again prepare special music for Advent, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve services. Come and join us, as we together can make a joyful noise, singing praise to the glory of the Lord. Please contact choir director Stacie for more information.

**BASEMENT RENOVATION UPDATE:** By the time you read this, the downstairs classrooms will have a new look. New flooring will be installed in all the classrooms and the hallway during the week of Oct. 24-28. Fresh paint went on the hallway walls and two classrooms thanks to Chris Autera's and his Eagle Scout project. He also recruited scouts from his troop and URCC members to complete the task in a timely manner.

**NEW COMMUNION SET:** In memory of the Dr. Richard W. Roukema, the church is receiving a new brass communion set by an anonymous donor. The set will come with a flagon, 6 wine trays and 6 bread trays with covers and bases for each tray. The present two brass chalices were sent to be cleaned and polished so they will match the new set. Arrival of the set will be sometime in November for the December 4 communion service. Framed plaques will be placed in the narthex to note the new set, and the retired set which was given in loving memory of J. Clarence Wyckoff by his wife and sons in 1954.

**WORSHIP LITURGY CHANGES:** On the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, there are going to be some minor changes to the Sunday morning worship liturgy. After the opening hymn, a prayer of confession, words of assurance and summary of the law will be added and the prayer of the day will be removed. The rest of the liturgy will remain the same. The opening part of the service will look like this.

PRELUDE

THE PEACE

PARISH CONCERNS AND NOTICES

\*SENTENCES FOR WORSHIP

\*SALUTATION

\*HYMN

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**SUMMARY OF THE LAW**

\*ACT OF PRAISE

These added components will enhance our worship as we approach the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer God. The prayer of confession acknowledges that there are times when we may not have loved God and neighbor as we are called to do. The words of assurance remind us that in Christ everything is new and forgiven. The summary of law (or the law of God) provides an opportunity to live in gratitude and in community with God and our neighbor.

**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE:** On Tuesday, November 22, 7:30 p.m., the Ridgewood Ministerial Association will be offering an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Christ Church, corner of Franklin Ave. and Cottage Place in Ridgewood. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item and/or financial contributions to benefit the Food Bank.

**TURKEY COLLECTION:** Nancy Zambelli will be collecting frozen turkeys on Monday, November 21 from 9am – 3 pm at 15 West Ridgewood Ave. The turkeys will be prepared so that the children at CAMP (an after-school and pre-school program for disadvantaged children in Paterson) will have a Thanksgiving Dinner. With the recent flooding this year and a tough economy, all donations are MOST needed and appreciated.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to the Christian Health Care Center Centennial Worship Service being held on Sunday, November 6 at 6:00 pm at the Hawthorne Gospel Church, 2000 Route 208 North, Hawthorne, NJ. Message delivered by Josh McDowell, world-renowned speaker, apologist and evangelist. Musical selections by The Cathedral Choir.

**CALENDAR ALERT:** *(flyer at end of Messenger)*  
***Advent Dinner and Hanging of the Greens Set for November 27***

As we await the birth of Christ, we continue the tradition at Upper Ridgewood Community Church. URCC is celebrating the start of the Advent Season with our traditional potluck Advent Dinner AND the Hanging of the Greens--both starting at 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 28th. Children and adults are welcome to join in both!

The Advent Dinner will be celebrated in Hess Hall and each participating family is asked to bring a main or side dish, salad or dessert. Beverages, Wine and Rolls will be provided.

Those celebrating Hanging of the Greens and decorating the church are asked to bring appetizers or other light fare. Wine and other beverages will be provided.

You are encouraged to double the celebration and attend both events. And bring a friend or neighbor to witness URCC's tradition of faith and friendship, as we listen to Christmas music, enjoy wonderful food and get the holidays off to a festive start.

Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex and Fromm Foyer. Let us know if you are attending one event or both, so we can plan to have adequate refreshments and supplies for the Advent wreaths. Please mark your calendars right now and join us in our Christmas tradition at URCC!

**OPERATION SANTA:** Names and suggested gifts for Operation Santa will be available soon. Sign-up sheets will be on the table in the narthex. Social workers for the Division of Youth and Family Services in Hackensack offer these suggestions for the children but substitutions are welcome. Our previous generosity has always been appreciated because sometimes our gifts are the only ones a child receives. Instructions for "tagging" presents will also be provided. Any questions, please call Sally Syphen at 201-677-1960.

**THRIFT SHOP:** Please remember that Thrift Shop clothing of the current season and in good condition, toys, books, bric-a-brac and many other items are accepted. Donations can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop (lower level of the Kings Shopping Center in Midland Park) on Mondays and the first Saturday of every month. Their phone number is 201-652-7661 if you have any questions.

URCC receives a percentage of a sale on an item with our #7 attached to item. Quarterly, URCC receives a check for our share. From now on, any money received will be credited to the Senior High Mission Trip Fund.

There are many winners! You win by recycling your things, the Thrift Shop wins by receiving items to sell. And now our Senior Highs win with additional funds for their Work Camp. Please donate to the Thrift Shop. Thank You. *Sally Syphen*

**NEXT FOOD SUNDAY:** November 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.

**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.

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*Advent is a time of preparation for the journey to Bethlehem  
and the birth of Jesus!*

Let us begin the journey together with a URCC Holiday tradition where a number of us decorate the church, families with children make advent wreaths and then we all join together for Christmas music and a festive potluck dinner. By combining the Advent Dinner and Hanging of the Greens, we bring together all generations of the URCC congregation for an especially celebratory beginning of the Advent Season.

**Advent Potluck Dinner/  
Hanging of the Greens  
Sunday, November 27  
4:00 pm  
Hess Hall / Easton Great Room**

*At 4:00 pm, we will start decorating our church while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and beverages.  
At 5:45 pm, dinner will be served and the wreath making will begin. Please join us for all or  
any part of the evening!*

For families participating in wreath making and dinner, we are suggesting a donation of \$20/family to cover supplies, wine, soft drinks, and paper goods. For those just participating in dinner, the suggested donation is \$5/person.

*Bring wire clippers and pruning shears if you're making a wreath.*

-----Cut Here-----

Please return this form in the collection basket or to the church office. Questions? Call Ann-Britt Paulsen 201-925-2448, Susan Wei 201-785-1863 or Jamie DePeau (chair) at 201-444-0450.

**Advent Potluck Dinner /Hanging of the Greens Response**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_

We will participate in:

\_\_\_\_\_Hanging of the Greens      \_\_\_\_\_Advent Dinner      \_\_\_\_\_Both

We will bring one of the following to serve 8-10 people:

Appetizer\_\_\_\_\_ Main/Side Dish\_\_\_\_\_ Salad\_\_\_\_\_ Dessert\_\_\_\_\_

Making a Wreath (if yes, how many) \_\_\_\_\_

