



TOWER TOPICS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2016

APRIL EVENTS

- 4/2 Rotary Spaghetti Dinner
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- 4/3 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 4/9 Men's Group 9:00 am
- 4/10 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 4/12 Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm
- 4/13 MOPS 9:15 am
- 4/14 Bible Study 7:30pm
- 4/17 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 4/19 Council Meeting 7:30 pm
- 4/24 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 4/28 Prayer Meeting Dinner
5:30 pm

Journeying with Pastor Manny

Feasting on African, Jamaican, Guyanese, Haitian, and American food and desserts with parishioners and new friends in between the three ethnically diverse worship experiences I had last Sunday, was to me, the most delicious and delightful way to celebrate Easter. Behind the different colorful shared meals that I enjoyed last Easter Sunday, I see an abundance of beautiful stories of resurrection in the lives of my parishioners. To mention some of them would surely warm and inspire our hearts: the super-miraculous healing of Allison from blindness, Phillip's astonishing restoration from multiple brain surgeries, Jessica's amazing deliverance from the bondage of substance abuse, Eileen's courageous journey from her forced retirement challenges to being a foster mother of baby Noah, the youth of Roselle and Community UMCs joyfully doing their monthly joint activity, and men and women of CUMC faithfully keeping the church's unique tradition of putting up an Easter lily cross at the sanctuary altar.

As the center of our faith, the resurrection of Jesus provides us the way to liberate ourselves from our everyday bondage and to live out a transformed life. Walter Brueggemann, a foremost Old Testament theologian, emphasizes that the resurrection of Jesus is not the final paragraph in the history of our faith; it is an ongoing story of God's liberating and transforming love as connected in the life and ministries of Jesus in the Gospels. In the power of the *Parakletos* or the Spirit of Christ, the life-restoring resurrection of Jesus continues to take place in our daily lives. We live in a world of self-centeredness, hostilities, and sufferings. In order to maintain and promote a just, peaceful, and loving relationship with God, human, and all of God's creation, we need to make the resurrection of Jesus our dominant vision, image, and example in life. As a faithful church of the Risen Lord, we need to passionately fill our lives and communities with more healings, miracles, meal fellowships, peace and justice-making deeds, and all acts of kindness and mercy. Perhaps a vision of a multi-ethnic shared meal fellowship in the near future of our congregation, Roselle church, and the HIM group would make our communal Resurrection experience more excitingly colorful and flavorful.



301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 1 Nancy Rineer
April 2 Ireez Villaluz
April 3 Diane Kurz
April 4 Andrew Stafford
April 8 Billy Van Buskirk
April 9 Cheryl Gero
April 26 Albert Martinez
April 27 Israel Martinez
April 27 Matthew Gero
April 28 Sardea Stafford



CASANO CENTER FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Sunday, **April 24**

Please bring all donations to worship. Needs include:

TUNA, PASTA SAUCE, RICE, PEANUT BUTTER, OATMEAL, CEREALS, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, SOUP.



Wednesday, April 13

9:15 am to 11:15 am
In Fellowship Hall

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

We have just completed an emotional and meaningful journey through Holy Week...the joy on Palm Sunday - waving palms and singing 'The Palms', partaking in communion on Holy Thursday, enduring the sadness on Good Friday when our Lord was crucified, and then experience the jubilation of Easter Sunday when our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was risen!

CUMC was blessed this year to join with Roselle UMC for our Holy Thursday and Good Friday services. On Friday, 7 parishioners (Joshua Martinez and myself from CUMC) shared their convictions on the cross. It was an intimate experience for me both in sharing and in hearing from the others and a way of learning more about our brothers and sisters in Christ. On Easter Sunday, we were blessed with the beauty of our traditional Lily Cross, song, worship and fellowship with friends we were so happy to see! Thank you to Pastor Manny for planning such a fulfilling week and to all those who helped make the lily cross possible again this year - the construction, the careful placement of the lilies and all those who donated the flowers in loving memory or honor of their special someones. He is Risen, Indeed!

Eileen Hirsch, Lay Leader

COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

March is always a month full of hope and promise... the hope of Spring and sunny days, the hope of a pot of gold, and the hope God gives us through Easter!

Community Preschool helped bring hope to children struggling with cancer as we raised money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with our annual Trike-A-Thon. Our kids love zooming around Fellowship Hall on the tricycles, or pushing strollers and carts! It's a great way to have some fun while helping others!

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with little class parties, a search for a mischievous leprechaun, and rainbows. Then we rushed on to prepare for Easter! Miss Julia and Miss Abby taught Chapel by using costumes, music, and Easter eggs to teach us about Jesus' love for us, His death, and that "He's alive!!" Each class continued the Easter fun by making crosses and egg art projects, and of course, Easter egg hunts!!!

In April, we will be taking orders for our plant sale. If you would like to order flowers, herbs or vegetable plants, please let us know before April 23rd. Plants will be delivered the first week of May, in time for Mother's Day.

Pamela Henn,
Preschool Director



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Pastor Rowana Hular
Alix - Jesse Rineer
Helen Sheldon
Jan Kulinski
Catherine & Frank Wargo
Harlan Martin
Charles Gallagher

**NURSING HOMES &
REHABILITATION FACILITIES**

Thomas Gilbert Black
Patricia Klose
Edna Delventhal
Patricia Gunther
Marion Bjornsen
John Kostopoulos



Bible study/sharing

**Thursday, April 14
7:30pm
Reeves Hall**

JUST A REMINDER.....WE ARE STILL COLLECTING.....

Just in case it's slipped your mind, I just want to remind everyone that we are still collecting the following items:

- Pennies – for The Society of St Andrew
- Box tops & Labels for Education – for Red Bird
- Grocery bags & can tabs – for CUMAC
- Travel size toiletries – for Bridges
- Food – for Casano Center Pantry

ALSO – For the month of April, we will continue our Clean-up Bucket collection. UMCOR has been responding to areas affected by the recent storms you have seen on the news and needs to replenish the buckets. We are collecting the following items:

- Dish soap – 16oz - 28oz bottle
- Liquid laundry detergent – 25oz or 50oz
- Sponges
- Air freshener – aerosol can or pump

SPECIFIC SIZES ONLY PLEASE!!

Thank you for lending a hand to those who face the overwhelming task of cleaning up after a flood or storm.

RED BIRD MISSION

Our “Christmas in Kentucky” Missions project was a big success! Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$401.00 for the Red Bird Mission Christmas Assistance Program. Thank you for reaching out to the people of Appalachia and making their Christmas a little merrier!

GROCERY STORE MONEY CARDS

Do you do your weekly food shopping at ACME or Shoprite? If so, please consider purchasing money cards for \$25, \$50, \$100 or more, to use at these grocery stores. CUMC purchases the cards at a 5% discount and sells them to members and friends at full value. In other words, you pay \$100 for a \$100 card, which will allow you to purchase \$100 worth of groceries and CUMC makes \$5.00. Every little bit helps support our church!

TWO LETTERS FROM PREETI

Please visit the Missions bulletin board in Reeves Hall read the latest correspondence from Preeti. She enjoyed receiving our letters and if you wrote to her you will see her respond to you by name in one of her letters.





**MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
AND DINNER**

Thursday, April 28

5:30 pm

Reeves Hall



RESIDENT PASTOR

Rev. Manuel P. Cruz, Jr.

Phone: (908) 245-2202

Cell Number: (908) 590-3288

Email: manpcruz@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Thursday & Friday

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

As has been a tradition here at CUMC, on Mother's Day, we take the opportunity to honor any special woman in our lives by placing a flower on the altar in their memory or in their honor. At the same time we are supporting the Fellowship Fund of the United Methodist Homes of New Jersey.

The Fellowship Fund assists guests in any one of the Methodist Homes who can no longer financially support themselves or persons who wish to enter the homes, but do not have sufficient funds.

A donation of \$5.00 is requested for each person you wish to honor or memorialize. All names will be listed in the bulletin on Mother's Day.

A Donation of \$5.00 per name should accompany the list and can be placed in the envelope and left in the offering basket or in the Church Office no later than Sunday, April 24th.

In honor of:

In memory of:

Given by:

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

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