



TOWER TOPICS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2015

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 12/6 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 12/8 Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm
- 12/9 MOPS 9:15 am
- 12/11 Music @ CUMC 7:30 pm
- 12/12 Men's Group 9:00 am
- 12/13 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 12/20 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service
at Roselle UMC 8:00pm
- 12/27 Worship Service 11:00 am



301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

Journeying with Pastor Manny

“Waiting and Coming”

Advent as a season of waiting and coming opens us a vast space of fresh and creative new possibilities for the present and future purposes of the whole sphere of life. On the one end is our anticipation of the fulfillment of God’s promise of salvation in Jesus. On the other end is the arrival of God in human flesh and of the Risen Christ in his ultimate reign. For us, what takes place between our waiting and Christ’s coming is most crucial in the circular dynamics of our personal and communal life. Our waiting, Henri Nouwen reminds us in his book *The Path of Waiting*, should be open-ended. For him: “To wait open-endedly is an enormously radical attitude toward life. It is trusting that something will happen to us that is far beyond our own imaginings. It is giving up control over our future and letting God define our life. It is living with the conviction that God molds us according to God’s love and not according to our fear.”

Amidst human lustful self-centeredness, indifference, greed, cruelty and violence against the humiliated, wounded, and mutilated body of God—our planet, we are all persuaded by God to a life of critical humility, compassionate restraint, and joyful letting go. This is the most sacred and loving act of waiting for Jesus’s coming. The coming to me is the full enfolding of God’s presence with God’s whole body. The coming is naturally connected to our waiting. This means that our waiting, as it unfolds in our day to day relationship with God, human, and the Earth, needs to be transfigured into our moment to moment experience of Christ’s coming with us. Our “being fully present with Christ” recreates us to be more open-hearted to have an “enormously radical attitude toward life”. This radical attitude toward life as a relational act of waiting is threefold. First, critical humility. It is an informed and empathetic acceptance of our moral responsibility not only to human communities but also to the entire circle of life. Second, compassionate restraint. This is an attitude and way of life for every human being and entity to “take only our share so that all may live abundantly”. Third, joyful letting go. It is a conviction that true joy is found not in gaining and having more but in losing and self-emptying.

This Advent season, I am inviting you to share your reflections on this spiritual thoughts of waiting and coming. May the joy of Christ’s salvation fill us all as we patiently wait for his coming.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 1 Austin McCaffrey

December 6 Nick Sottos

December 7 Janet Gallagher

December 11 Albie Lawrence

December 24 Holly Van Buskirk

December 29 Betty Woodruff



CASANO CENTER FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Sunday, DECEMBER 27

Please bring all donations to worship. Needs include:

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



Wednesday, December 9

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

THANK YOU

To my church family,
Just wanted to thank you for making my last worship service at CUMC a memorable one. I appreciate everyone's well wishes as I begin a new chapter in my life. A special thank you Ruth Sottos!

Fondly, Janet DuBeau

COFFEE CANS NEEDED FOR OUR COOKIE WALK

CUMC will be hosting a Craft Fair on Saturday, December 5th in conjunction with the Roselle/Roselle Park Rotary's Pancake Breakfast. The event will be from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We are in need of small **clean coffee cans with lids** for our famous cookie walk. If you have any, please bring them to the Church office. Thank you!

BAKERS NEEDED!

Saturday, December 5th, The Rotary Club of Roselle-Roselle Park will be holding its annual Pancake Breakfast. Our tradition has been to have a Holiday Cookie Walk on that day.

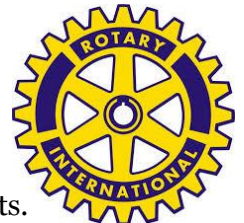
We are in need of bakers to provide bite size cookies that will fit into a coffee can. Cookies can be brought to the church office on Friday between 9am-12pm, or at 8:00am December 5th, the day of the event.



Any questions? Please see or call Bonnie Berry [908-709-2071](tel:908-709-2071).
THANK YOU!

ROTARY CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST Saturday, December 5

The Roselle/Roselle Park Rotary Club is having its 17th Annual Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm, with the help of the Boy Scouts.



CUMC will be hosting its Holiday/ Christmas Craft Fair at the same time. Anyone interested in reserving a table should contact the office at 908-245-2237, or Mr. Woodruff at 908-245-1424.

New this year: SANTA WILL VISIT between 10 am and 11 am.
Bring your camera!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Alix
- Helen Sheldon
- Mark Lawson
- Harlan Martin
- Catherine & Frank Wargo
- Diana Rineer
- Jesse Rineer
- Rev. Rodolfo Garcia
- Luz Bautista
- Helena Hahn
- Beverly Espuga
- Angela Ortiz
- Bob Sottos
- Pam Wiener
- Our Youth

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

Those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction and the loved ones of those who suffer. For the safety and the service of men and women in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other overseas bases, and for their families.

NURSING HOMES & REHABILITATION FACILITIES

- Thomas Gilbert Black
- Patricia Klose
- Edna Delventhal
- Patricia Gunther
- Marion Bjornsen



MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING and Bible study/sharing

Will return in January

COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

November proved to be a wonderful month full of great learning, fun activities, and thankfulness. Take a moment to read some of the thankful leaves the teachers have hung up in the hallway and you will find some new things to thank God for too! The children also enjoyed their Thanksgiving Day Feasts in their classrooms.

Our school had a successful Yankee Candle sale. If you are interested, online orders can still be made by using our school code: 990076062. In December, we will again gather food items to restock the Casano Center Food Pantry.

On the 4th, we will welcome back children's author, Laura Sassi, as she reads her latest book, *Goodnight, Manger*, to us! Signed copies will be available, as well. We also have our annual Nativity Play scheduled for December 18th at 9:15am. All are welcome to see our adorable rendition, and hear our cherubs sing a few songs.

Thank you to our faithful trustees who keep our building and grounds maintained and well-functioning. We are so thankful!!

Pamela Henn,
Preschool Director



CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS

We will be preparing Christmas baskets for families in need. We will be collecting:

- hams and turkeys**
- vegetables**
- yams**
- stuffing**
- 5 lb. bags of potatoes**
- cranberries**
- dessert**
- gravy**
- rolls or bread**
- pancake syrup**
- complete pancake mix (that only needs water added)**

Items must be brought in by Sunday, December 20th.

Please sign up on the poster in Reeves Hall so we know what you are donating.

Thank you for helping to give a special Christmas dinner to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.



Music @ CUMC

Friday December 11
7:30pm, Sanctuary

Piano Recital

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Free will offering



RESIDENT PASTOR

Rev. Manuel P. Cruz, Jr.

Phone: (908) 245-2202

Cell Number: (908) 590-3288

Email: manpcruz@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm



SUPPORT HEIFER...BUY AN ANIMAL

What a Great Christmas Gift!

The tradition continues..... CUMC has supported Heifer International for many years. We are pleased to continue our partnership this Christmas season. Since 1944, Heifer has helped more than 7 million families in the United States and around the world to improve their quality of life and move toward greater self-reliance by providing animals both large and small. They have shown that there is no better way to help a family escape poverty and hunger than to provide them with a means of supporting themselves. When you support Heifer, you will be helping to give a family a wonderful gift that will last.

Visit our table in Reeves Hall through December 22 and purchase an animal or two. Please give generously to Heifer and help lift families out of poverty to health and hope.

Sharon Kessler,

Missions and Outreach Chairperson

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL: DO NOT HOLD

