



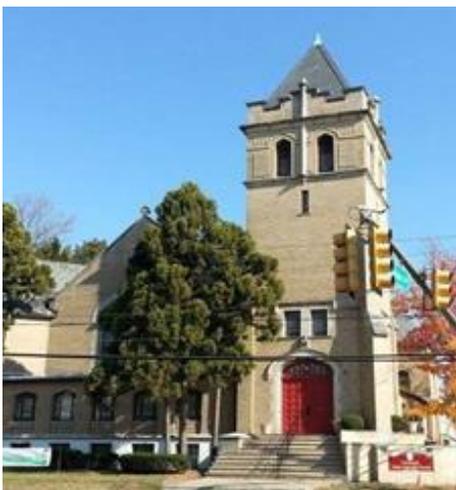
TOWER TOPICS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2016

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 2/2 Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm
- 2/7 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 2/10 MOPS 9:15 am
- 2/10 Ash Wednesday at Roselle UMC 8 pm
- 2/11 Bible Study 7:30pm
- 2/13 Council Meeting/Planning 9:00 am
- 2/14 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 2/20 Men's Group 9:00 am
- 2/21 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 2/25 Prayer Meeting 5:30pm
- 2/28 Worship Service 11:00 am



301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

Journeying with Pastor Manny: “Reclaiming Our Life’s True Purpose”

Pastor Ernest Hess discovers that one of the best seller devotional Christian books, Rick Warren’s *The Purpose Driven Life*, never quoted Luke 4: 14-21.ⁱ This is unexpected because if there is one single purpose in life that we need to faithfully live out, it must be the same purpose Jesus proclaims and exemplifies in this core Gospel text. Jesus declares his purpose or mission statement in the synagogue at the beginning of his public ministry by quoting Isaiah 61:1-2 and 58:6. His announcement in Luke 4:14-21 gives us a clear understanding of his incarnation. This is how the Message Bible describes Jesus’s disclosure of his life’s purpose: “God’s Spirit is on me; he’s chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free, to announce, “This is God’s year to act!””

Since the rise of Latin American liberation theology in the early 1970s, we have realized that the central purpose of our church is to bring about justice, mercy, peace, and goodwill to the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, the wounded, and the downtrodden. Liberation theologies put Luke 14: 18-19 to the very heart of our church mission. I am inviting you now to reclaim these crucial verses as our overarching biblical conviction in doing our church ministries for 2016 and beyond. As we prepare for our rescheduled church planning meeting tentatively on the second Saturday of February, let me ask you to ponder the following meditation questions:

1. In light of your faith journey, what do you consider your most important purpose in life?
2. As a local church, what are some of God’s purposes that we have not translated into intentional ministries in the past on the basis of Luke 4: 14-21?
3. What are the roles of the Holy Spirit in the life and public ministry of Jesus? What about in our lives? Can we say that our hearts are fully open to the filling and working of the Holy Spirit? How do we let the Holy Spirit work freely in our life, family, church, and community?
4. What do you think we can do together to re/vitalize our ministry of mercy, justice, peace, and reconciliation and make them more intentional as a faithful response to Luke 4:18-21. What innovative ministry projects and activities can you suggest to recreate our purposeful response to Luke 4:18-21?
5. Are you willing to offer yourself in our church and community

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February 1 Marion Bjornsen

February 16 James Stafford

February 21 George Hollings 3rd

February 21 James Manzo, Jr.



CASANO CENTER FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Sunday, FEBRUARY 21

Please bring all donations to worship. Needs include:

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



Wednesday, FEBRUARY 10

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

and take “calculated risks” to realize our life’s true purpose which is Luke 4:18-19?

May the Spirit of God continually warm, empower, and bless us as we reclaim our life’s true purpose in Jesus.

¹ Ernest Hess, *Feasting on the Word* Year C, Volume 1, David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, eds. (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press 2009), 289.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Please note, the January/February issues of “*Upper Room*” and “*Alive Now*” are the final issues we will receive. “*Our Daily Bread*” will continue to be available and is published quarterly.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Roselle UMC on Wednesday February 10, 8:00pm.



PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, February 6

Community Preschool will be having their Open House Registration for the school year 2016-17. As part of that event, children ages 2 to 5 years old are invited to take part in a sample dance class offered by PLANET DANCE of Roselle Park.

Please help us spread the word!

Saturday, February 6
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
At the Community Preschool





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

John Kostopoulos
Jan Kulinsky
Heidi Hoos
Alix - Jesse Rineer
Helen Sheldon
Lilly - Vic – Pam
Jimmy McCauley
Our Church – Our Youth
Jeff Manno
Catherine & Frank Wargo
Harlan Martin
Robin Burgos

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



Bible study/sharing

**Thursday, February 11
7:30pm
Reeves Hall**

COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Welcome to 2016!

During December, Community PreSchool celebrated Christmas with a Nativity Play that was truly priceless to see! Parents, relatives and friends filled up the sanctuary to experience our rendition of the Christmas story, and left with a smile on their faces!

January started with a visit from Farmer Chris from Quiver Farms. He brought us eggs, taught us how to be “good farmers”, and let us pet 2 chickens! Then, we watched and waited until the eggs hatched! For a few days we enjoyed caring for the chicks and gently playing with them before the farmer brought them back to the farm.

Thanks to our fundraising efforts, we are happy to offer 6 weeks of *Kinderdance*! Every Monday each class enjoys 30 minutes of energy burning fun with “Miss Teresa,” our dance instructor.

February 6th is our annual Open House to kick off our registration for our summer and fall programs. This year we will host a join-in dance demo class, given by *Planet Dance* of Roselle Park.

Thank you to all who make our school possible, and a wonderful place to learn and play!

Pamela Henn,
Preschool Director

THINK PINK: LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

In the weeks to come, please stop by the PINK TREE in Reeves Hall to help feed our neighbors.



Take a heart and make a donation to help CUMAC, Community FoodBank of NJ or Cranford/Elmora Soup Kitchen as they struggle to assist a growing number of people in need.

The tree will be up through the end of February.

Thank you for your support.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Pick your favorite Sunday for flowers. Place Altar Flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one. Just sign up on the flower chart in the Narthex. The signup sheets are usually up for two months at a time.

Cost per Sunday is \$30.00



MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

Thursday, February 25

5:30pm

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

Monday, Thursday, Friday

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

A MILE OF PENNIES

Our ongoing mission project benefits the Society of St. Andrew. They are a nation-wide hunger-relief ministry that gleanes what is left in the fields after harvest, saving good, nourishing food for just pennies a serving. We have supported them in the past with a virtual food drive and are glad to continue our support.

Our goal is to collect as many pennies as possible. A mile of pennies is \$850 and provides 42,500 servings of fresh food.

WE HAVE COLLECTED \$394 SO FAR, ALMOST HALF A MILE!!!

Every penny counts!



MILE of PENNIES

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AND PLANNING

Church Council Meeting and Planning

Saturday, February 13th

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

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