



# TOWER TOPICS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2016

## MARCH EVENTS

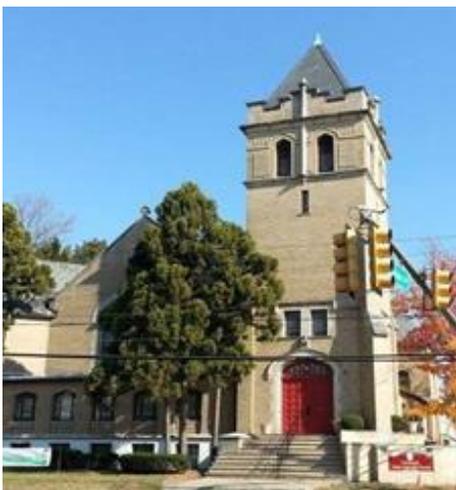
- 3/6 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/8 Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm
- 3/9 MOPS 9:15 am
- 3/10 Bible Study 7:30pm
- 3/12 Men's Group 9:00 am
- 3/13 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/20 Worship Service 11:00 am  
Palm Sunday
- 3/24 Holy Thursday 8:00 pm  
Roselle UMC
- 3/25 Good Friday 8:00 pm  
Roselle UMC
- 3/27 Worship Service 11:00 am  
Easter Sunday
- 3/31 Prayer Meeting

### Journeying with Pastor Manny

Our Lenten journey is a good time to contemplate deeply into many possibilities of thinking and living differently for the sake of life's flourishing and the earth's common good. However as saints and mystics remind us, our new way of knowing and living entails constant self-emptying. While our past continues to influence our present becoming, we can choose to empty a space in our hearts where hope-filled future penetrates and grace-laden present recreates our new way of being, thinking, and living. In emptying our hearts encumbered with adorned self, we humbly release all our negativities and uncertainties to our Parent-Lover-Friend. We strive to, as Father Henri J.M. Nouwen suggests, "step over" or leave behind relentlessly our hurts, fears, guilt, anger, insecurities, prejudices, envy, arrogance, addiction, and other self-centered ways as a persistent spiritual discipline of surrendering ourselves to God. This leads us to a re-centering of our hearts to God. The empty space that we make in our hearts becomes a new home where God lovingly dwells with us in the newness of life that our Redeemer continually recreates with us. Thus our abandonment of old selves turns into our embrace of new selves in God. As we dare to empty ourselves like the example of Jesus of Nazareth, we expect a breaking in of life-giving newness in our way of knowing, feeling, living, loving, and sharing with each other in, what Pope Francis calls, our "common home".

Rev. Manuel P. Cruz, Jr.

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301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204



**HOLY THURSDAY:** Joint Service at Roselle UMC,  
Thursday March 24, 8:00pm

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Joint service at Roselle UMC,  
Friday March 25, 8:00pm

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Sunday March 27, 11 am at CUMC

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March 3	Milt Woodruff Rod Thomas
March 7	Chloe Stafford
March 14	Kelly Gallagher
March 20	Stacy Amador
March 31	David Kessler



## CASANO CENTER FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 27

Please bring all donations to worship. Needs include:

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



**Wednesday, March 9**

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

## COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Community PreSchool started February with our annual Open House. This year, we had the pleasure to watch a dance demonstration and participate in a dance class by Planet Dance of Roselle Park. It was a successful day with lots of visitors! We gave several tours and met many new families.

February also brought the excitement of Valentine's Day! In our preschool, Valentine's Day is a 2-day celebration of love and friendship... and cupcakes!!

March promises to be another fun-filled month! We start by raising money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as we host our annual TRIKE-A-THON! This is an awesome day of zooming around Fellowship Hall on our tricycles while raising money for such a great cause. Over the years, we have raised over \$15,000 to help kids who aren't able to zoom around right now!

After celebrating St. Patrick's Day, we will jump right into our Easter fun! As always, in our weekly Chapel Time, Miss Julia and Miss Abby will teach our students the wonderful love and power of Jesus! And, of course, there will be eggs to be found and decorations to be made! Isn't it GREAT to be a kid!?!

Pamela Henn,  
Preschool Director

## EASTER LILLIES



The Season of Lent is already upon us as is our anticipation of Easter and planning for the beautiful CUMC Lily Cross. If you would like to remember or honor a special someone this season, please consider purchasing a lily or two. It takes a minimum of 92 lilies to make our cross 'bloom'.

The price of the lily remains the same as last year \$8.00 per plant and you can take it home with you after the Easter morning service. Please fill out the order form and return it in the offering plate, mail or give it to Eileen Hirsch or the church office. The deadline for orders this year is Sunday, March 13th - with the remittance due on or before Palm Sunday, March 20th. Wishing you and your families all the joy of the celebration of our risen Lord.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Kyle, Kayla & Karen Sisk  
Rachel Tissera  
Pastor Rowana Hular  
Alix  
Beth  
Jesse Rineer  
Helen Sheldon  
Jan Kulinski  
Catherine & Frank Wargo  
Harlan Martin

**NURSING HOMES &  
REHABILITATION FACILITIES**

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



**Bible study/sharing**

**Thursday, March 10  
7:30pm  
Reeves Hall**

**LILIES ORDER FORM**

Orders should be in the office by Sunday, March 13, 2016. Please send in your payment to the church office by March 20. Thank you!

Easter Lilies are \$8.00 each

In Memory of:

Given by:

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In Honor of:

Given by:

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Total lilies Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amt Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants to be taken: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_



**MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING**

**Thursday, March 31**

**Time to be announced**

**Reeves Hall**



**RESIDENT PASTOR**

Rev. Manuel P. Cruz, Jr.

Phone: (908) 245-2202

Cell Number: (908) 590-3288

Email: [manpcruz@yahoo.com](mailto:manpcruz@yahoo.com)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

**MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS MEETINGS**

CUMC proudly sponsors a MOPS group which meets every second Wednesday of the month until June. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other mothers, get support, and learn from each other's experiences.

Please call the preschool office at 908-245-8651 or Betty Woodruff at 908-245-1424 if you have any questions.

**GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS IN KENTUCKY**

No...it's not a mistake. Just when you thought Christmas was over, we're bringing it back! CUMC has supported Red Bird Mission for many years through Joyful Noise and collecting box tops and labels for education.

Red Bird Mission and Clinic have been providing ministries in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky since 1921. The residents of this area live with chronic poverty, lack of jobs and poor housing in this isolated, rural distressed area. Red Bird meets the needs of residents through ministry in Education, Health and Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity and Community Housing Improvement.

For our Lenten Missions project, we have chosen to support the Red Bird Christmas Assistance Program, which provides Christmas gifts to over 1,000 low-income families annually. Please visit our table in Reeves Hall through Easter Sunday and start your Christmas shopping early! Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little merrier for these impoverished families.

**COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL: DO NOT HOLD

