



TOWER TOPICS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2017

CHURCH EVENTS

- 3/1 Ash Wednesday Service
7:30pm, at CUMC
- 3/5 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/8 MOPS 9:30 am
- 3/9 Bible Study 7:30 pm
- 3/11 Men's Group 9:00 am
- 3/12 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/14 Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm
- 3/19 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/26 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/30 Prayer Group Dinner
5:30pm

Journeying with Pastor Manny

Salvation comes in a just, respectful, empathetic, and hospitable relationship with the Other. It is grounded in the God of interrelationship who wills the flourishing of the entire creation. Because salvation means the healing and well-being of the whole, it inevitably includes the redemption of the most vulnerable and powerless of God's creation. In other words, salvation can never happen apart from the well-being of the Other. Who are the others? They are the people we don't like, take for granted, ridicule, discriminate, exclude, abuse, subjugate, demonize, hate, hurt, or are those who are simply different from us. The Other can be a Syrian refugee, a Muslim woman, an undocumented immigrant, a Black male ex-convict, a homeless old White man, a transgender youth, a Palestinian girl, a Native at Standing Rock, or a young boy with a mental disability. These and all other people on the margins are the ones whom God reveals Godself most profoundly in the depths of human evil, despair and suffering.

In the incarnation of Christ, God becomes the weak Other. The Jesus of the Gospels is the transgressive Other. He does not fit the socio-political and religious construct of the dominating system in his time. He touches and heals the sick, lepers, disabled, and demon-possessed. He liberates and transforms sinners, prostitutes, tax-collectors, the poor, and the oppressed. He was brutally executed by the dominating system as a tragic consequence of proclaiming and practicing an alternative community of love and compassion with others. In his resurrection, Jesus comes out as the all-embracing and all-encompassing cosmic Other who ultimately brings grace, hope, justice, mercy, and love in the planet. His life-giving presence as the Spirit of God offers and gives salvation to all. Seeing the Other from the perspective of panentheism (God is in all) and of our "shared creatureliness," helps us to realize that our life and salvation are inseparable from the Other and the whole creation.



301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

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 19**

Please bring all donations to worship. Needs include:

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



Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, March 14,

7:30pm

Reeves Hall

BECOME A LAY SERVANT

The Basic Lay Servant Classes for the Gateway North District have been scheduled for Saturdays March 18, 25 and April 1, 2017 at Roselle United Methodist Church in Roselle (214 Sheridan Avenue, Roselle, NJ 07203).

Registration for the classes will be on the conference web site: www.gnjumc.org.

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Servant, and/or for more information on the program or registration, feel free to speak with Pastor Manny, Eileen Hirsch or Rod Thomas.

QUILTS SHOW

Saturday – March 25, 2017

8 am to 5 pm

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church

1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ

<http://www.harvestquilters.com/quiltshow.htm>

Contact Betty Woodruff for more information.

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, April 2- with the remittance due on or before Palm Sunday, April 9. Wishing you and your families all the joy of the celebration of our risen Lord.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sherry Lange & family
Sylvia Thele & family
Family of Carole Grove
Tony & Jackie Espuga
John Kostopoulos
Charles Gallagher
Catherine & Frank Wargo
Jessica VanBuskirk & family
Denuel Cruz
Stan Smith & family
Alix
Family of Bob Franks
Helen Sheldon
Christine Brown
Ron Allen
Rineer family



Wednesday, March 8
9:30 am to 11:30 am
In Fellowship Hall



Bible study/sharing

Thursday, March 9
7:30pm
Reeves Hall

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM

Orders should be in the office by Sunday, April 2, 2017. Please send in your payment to the church office by April 9. Thank you!

Easter Lilies are \$8.00 each

In Memory of:

Given by:

In Honor of:

Given by:

Total lilies Ordered: _____ Total Amt Due: _____

Envelope # _____ Total Paid: _____

Number of plants to be taken: _____ Amount Due: _____



**MONTHLY PRAYER
MEETING
AND DINNER**

Thursday, March 30

**5:30 pm
Reeves Hall**

Please bring a dish to share.



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



ASH WEDNESDAY: Joint Service at CUMC
Wednesday, March 1st, 7:30 pm

HOLY THURSDAY: Joint Service at CUMC
Thursday April 13, 7:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY: Joint service at CUMC
Friday April 14, 7:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY: Sunday April 16, 11 am at CUMC

The Church would like to send its warmest condolences to Jim & Sherry Lange and their family, on the passing of their son James Lange.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Sigurd Thele, active and devoted long time member of CUMC, and Carole Grove, also a dear member of our church.



COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL: DO NOT HOLD

