



TOWER TOPICS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November/December 2016

CHURCH EVENTS

- 11/27 Worship Service 11:00 am
-First Sunday of Advent
- 11/30 Prayer Group Dinner 5:30 pm
- 12/3 Rotary Roselle-Roselle Park
Breakfast, Craft Fair & Santa
- 12/4 Worship Service 11:00 am
-Second Sunday of Advent
- 12/7 MOPS 9:30 am
- 12/8 Bible Study 7:30 pm
- 12/10 Men's Group 9:00 am
- 12/11 Worship Service 11:00 am
-Third Sunday of Advent
- 12/13 Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm
- 12/18 Worship Service 11:00 am
-Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 12/24 Joint Christmas Eve
Service at CUMC 7:45 pm
- 12/29 Prayer Group Dinner 5:30pm

Journeying with Pastor Manny

“Waiting and Coming”

In the present collective fears, anxieties, and despair that intensely permeates our society after the recent presidential election, the season of Advent offers us fresh possibilities of hope, peace, joy, and love as we contemplate its theme of waiting and coming. On the one end is our anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation in Jesus that brings healing and wholeness. On the other end is the arrival of God in human flesh and of the Risen Christ in his cosmic reign. But what takes place between our waiting and Christ's coming is most crucial for the wholeness of our personal and communal life. Our waiting, Father Henri JM 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, violated, and mutilated body of God—our planet, we are all persuaded by God to a life of pro-active humility, compassionate restraint, and joyful letting go. This is the most sacred and loving act of waiting for Jesus' coming. The coming is the full enfolding of God's presence in the “in between times” with God's whole body, while our waiting speaks of the full hope we have in Christ who liberates and transforms anything that is not life-giving and life-restoring. 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, is 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, pro-active humility. It is an informed and empathetic acceptance of our collective moral responsibility not only to human



301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 1 Austin McCaffrey

December 6 Nick Sottos

December 7 Janet Gallagher

December 11 Albie Lawrence

December 24
Holly VanBuskirk

December 29 Betty Woodruff



MUSIC @ CUMC

Presents

Mr. Manno's recital with his
piano students.

Friday, December 9
7:30pm in the Sanctuary

Free will offering

Join Us!



Joint Christmas Eve Service at CUMC

Saturday, December 24
7:30pm

communities but also to the entire circle of life. Second, compassionate restraint. This is an attitude and a 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 the coming of the Immanuel who is immensely present with us and the whole of planetary life.

COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

November proved to be a wonderful month full of great learning, fun activities, and thankfulness. In Chapel, Miss Julia taught about the 10 lepers, using stickers to show the importance of remembering to say thank you! CPS collected food items to help the Casano Center make their annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets. The children also enjoyed their own Thanksgiving Day Feasts in their classrooms.

Our school had a successful Yankee Candle sale. If you are interested, online orders can still be made through December 17, by using our school code: 990076062.

We also have our annual Nativity Play scheduled for Friday, December 16th at 9:15am. We invite all in the church to come see our adorable rendition, and hear our cherubs sing a few songs.

Thank you to our superb staff who work so hard every day to provide a loving, high quality experience for every child. Thank you to our faithful trustees who keep our building and grounds maintained and well-functioning. Thank you to our wonderful CPS Committee who oversees and helps us in this excellent ministry. And a special thank you to Betty and Milt who are always available and willing, and who have dedicated countless hours to our school. WE ARE SO THANKFUL!!

Pamela Henn,
Preschool Director



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Catherine & Frank Wargo
Jessica VanBuskirk
Barbara Blaize
Christine Brows
Helen Sheldon – Tony Moreria
Gerildine – Gary
Jacki Espuga – Janet Gallagher
Charles Gallagher
John Kostopoulos
Denuel Cruz
Alix – Bob Wands
Tony Espuga
The Commerford Family
Jesse Rineer

**NURSING HOMES &
REHABILITATION FACILITIES**

Thomas Gilbert Black
Patricia Klose
Edna Delventhal
Patricia Gunther



Wednesday, December 7
9:30 am to 11:30 am
In Fellowship Hall



Bible study/sharing

Thursday, December 8
7:30pm
Reeves Hall

BAKERS NEEDED!

Saturday, December 3rd, 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-3pm, or at 8:00am December 3rd, the day of the event.

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



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 18 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



**MONTHLY PRAYER
MEETING
AND DINNER**

**Wednesday, November 30
Thursday, December 29**

**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

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 18.

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.

ROTARY CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 3



The Roselle/Roselle Park Rotary Club is having its 18th 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: Model Train Exhibit and a visit from SANTA! Bring your camera.

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ 07204

PHONE: (908) 245-2237 FAX: (908) 245-8820

E-MAIL: cumcrosellepark@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.roselleparkcumc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL: DO NOT HOLD



Please help beautify our Sanctuary and light the path to our church on Christmas Eve. Place your Poinsettia and/or Luminary order by Sunday, Dec. 4. Money due by Sunday, 12/18. Poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. If you have any questions, contact Eileen Hirsch (908) 964-7349.

Christmas Poinsettias \$7.00 each



In Memory of:

| Name | Quantity Red | Quantity White | Quantity Pink |
|------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

In Honor of:

| Name | Quantity Red | Quantity White | Quantity Pink |
|------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Given by: _____ Total Poinsettias Ordered: _____



Christmas Luminaries \$2.00 each

| Name | In Memory | In Honor |
|------|-----------|----------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Given by: _____ Total Luminaries Ordered: _____

Total Amount Paid: _____ **Total Remaining Due:** _____ **Envelope #** _____