

APRIL 2006 BULLETIN

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER

Holy Week and Easter are suddenly upon us. During this time, followers of Christ around the globe focus their thoughts and prayers on the sacrificial love of Jesus and the hope that his resurrection brings to our world.

As God continues to work in our individual lives so God continues to work in the life of our church. Our new Lenten observance of a Wednesday Bible Study has yielded not only a large group of participants, but also lively and enlightening discussions on the life of the Apostle Paul. What other new things might God inspire us to do? We as a Family of Faith can put our hearts and heads together to discern some answers through our church survey. This survey will take more than a few minutes. Most anything worth doing in life takes a commitment of time. **However, if we are willing to give our church 30-45 minutes of our time to fill out the survey, we will reap information to help us for years to come. The ideas we share will help us determine the hopes and dreams God has for us in the future.**

May the God of the Easter miracle breathe new life into your hearts and lives throughout this holy season.

Grace and Peace
Rev. Jimmy Only

CHANCEL CHOIR SPRING CONCERT ~ APRIL 2

Please mark your calendar now for our traditional Spring Concert on **Sunday, April 2, 2006 at 3 PM**. The Chancel Choir and soloists, with instrumental ensemble, will present Joseph Haydn's MASS in D MINOR ("Nelson Mass") and VESPERAE SOLENNES de CONFESSORE K. 339 by Wolfgang Mozart. The suggested donation is \$10. Childcare will be provided. A reception in the Parish Hall will follow the performance. This concert will provide a meaningful addition to our observance of Lent.

CHURCH SURVEYS NEEDED BY APRIL 16

By now all local, active church members should have received a detailed Church Planning Inventory developed by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, located at the UCC-related Hartford Seminary. The survey is a comprehensive analysis of church programs including worship, children and youth, adult education, giving, and outreach.

By taking time to complete and return the survey, members will help the church's leaders formulate goals and long-term plans. Surveys may be mailed back to the church or placed in collection boxes in the sanctuary and chapel foyers. **Completed surveys are due no later than Easter Sunday, April 16.**

HOLY WEEK 2006

- + **Holy Week** is the most significant week in the Christian year. Our church has planned many events to help make this week meaningful and spiritually nurturing for you and your family.
- + **PALM SUNDAY, April 9** Join us for Palm Sunday worship at either 8 or 10 AM. During this service we will commemorate Jesus' triumphal ride into Jerusalem. In addition to our Chancel Choir, our Children's Choir will be singing at 10 AM.
- + **MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION AND TENEBRAE SERVICE, April 13:** Continue your Holy Week journey at 8:15 PM for our Maundy Thursday Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service. Our Chancel Choir will set the mood for this shadowy service as we recall Jesus' solemn night in the Upper Room with his disciples. Our readers will help us

recall the important events of that night long ago. Youth and older children often find this service moving.

- + **GOOD FRIDAY, April 14:** The stage is set. Jesus has been betrayed. On Good Friday at 12:15 PM in the Chapel we will gather for worship around the theme, "**The Seven Last Words of Christ.**" Revs. Only and Peoples will offer brief meditations during this reflective service. A soup and sandwich luncheon will be served at 1:15 PM.
- + **EASTER SUNDAY, April 16:** Our Holy Week journey is now complete. Christ's crushed hopes on Palm Sunday, his painful betrayal on Maundy Thursday, and his stark death on Good Friday find their redemption in the Easter miracle. For those who prefer a less formal worship experience, we will gather in the Chapel at 8 AM for early Easter worship under the leadership of our youth. At 10 AM Easter lilies will enhance the Sanctuary's beauty as we gather to celebrate the resurrection of Christ complete with music from our Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, and a brass ensemble. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt after Sunday School.

HELP THE HUNGRY BY EMPTYING THE NEST APRIL 2-16

Have some fun this Easter and help the hungry by emptying the nest found in the Chapel narthex. The nest is full of yellow baby chicks (toys) that sell for \$5 a piece—a perfect way to say happy Easter to someone you love. Not only will all proceeds benefit the Heifer Project, but the Board of Missions and Outreach will **match each dollar raised to double your gift**. Heifer Project began after WWII as Americans sought to help the hungry in war-torn Europe. Today Heifer livestock helps hungry families from Appalachia to Zambia, working on over 600 projects in 51 countries. For more information visit www.heifer.org.

CHILDREN (AGE 3 ~ GRADE 5)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: The Children's Choir will sing on Palm Sunday (April 9) and Easter Sunday (April 16).

EASTER EGG HUNT: Make plans to join us for our traditional Easter Egg Hunt after Sunday School at 11 AM on Easter Sunday (April 16).

HELPING HANDS PROJECT: On Palm Sunday (April 9), the children will make decorations during Sunday School to send along with the items collected in the canned food drive.

YOUTH (GRADES 6 ~ 12)

PALM STRIPPERS NEEDED, 4 PM APRIL 7: Every year our PFers help the Flower Committee strip palm fronds in preparation for Palm Sunday. Join us at 4 PM on Friday, April 7 in the downstairs kitchen to carry on this fun tradition. We'll order pizza to share afterwards.

CAN YOU HELP LEAD THE 8 AM EASTER SERVICE: Readers and Ushers are needed for the 8 AM Easter Service. Call or email Chase if you can participate.

HELP HIDE EASTER EGGS ON APRIL 16: We need PFers to help hide hundreds of Easter Eggs for the big hunt. The hiding will begin at 8:45 on Easter Morning.

JOIN US AT THE SARATOGA FAMILY INN: On April 9 and April 30 we will leave after worship to work with the children at Saratoga. Meet downstairs near the water fountain if you want to go.

FOOD DRIVE, PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Since hunger has no season, our Board of Christian Education is encouraging children and adults to help Long Island's hungry by bringing non-perishable food to church on Palm Sunday, April 9. The food may be placed in the Sanctuary or Chapel narthex, as well as in the downstairs coat room across from the soda machine. All food will be donated to the Long Island Council of Churches Emergency Food Pantry.

FLOWER MEMORIALS AT EASTER APRIL 2 DEADLINE

The Flower Committee offers opportunities at Easter for remembering special people and acknowledging celebratory events. All memorializations will be included in the Easter Sunday Order of Worship. If you wish to place a flower memorial, please submit all information along with your check **no later than April 2** to Marge D'Ottavio in the church office.

HYMN SING ~ 9:45 AM ~ APRIL 2

Protestant churches like ours have a rich heritage of hymn composition. Enjoy our long history at our next Hymn Sing, Sunday April 2, 2006 at 9:45 AM.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS ~ APRIL 2

When we gather for worship every Sunday, some of us arrive with hearts overflowing with thankfulness while others of us arrive with hearts full of grief. Sharing our joy spreads the gladness. Sharing our worries gives others the chance to help us carry our load. If you would like the opportunity to share a joy or concern publicly, you will have the chance during worship on Sunday, April 2.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN BIBLE STUDY PIVOTAL EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF PAUL CONCLUDES APRIL 5

Join us on April 5 for our final 12:15 PM Bible Lenten Study in the North Lounge on "Pivotal Events in the Life of Paul." **You are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch and the church will provide coffee and tea, as well as cookies.**

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CHURCH'S AIR-CONDITIONING

Our contractor has begun the preliminary work to make our Sanctuary and Chapel cool by this summer. We anticipate that the cost will be \$60,000, which is higher than originally anticipated but was approved by the congregation. At this point we need an additional \$14,500 in funds. **The Board of Trustees is seeking Pledges and Donations to help raise the money needed to complete this project. Please consider how you can help to make this project a reality.**

SPRING PRAYER RETREAT ~ APRIL 29 PRAYER: ONE GOD, MANY TRADITIONS

Mark your calendar now for our Spring Prayer Retreat to be held on Saturday, April 29 from 9 AM until 12 Noon (continental breakfast beginning at 8:30 am). To keep costs down, the retreat will be held at the Garden City Community Church in the chapel and parlor. The registration fee is only \$10. Two church members, Rev. Maureen Kessler and Chancel Choir Alto Soloist, April Lindevald, are organizing this year's Spring Retreat. **Call the church office to register.**

Maureen writes, "Prayer is a universal practice of most religious and spiritual traditions. Across the boundaries of culture and tradition, people of faith often share deep common ground. Universal prayer themes include gratitude, connectedness, adoration, intercession, and forgiveness. These shared themes can become paths for better appreciating the Christian prayer tradition, while opening ourselves to the rich experiences of others."

HELP BUILD A NEW PLAYGROUND FOR ADVENTURES IN LEARNING ~ APRIL 29

Volunteers are needed to help construct a new playground for the children of Adventures in Learning. People of all skill levels are welcome. Call Terry MacGown at 516-869-0644 for more information.

THE COALITION FOR A SAFER MANHASSET COMMUNITY COURTESY CAMPAIGN, APRIL 2-9

The Coalition for a Safer Manhasset (CSM) seeks to address the safety concerns of Manhasset residents including but not limited to making Plandome Road more pedestrian friendly. Working together with the Manhasset Clergy Association, CSM is sponsoring a Community Courtesy Campaign the week of April 29. During this week Manhasset residents are being asked to focus on courtesy. An increase in courtesy will in effect create and increase safety and kindness. CSM suggests that residents intentionally show three courtesies a day during this special week.

RESCHEDULED FOR APRIL 30

THE GREAT DEBATE: EVOLUTION, INTELLIGENT DESIGN, AND CREATIONISM

On April 30, Rev. Only will preach a sermon entitled, "The Great Debate: Evolution, Intelligent Design, and Creationism." A discussion will follow at 11:30 AM in Room 113.

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS APRIL 23 ~ 8:45 AM

Several requests have been made for a Sunday morning Bible study. Beginning April 23, a seminar entitled *Your Bible: The Study Begins*, will be led by Prayer Chain Co-Chairs Margot Kramer and Pam Lennox. It will be an introduction to the library of books that is the foundation of our faith. Designed to make the Bible more accessible in one hour sessions, the Bible study will provide a basic orientation to the Bible, and open doors to understanding all future Bible studies. The seminar will run for approximately 7 weeks. **The Resource Book is \$12 and will provide the foundation for each week's lesson. Call Valerie at the church office to register for the course and buy a book.**

MAY BOOK CLUB SELECTION NIGHT BY NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE ELIE WIESEL

Join us at 11:30 AM on Sunday, May 21, for a discussion of Nobel Peace Laureate, Elie Wiesel's memoir, *Night*.

Elie Wiesel was born in 1928 in Sighet, Transylvania, which is now part of Romania. He was fifteen-years-old when he and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz. His mother and younger sister perished, his two older sisters survived. Elie and his father were later transported to Buchenwald, where his father died shortly before the camp was liberated in April 1945. After the war, Elie Wiesel studied in Paris and later became a journalist. During an interview with the distinguished French writer, Francois Mauriac, he was persuaded to write about his experiences in the death camps. The result was his internationally acclaimed memoir, *La Nuit* or *Night*, which has since been translated into more than thirty languages.

Elie Wiesel is the author of more than forty books of fiction and non-fiction, including *A Beggar in Jerusalem* (Prix Médicis winner), *The Testament* (Prix Livre Inter winner), *The Fifth Son* (winner of the Grand Prize in Literature from the City of Paris), and two volumes of his memoirs. For his literary and human rights activities, he has received numerous awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal and the Medal of Liberty Award, and the rank of Grand-Croix in the French Legion of Honor. In 1986, Elie Wiesel won the Nobel Prize for Peace, and soon after, Marion and Elie Wiesel established The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. An American citizen since 1963, Elie Wiesel lives in New York with his wife and son.

MEN'S CLUB

On Thursday, April 6 at 12 Noon Rev. Jimmy Only will be our speaker and on April 20 Bill Fitzpatrick will be our speaker. Contact Frank Dotzler, 627-9191, for information.

NEW HORIZONS (50+)

On April 12, 2006 at 7:30 PM come and answer the "call of the wild" when Jim Jones of the Audubon Society will give a slide show and discussion on the owls and hawks of Bethpage State Park.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR FELLOWSHIP TIME?

Our weekly **Fellowship Time** offers an excellent opportunity to get better acquainted and enjoy a cup of coffee or a bite to eat. A sign-up sheet is available every Sunday during Fellowship Time. For the recommended \$50 donation, the Church Administrator will arrange to purchase the standard light fare such as cookies, pastries or doughnuts. However, in lieu of the \$50 donation, you may provide a special cake or other treats of your choice. You may host the Fellowship Time for that Sunday or the Board of Deacons will secure hosts.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

The Altar Flower Committee is seeking donations for **altar flowers**. Send your check along with your memorial information to Marge D'Ottavio at the church, 1845 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, NY 11030. This is a lovely way to remember your loved ones. The requested donation is \$50, although any amount is welcome.

**VISIT OUR CHURCH
24 HOURS A DAY AT
www.uccmanhasset.org**

CHURCH CALENDAR APRIL 1 – 30, 2006

Saturday, April 1

11:00 am – Emily Cecilia D'Amato Baptism
1:00 pm – Organ and Brass Rehearsal

Sunday, April 2 ~ FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 am – **Chapel Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
8:50 am – Confirmation Class, Rev. Peeples
9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:45 am – Hymn Sing
10:00 am – **Morning Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
10:15 am – Sunday School, Rev. Peeples
11:00 am – Fellowship Time
3:00 pm – Chancel Choir Spring Concert

Tuesday, April 4

7:30 pm – Deacons Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 5

12:15 pm – Lenten Bible Study

Thursday, April 6

12 Noon – Men's Club Meeting
8:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 7

4:00 pm – PF Palm Stripping

Saturday, April 8

1:00 pm – Chase John Sultan Salem Baptism

PALM SUNDAY, April 9

8:00 am – **Chapel Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
8:50 am – Confirmation, Rev. Peeples
9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am – **Morning Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
10:15 am – Sunday School, Rev. Peeples
11:00 am – Fellowship Time – Plant Sale

11:15 am – Anthony John DiGiovanni Baptism
11:30 am – Depart for the Saratoga Family Inn

Monday, April 10

8:00 pm – AIL Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 11

7:30 pm – CE Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 12

7:30 pm – New Horizons Get-together
8:15 pm – Maundy Thursday Rehearsal

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 13

8:15 pm – Communion and Tenebrae Service
9:15 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14

12:15 pm – Service
"The Seven Last Words of Christ"
1:15 pm – Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

EASTER SUNDAY / FAMILY SUNDAY

Sunday, April 16

8:00 am – **Chapel Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am – **Morning Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
10:15 am – Sunday School, Rev. Peeples
11:00 am – Easter Egg Hunt
11:00 am – Fellowship Time

Monday, April 17 – OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, April 18

7:30 pm – Trustees Board Meeting

Thursday, April 20

12 Noon – Men's Club Meeting
8:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 22

10:30 am – George/Abraham Wedding

Sunday, April 23

8:00 am – **Chapel Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am – **Morning Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
10:15 am – Sunday School
11:00 am – Fellowship Time

Thursday, April 27

7:30 pm – Missions and Outreach Board Meeting
8:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 29

9:00 am – Prayer Chain Retreat
7:00 pm – Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, April 30

8:00 am – **Chapel Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am – **Morning Service**, Rev. Only Preaching
10:15 am – Sunday School, Rev. Peeples
11:00 am – Fellowship Time
11:30 am – Seminar, Rev. Only
11:30 am – Depart for the Saratoga Family Inn