



# THE MESSENGER

February 2018

Upper Ridgewood Community Church  
35 Fairmount Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

## MINISTER'S COLUMN

Last year was a difficult time for the Palsma family! In early February, I learned my mother was failing and near death so I flew out to Iowa for a week. My mother did not die in the time that I was there and I had to fly back to New Jersey for some church responsibilities and the classis meeting at which I was to be installed as President. When I returned, Phyllis was in Pella, Iowa helping out her sister and brother with her mother's transition to a nursing home. While she was in Iowa, my mother died. Instead of staying in Iowa, Phyllis wanted to fly back to New Jersey for the classis meeting and my installation. And so, she did. The next morning after the classis meeting, we boarded a plane to go back to Iowa for my mother's funeral. Upon my return, I was thrust into the preparations for the Lenten/Holy Week Season only to receive notice on the eve of Holy Week that our son was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. My mother's death and my son's diagnosis changed my life dramatically. I felt like I was in a wilderness where I lost my sense of self.

This month we begin the Season of Lent. Lent reminds us of the trials of Jesus in the wilderness. In the process of being tested, the scriptures helped him remember who and whose he was and what he was called to do. Whenever we go through our own trials of life, the real test is whether we remember who we are and whose we are. The real test is whether we lean on the scriptures like Jesus and recall verses like: "See what love the Father has given us that we should be called the children of God and that is what we are" (1 John 3) or "I have said these things to you that my joy be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11) or "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

Lent is a time of identifying with Christ's suffering. It is also a time of embracing our own trials and tribulations as it were. Lent provides an opportunity to lament because Lent also points to the joy of Easter morning. It does not mean whatever is troubling us will go away completely. We need to meet it; learn from it; so that the grief will no longer drive the bus. It will no longer imprison us. It will no longer make us feel like orphans of God's unconditional love. Lent is remembering who we are and whose we are. Lent prepares us to live into the hope of Easter Day.

When we were at the cancer center in Tucson, there was a plaque on the wall with a quote from William Sloan Coffin: "Hope arouses, as nothing else can arouse, a passion for the possible." Lent is that season when hope is aroused, a passion for the possibility of new life.

Pastor Nolan

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Join us on Facebook at Upper Ridgewood  
**Community Church.** A great place to see the  
ministry that is happening at URCC!



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## COMMUNITY CHURCH AT WORSHIP

**The Reverend Nolan D. Palsma, Liturgist and Preacher**

**February 4 – 10 a.m.**

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Scriptures: Psalm 147; Mark 1:29-39**

**February 11 - 10 a.m.**

**Transfiguration Sunday/Scout Sunday**

**Scriptures: Psalm 50; Mark 9:2-9**

**February 14– 7:00 p.m.**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Psalm 51; Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21**

**February 18 – 10 a.m.**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**Scriptures: Psalm 25; Mark 1:9-15**

**February 25– 10:00 am**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Scriptures: Psalm 22; Mark 8:31-38**

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and a time of penitence and renewal for all Christians. On Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., there will be a special liturgy of hearts and ashes in the choir loft of the sanctuary at the Upper Ridgewood Community Church. The 30-minute liturgy will allow you to attend the service and still take your loved one out to dinner. Plan to attend and invite a friend.

## LENTEN SEASON

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and continues for forty days, excluding the Sundays. With the Sundays, the season is actually forty-six days in length. In the early Church, Lent was a short season of preparation for those who would be baptized on Easter Sunday. Later, the church believed all members would profit from a period of fasting and self-examination before Easter. The season was lengthened to ensure sufficient penitential reflection. Sundays, however, were never days of fasting. Sunday is always the celebration of the resurrection. Lent includes Palm/Passion Sunday, and the days of Holy Week, ending with the midnight Easter Vigil on April 1. The color for Lent is purple for penitence.

## SCOUT SUNDAY

On **Sunday, February 11**, 10 a.m., Community Church will recognize the contributions of young people and adults in scouting in worship. The scouts also will also participate in the liturgy. Plan to attend.

## LENTEN STUDY

Pastor Nolan will lead a Lenten Study on the Woman of the Old Testament. The study will explore the lives of women who we don't normally meet in the lectionary passages. The sessions will be held on Wednesdays, February 21, 28 and March 7, from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Easton Great Room. Should you wish to buy the resource for this discussion, it is a book by Lynn Japinga, *Preaching the Women of the Old Testament. Who They Were and Why They Matter*. It can be found on Amazon.



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## NEXT FOOD SUNDAY

February 18th is the next date for the food collection for the Food Pantry at St. Paul's Parish in Paterson. This food pantry provides emergency food supplies and household products to individuals and families in need. Persons are referred to this food program by ten different social service agencies, government offices and churches in the area. The next time you shop, please put a few extra items in your shopping cart for someone else.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR OUR FRIENDS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

We received a lovely thank you card for the gift donations we made during the holidays to the Child and Family services. The gifts are greatly appreciated and made for many happy children this season. Thank you!

## GROCERY CARDS

Grocery cards are available from Stop and Shop, King's, and ShopRite. With every purchase of \$100.00 in grocery gift cards, stores pay \$5.00 back to the Sr. High Youth Fellowship. The best part is you still get the full \$100.00 value of the card. It never expires and it can be used in increments. The whole value of the card doesn't have to be spent at one visit to the grocery store. Please consider participating! Cards may be secured from the church office or on Sundays during the social hour. An update on how the sale of our Grocery Gift Card program has been going since the Fall of 2014...We have sold a total of 209 gift cards with the total gain of \$1,045 for our fundraiser. A huge thank you to all that participate in this ongoing fundraiser for our Senior Highs!

## RIDGEWOOD RELIGIOUS LEADERS

On Tuesday, February 6 the Religious Leaders of Ridgewood will gather at the Village Police Department.

## BANNERS

In the past few months, you may have noticed that the sanctuary is graced with new banners. If anyone wants to refund the memorial account and buy the Pentecost set of banners, the cost is \$230 per set. Please notify the church office of your wishes.

## SOCIAL HOUR HOSTS AND USHERS

Sign-up list for Social Hour hosts is posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer. Should you wish to assist on any Sunday, just sign up, make coffee and hot water for tea and bring any type of goodies. **This social time after worship is a vital part of our church. We are partners and colleagues in this work.**



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## LENTEN/EASTER OFFERING FOR RIVER MINISTRY IN HACKENSACK

The consistory has designated The River Homeless Mission and Community Help Center as its Lenten and Easter offering. Located on the campus of the Second Reformed Church, 436 Union Street, Hackensack, New Jersey, the ministry invites in and reaches out to all, especially the homeless, hurting, and marginalized of the community. It also is a center of help, hope, and healing through providing physical, mental, and spiritual needs and helping build community through information, communication, uniting, providing life essentials, organizing and uniting. On Sunday, March 4, the Rev. Donald McCracken, pastor and administrator of the River Ministry, will offer a Moment for Mission in worship. Lenten/Easter envelopes will be available to the congregation during the Lenten/Easter seasons.

## FAMILY PROMISE

Next opportunity to collaborate with West Side Presbyterian Church is the week of March 4-10, 2018. URCC is staffing March 5-6 of that week only. Four to six volunteers will be needed to share the responsibilities of an overnight, provide the evening meal, support and entertainment for the children for two to three families. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the church office. Family Promise provides temporary shelter for working, homeless families with dependent children while they confront the issues that contributed to their homeless.

## SENIOR HIGH/INTERGENERATIONAL FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Feb. 4	Usher/Read/Set up and Serve Communion	Keith Charlesworth
Feb. 19	Eva's Village setting up, serving and cleaning up the noon meal (Intergenerational)	Pastor Nolan
Mar. 4	Usher/Read/Serve Communion	
Mar. 11	Friends to Friends 4:30 p.m. set-up; 5:30 p.m. dinner; 7:00 worship	Lindsey Barclay



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## **THRIFT SHOP**

Please remember that Thrift Shop clothing of the current season and in good condition, toys, books, bric-a-brac and many other items are accepted. Donations can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop (lower level of the King's Shopping Center in Midland Park) on Mondays and the first Saturday of every month. Their phone number is (201) 652-7661 if you have any questions.

URCC receives a percentage of a sale on an item with our #7 attached to item. Quarterly, URCC receives a check for our share. Any money received will be credited to the Senior High Youth Ministry account.

### **New Drop-off Guidelines**

Above All Everything Has To Be In The Condition That It Would Be Something You Would Come in To Buy!

Would Come In To Buy!!!!

Clothes & Shoes Have To Be In Excellent, Saleable Condition Folded Neatly and Put in Bags (Not Dirty, Wrinkled & Old Fashioned, Must Be in The Current Season)

No Men's Suits

No Computers

No Telephones

No Televisions

No VCR's & VCR Tapes

No Personalized or Company Mugs

Pots & Pans Have To Be In Excellent Condition, No Scratches in Coatings, Not Burned

Dishes Cannot Be Chipped and Cracked

No Individual Glasses Only Sets of Two or More

Only Small Appliances and Must Be In Working Condition

Material Has To Be Measured & Marked (Not Less Than % Yard)

No Sheets & Pillowcases (Unless New in Package)

Books: No Text, Financial, Computer, Religious, or Self Help, Only Novels-Hard Cover with dust Jackets, Cook Books, Children's, & Paperbacks That Aren't Ripped Or Torn

Pictures and Frames Should Not Be Broken

Magazines Not Older Than One Year

Toys & Games Should Have All Parts and Working, Only New Stuffed Animals

Everything Should Be Clean & Garage Sale Tickets Removed

We Reserve The Right To Refuse Any Donations!

Special thanks to Sally Syphen for coordinating efforts at the Thrift Shop.



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## GREATER PALISADES CLASSIS MEETING

On Thursday, February 22, Old Paramus Reformed Church will host the Classis of the Greater Palisades. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. The classis of the Reformed Church in America is responsible for supervising ministers and churches, overseeing students of theology for ordination and any other ecclesiastical functions in accord with the government of the RCA. During the meeting, Pastor Nolan as President of the Classis will offer the State of Religion report. Pat Malone is the elder delegate for Community Church.

## DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF GIVING

The Upper Ridgewood Community Church exists to be a blessing. The congregation is blessed by God with its many resources; therefore, it is only natural to pass along those blessings to others. Through its annual giving, Community Church blesses others by providing space for community groups, by participating in different mission efforts, by offering worship services and Christian nurture, by visiting our members who are shut-in and sick, by being a part of the community projects in Ridgewood. We give annually because we are blessed, and we desire to be a blessing to others.

There are however many other ways to be a blessing and make a meaningful financial gift to help secure the future of URCC. We have been a ministry in the Village of Ridgewood since 1917, organizing in 1920, and want to be here for the next 100 years. A gift through your will or estate is an easy way today, to make a gift for the future. Other planned gift options include retirement plan and insurance beneficiary designations, as well as a gift annuity. For a sample bequest and more information regarding planned giving, please contact Mike Autera, [auteram@gabrielcapital.com](mailto:auteram@gabrielcapital.com)

## LOOKING AHEAD: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS IN MARCH

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one-hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 11. Daylight Savings Time begins earlier this year on **Sunday, March 11, at 2:00 A.M.**

## UPCOMING DATES TO PUT ON THE CALENDER

Palm Sunday – March 25 at 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – March 29 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday – March 30 at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday Breakfast – April 1 at 8:45 a.m.

Easter Sunday Worship – April 1 at 10 a.m.



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## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES

As one of the faith communities in Ridgewood, we are saddened upon the death of the Rev. Thomas Johnson, pastor of Mount Bethel Baptist Church, on the evening of Thursday, January 25, 2018. Pastor Johnson has served MBBC since 1976 and has been a leader in the community, especially in the area of civil rights and the Martin Luther King, Jr. community service. On Friday, February 2, there will be visiting hours from noon to 7 p.m. and a community memorial service from 7 pm - 9 pm. at the MBBC, 399 South Broad Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Mount Bethel Baptist Church Scholarship Fund.

## FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The Finance Committee would like to report on the Church's financial results for 2017, along with our outlook for 2018.

Revenues for 2017 were approximately \$206,000, and expenditures for the year were approximately \$247,300. This activity resulted in an operating deficit of approximately \$41,300. Revenues incurred during the year exceeded the revenues we budgeted for the year by approximately \$8,200. This favorable variance was mainly the result of giving by the congregation in excess of amounts pledged. Expenditures for 2017 were higher than what we budgeted by approximately \$6,600. This negative variance was mainly the result of higher than expected spending on our properties and on our insurance coverage. The operating deficit was better than budget by approximately \$1,600.

The Church's endowment funds experienced strong investment results during 2017. The fund's investments generated a gain in excess of \$39,000, which amounted to more than a 16% return for the year. These investment earnings, offset by withdrawals needed to cover the operating deficit and other adjustments resulted in a 2017 year-end value of our endowment funds of approximately \$241,300, which is slightly lower than the value at year-end 2016.

The 2018 Church budget once again results in an operating deficit for the year. 2018 total revenues are budgeted to be approximately \$200,800, which is lower than our 2017 actual revenues. 2018 total expenditures are budgeted to be approximately \$247,500 which is approximately the same as the expenditures incurred in 2017.

While the Church's longer term financial challenges remain, the Finance Committee believes our 2017 results were good, and we believe our financial plan for 2018 is sufficient to support URCC's operations for the upcoming year. We would like to thank Pastor Nolan and his staff for their hard work and dedication to URCC's ministry during the year. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the congregation during 2017.

The Finance Committee welcomes any questions regarding the finances and operations of the Church, and is happy to provide additional information upon request. The Committee also strongly encourages members of the congregation to provide any ideas, suggestions or comments that might help with the Church's operations. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

Finance Committee

Mike Autera, Rich Barclay, Pat Malone, John Paulsen, Steve Literati or Pastor Nolan, ex officio.





## THE MESSENGER

### Candlelit Haydn

#### Parlance Chamber Concerts presents Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ*

On Saturday, February 17 at 8 PM the renowned Chiara String Quartet will perform Haydn's masterpiece of spiritual musical, *The Seven Last Words of Christ*. The candlelit performance will take place at West Side Presbyterian Church at 6 South Monroe Street in Ridgewood. At 7 PM, Parlance Chamber Concert's Artistic Director, Michael Parloff, will present a 40-minute, multimedia talk about the piece. There is no additional charge for the preconcert presentation. Ticket prices for this event are: Adult, \$40; Senior, \$30; Young Adult, \$20; Student, \$10. Advance tickets may be purchased at <http://www.parlancechamberconcerts.org> or by calling 800-838-3006. Tickets may also be purchased on the day of the performance

### Photo Gallery



URCC donated winter wear for refugees from Yemen. Pictured are Gihan and Mahmoud Hamza from the Muslim Society of Ridgewood and the finance committee minus Rich Barclay who was taking the picture.



Upper  
Ridgewood  
Community  
Church  
2018  
Grocery Gift Card  
Program



Printable Online Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**KINGS (#of \$100s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(total \$ amount)** \_\_\_\_\_

**ShopRite (#of \$100s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(total \$ amount)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Stop and Shop (#of \$100s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(total \$ amount)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Gift Cards** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or drop off this form to the church office with a check made payable to:

Upper Ridgewood Community Church 35 Farimount Rd. Ridgewood NJ 07450

Or stop by the church office on Sunday morning and they should be available for pick up.



# THE MESSENGER

## F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 8

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> <b>10 am</b> Clergy Lec- tionary <b>7:30pm</b> Troop 7	<b>2</b> <b>7-8pm</b> Cub Scouts meet in Hess Hall <b>6:30-8pm</b> SJW	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Communion Sunday</b> <b>10 am</b> Family Worship <b>11 am</b> Social Hour/Choir Rehearsal <b>11:30-5pm</b> SJW	<b>5</b>  <b>7-9pm</b> Troop 7 Easton Great Rm	<b>6</b> <b>8 am</b> Interfaith Clergy of Ridge- wood meet at Village Police Dept.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>10 am</b> Clergy Lec- tionary <b>7:30pm</b> Troop 7	<b>9</b>  <b>6:30-8pm</b> SJW	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Scout Sunday</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship, <b>10:15</b> Children's Church School, <b>11 am</b> Social Hour/ Choir Rehearsal <b>11:30-5pm</b> SJW	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>7pm</b> Ash Wednes- day Service	<b>15</b> <b>10 am</b> Clergy Lec- tionary <b>7:30 pm</b> Troop 7 <b>7pm</b> Evening AA Rm#5	<b>16</b>  <b>6:30-8pm</b> SJW	<b>17</b> <b>10am-1pm</b> SJW
<b>18 Food Sunday</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>10:15</b> Children's Church School <b>11:15</b> Social Hour/ Choir Rehearsal <b>11:30-5pm</b> SJW	<b>19</b> <b>10:45</b> Eva's Village	<b>20</b> <b>7pm</b> Consistory Mtg in Easton Great Room	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>10 am</b> Clergy Lec- tionary <b>7:30 pm</b> Troop 7 <b>7pm</b> Evening AA Rm#5	<b>23</b>  <b>6:30-8pm</b> SJW	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>10 am</b> Worship <b>10:15</b> Children's Church School <b>11:15</b> Social Hour/Choir Rehearsal <b>11:30-5pm</b> SJW	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>			

**St. John of Wallachia (SJW)** is scheduled on Sundays from 11:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**THE AA GROUP** meets here Monday through Friday at 10:00 a.m. in Room #5 through the year.

**Evening AA** meets the third Thursday Evening in Room#5.