

Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

December 2010

From the Pastor

Have you ever hated someone? Have you ever been hated by someone? When we hate someone, we only see the negative features of that person. When we hate someone, we neither try to understand nor listen to him/her. When we hate someone, we are bothered by her/his voice or appearance. We just do not want to see that person.

I often feel that it is really difficult to be a Christian, because Jesus asks us to practice almost impossible things. He says, "Love your neighbors." I answer, "Okay, I could do that." Then, he says, "Love your enemies." I answer, "Well ... That's a little more difficult, Jesus. How can I love those whom I cannot help but hate?";

Now, we need to think of the difference between the word of *love* and of *like*. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks, "It is impossible to *like* congressmen who spend all of their time trying to defeat civil rights. But, Jesus says *love* them, and *love* is greater than *like*." Love is not restricted within a sentimental category. The word *love* that Jesus says is equal to the Greek word *agape*, which is more than romantic love and more than friendship. Therefore, we cannot *like* but do *love* our enemies. We could love a person who does evil while hating the deed that the person does.

It still seems impossible to love whom we cannot help but hate. Nevertheless, we should try to practice it. Otherwise, as we have recently experienced it, we will suffer from the bad cycle of hating and killing each other. Hatred makes human beings evils who do not feel sorry even when witnessing others being killed. It seems impossible to try to understand those whom we hate and to look at ourselves from their perspectives. Yet, we are asked to believe and practice impossible things, especially this Advent.

We are about to hear again about how God decided to abandon heaven for earth, trading power and might for sinful humans who betrayed him. We will listen again to how Mary was with the child, and how Joseph married her although he knew for sure that he had nothing whatsoever to do with her pregnancy. It seems impossible to believe these things.

Advent is a season when we Christians believe and practice impossible things. Do we still hate someone? Let us try to forgive him/her. And we will experience that impossible things become possible this Advent. Then, we may be able to love those whom we have hated. Then, we may be loved by those who have hated us. The Holy Spirit, who makes the impossible possible, is working within us in this Advent season. Let us love one another. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

DORCAS CIRCLE

The next meeting of the Dorcas Circle is Tuesday, December 7th at noon. We will be having our annual Xmas pot-luck luncheon, with a Yankee Trader grab bag. Hostesses will be Christine Hoff and Lois Fallon.

We helped with the craft fair set-up and straightening the Fellowship hall in November. In January, we will be working on a Bakeless Bake sale.

Christine Hoff 665-7237

RECEIVING THE SPIRE

Current and back issues of the Spire are available on the Church website at www.bayshoreumc.org/spire. If you find electronic distribution more convenient, you can, if you wish, discontinue receiving a mailed copy of the Spire with a request to the Church Office.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

As in past years, we are expanding our Soup Kitchen into a full free Christmas Dinner for the community on Thursday, December 23rd, serving a festive meal and it up with a caroling sing-along. As always, we need your help to cook, serve, and provide good cheer. Remember that we do have a soup kitchen fund so cooks with tight budgets can turn in receipts and we will gladly reimburse you for materials purchased.

The schedule for this year will be:

DROPOFF:	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Those who are cooking but not serving can drop off food at this time.
SET-UP	3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
SERVE DINNER	4:30 p.m.
SING ALONG	5:15 p.m.
CLEAN UP	5:45 p.m. until done

I hope you will join me in worshiping God not just with our words but with our deeds in this Holy Season. Please sign up to cook and/or serve by signing up in Fellowship Hall or contacting the Church Office. Thanks in advance for your generosity. Wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas. Tom Wilson

RADA KNIVES

Rada knives can be ordered from Donna Lechner 666 7194. Catalogs are available at the church. These make great gifts for all occasions. Profits are turned over to the church.

Donna Lechner

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Let us worship together on Christmas Eve. All are welcome! Please bring your family and friends to our worship services December 24th, at 4PM and 11PM. The 4 PM service will be a service of Christmas Carols. The 11 PM service will be a traditional Christmas service and Holy Communion. Let us rejoice in the birth of our Lord!

FLOWERS ARE NEEDED

We need flower donations for the altar. Do you have an anniversary, birthday, memory of a loved one that you would like to share with your Church? Just contact Flaye Stahl 665-2575 to request that flowers be put on the altar on a specific Sunday. In the bulletin your name will be shown as the donor and what occasion you are commemorating. After the service take the flowers with you. Mr. Highland who provides the flowers will bill you \$30.00 and pay him directly

SAVE YOUR COSTUME JEWELRY!

Want to get rid of some Costume Jewelry? Just bring it to the Church and give to Clara Trotta. We sell it on Sunday's in the Fellowship Hall, and the profits go to the Church.

GREETERS ARE NEEDED

Greeters are needed to welcome newcomers and our devoted church members as they enter church. I have been told by some of our present church members that they wanted to become part of our congregation because they were welcomed so warmly when they attended our church.

Our greeters are at the front door and the west entry to greet church members and friends on Sunday mornings from 10:45 until the prelude starts. Then they join their family and friends at their seats for worship.

Consider joining our greeters some Sunday morning. Let me know if you are interested and I will make sure that you get name tags for the Sundays when you are able to serve. You can contact me at church on Sunday morning, e-mail me at AM-Cavalla@aol.com, or call me at 666-5948. If you get the machine, please leave a message telling me how to best contact you.

If this is a way that you feel that you could serve our church, why not give it a try? You really get to know the members of our church family. Alice M. Cavalla

GREENING THE SANCTUARY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 6 P.M.

Friday, December 3rd at 6 PM we will be Greening the Sanctuary. Many people come every year and it is part of a Christmas tradition and the spirit of giving for them. If you have never joined in helping decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas you will want to come and join in the fun!!! EVERYONE is welcome--come to church on December 3rd at 6 PM for an evening of fellowship. Do you enjoy setting up a creche? Do you like to hang wreaths? Would you rather decorate the Christmas tree ?? Maybe you enjoy climbing ladders to hang the roping and lights, or you would rather decorate the choir loft with roping and bows. If you have an electric screwdriver please bring it and help put up the candle holders at the end of every pew. Remember the more the merrier and many hands make less work!

ALL ARE WELCOME !!!!!!!!!!!!! REFRESHMENTS will be served !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you ahead of time for helping prepare our church for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.
Lois Fallon Worship Chairperson

MISSIONS NEWS

Thanks to all who so generously contributed food to the Fall Food Drive for the Bay Shore Emergency Food Pantry. As I have said before, they greatly appreciate our donations.

This will be my last message in The Spire. I will be moving to Arizona sometime in December.

Being part of the Missions Committee has been a rewarding experience as well as an education in what it means to be a Methodist. I will greatly miss all the wonderful people I have met over the years.

God bless you all, Marie Green, Co-chairperson, Missions Committee

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!



Notes from the Music Director

Gracious God, send us your grace this Advent Season so that we can prepare for your coming. Touch our hearts with longing so that we can better love and serve you and each other. Fill us with the hope that we can be transformed by your Spirit and so help transform the world. Give us the peace of knowing that you came to share our human life and redeem us for the sake of love. We ask these things in the name of Jesus whose kingdom we seek. Amen.

Christmas Services

Please join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord on Christmas Eve, December 24th with two services here at our church.

4:00 p.m. we celebrate with our “**Lessons and Carols**” family service. Our Senior Choir, Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, and Instrumentalists will perform a glorious worship service with all your Christmas favorites.

11:00 p.m. we celebrate with our “**Candlelight Service**”. Our Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, and Instrumentalists will perform traditional Christmas favorites.

The Senior Choir



Here is our rehearsal schedule for the month of December. Please note the extra rehearsal/run through on Sunday December 19th. We are having this rehearsal to run through our Christmas program with all music groups. Please mark your calendars!

Rehearsals:

Thursday December 2 nd	7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Thursday December 9 th	7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Thursday December 16 th	7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Sunday December 19 th	11:15 am- 12:30 pm
Thursday December 23 rd	7:00 pm-8:00 pm

Christmas Eve- December 24th

4:00 pm “Lessons and Carols” Service.	2:45 pm rehearsal call time
11:00 pm “Candlelight” Service	10:30 pm rehearsal call time

The Penataquit Handbell Choir



Here is our rehearsal schedule for the month of December. Please mark these rehearsals down on your calendar. We are short on rehearsal time, so it is imperative that you attend all the rehearsals. Any problems or questions please see Danny. Thank you.

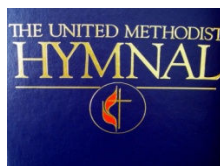
Rehearsal:

Sunday December 12 th	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the West Room
Sunday December 19 th	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve- December 24th

4:00 pm "Lessons and Carols" Service.	3:00 pm rehearsal call time
11:00 pm "Candlelight" Service	10:30 pm rehearsal call time

The Youth Choir



Here is our rehearsal schedule for the month of December. Please mark these rehearsals down on your calendar. We are short on rehearsal time, so it is imperative that you attend all the rehearsals. Any problems or questions please see Danny. Thank you.

Rehearsal:

Sunday December 5 th	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the Sanctuary
Sunday December 19 th	11:15 am-12:15 pm	in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve- December 24th

4:00 pm "Lessons and Carols" Service.	3:15 pm rehearsal call time
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ADVENT

During this blessed season of Advent let us worship together every Sunday. The families lighting the candles of Advent are:

1st Sunday of Advent: The Estevez Family

2nd Sunday of Advent: The Schneider Family

3rd Sunday of Advent: Fredrick Dom

4th Sunday of Advent: The Fager Family

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1 Charles Winston
Dec. 2 William Harbert
Dec. 3 Jason DiGenaro, Yvonne Perez
Dec. 4 Charles Kirkup, Jr
Dec. 5 Marvin Allen, Lois Fallon
Dec. 9 Joan Burvenich
Dec. 10 Molly Dowd
Dec. 11 Clara Trotta
Dec. 12 Audrey Muzzy
Dec. 14 Roy Fager
Dec. 15 Eleanore Owen, Alyson Lawther
Dec. 16 Deborah Carr, Yvonne Sing
Dec. 18 Julie Aromi
Dec. 19 Nahseam Seabrooks
Dec. 21 Charles Beaudrie, Jack Biondolillo, Jackie Hubschmitt, Dolores Hoffmann
Dec. 28 Jeannie Aromi, John Witherspoon
Dec. 31 Don Hoffmann

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 3 Charles and Margery Kirkup
Dec. 16 Harold and Alice Swetland
Dec. 23 Bill and Jean Carr
Dec. 31 Mike and Deirdrea Renwick

OTHER DATES & TIMES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen	Wednesday	12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday - 4:30 p.m.	Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thrift Shop		

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The beautiful Christmas Poinsettias, which decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve have a dual purpose: Not only do they symbolize the birth of Jesus; they also enable us to share this joyous spirit with the sick and shut-ins among our church family. If you would like to provide flowers for these purposes, please fill out the form below and give it to Flaye Stahl or leave it at the church office. You may also call the church office at 666-7194 to order your plant. (Please Print)

NAME OF DONOR: _____

DONATED: _____ To the glory of God

_____ In memory of: _____

_____ In honor of: _____

_____ I will take my plant after Christmas

_____ I would like my plant delivered to a shut-in

William Suda Jr. passed into eternal rest on November 5, 2010.



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**United Methodist Church of Bay Shore
107 East Main St., Bay Shore, NY 11706
(631) 666-7194
Rev. Sungmu Lee
smlee@optonline.net
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