



THE SPIRE

The newsletter of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

The Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Pastor

December 2015

Creating a "New Church" Reshaped for 21st-Century Needs

As we immerse ourselves into the Christmas season, let us take time to reflect on the birth of Jesus.

Mary, Joseph and the infant Christ play the central role, of course. But a host of others played an important part in the story of our savior's birth: the innkeepers, the shepherds in the field, the wise men and countless others who protected the baby Jesus from Herod's wrath.

Most of us will never make the history books; our names will probably be forgotten in 2,000 years. But our role in spreading the Good News remains just as important now as when the shepherds visited Jesus at the manger.

We should be proud that our church has had a powerful voice in its long history. And we owe it to generations of members past and present to keep our voice strong. To do that, we need to work together.

Since coming to Bay Shore United Methodist Church a year and a half ago, I have met so many devoted, hard-working members dedicated to making the church survive and thrive. There have been struggles, to be sure, and we continue to confront budget deficits, declining membership and changing lifestyles that have reduced family involvement in daily church life. And, as happens with many groups and organizations, there have been internal struggles that created divisions, tension, ill will and hard feelings.

As your pastor, I am asking that we, as a congregation, turn the page on these internal disputes and come together to create a "new church," reshaped for 21st-century needs.

It is a scary prospect to rethink the way things are done, things that are familiar and feel comfortable. But we must if we expect to grow and minister to a very diverse community in changing times.

In my heart, I know that God sent me to Bay Shore United Methodist Church as part of His plan. And I am firmly committed to seeing us through these difficulties. To do this, I will continue to seek your ideas and feedback. In return, I ask for your confidence and respect. Every person who walks through our doors has strengths and talents to contribute to our cause. Let us focus on those strengths that move us forward, and walk away from anger and bitterness that may be holding us back.

With God's help, I will work hard to lead you and support you and join you in the "birth" of our 21st-century church.

Blessings!
Pastor Wendy



CHRISTMAS EVE – O, HOLY NIGHT

Plan on joining us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the nativity:

3 p.m. - Lessons and Carols. **Note the time change to avoid overlap with guests at the Soup Kitchen.**

11 p.m. - Traditional Service

We will share communion and “passing the light” at both services.

GREENING OF THE SANCTUARY – FRIDAY DECEMBER 4th

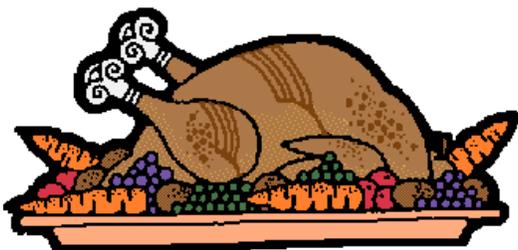
On Friday December 4th we will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. This year we will have a crafting table for the kids. Join us at 7pm – the more the merrier – literally! Bring an electric screwdriver/drill if you have one handy.

CAROLING – SUNDAY DECEMBER 13th

The Church Band and carolers will be singing and playing on Sunday afternoon December 13th. We will be visiting homebound Church members and nursing homes. This is a wonderful and spiritually uplifting experience for all who attend.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall after Service to assemble lyric booklets, pass out maps, set up the car pools, and warm up on a few tunes. Pizza will be provided, after we munch we'll drive around to several performance locations, then return about 5:00pm to set out luminaries for Light The Night.

If you have to come late or leave early that's fine. Most of our locations are indoors so caroling will be rain or shine. For more information or to play in the band please contact Tom Wilson via email to twilson@brightwaters.com or phone 516-662-3528.



SOUP KITCHEN CHRISTMAS DINNER – THURSDAY DECEMBER 24th

In 2009 Christmas Eve fell on a Thursday and we still expanded our Soup Kitchen into a full free Christmas Dinner. Well this year December 24th is also on a Thursday and I am asking for God's and your help to serve a festive meal and follow it up with a caroling sing-along.

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 AND SETUP 2:00pm - 3:00pm. Those who are cooking but not serving can deliver food at this time. PAUSE 3:00pm - 4:00pm for the early Christmas Eve Service. RESUME SETUP 4:00pm. SERVE DINNER 4:30pm. SING-ALONG 5:15pm. CLEANUP 5:45pm until done.

I hope you will join us 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 Tom Wilson via email to twilson@brightwaters.com or phone 516-662-3528. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Our Adult Fellowship ministry kicked off with a Downward Dog. For six weeks starting in October, ten of us gathered for a weekly yoga class in Fellowship Hall, where we learned various stretches, breathing techniques and meditations. Afterward, we sipped chamomile tea and chatted.

Many thanks to yoga instructor Shazi Lugman, our very capable guide through it all. There is interest to forming another six week class in January. Please see Beth DeCarbo if you would like to take part as we need a minimum of ten participants. Until then, Namaste.



REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

On November 1st the Church marked All Saints Day in a very special way. As part of our regular communion service that Sunday, members of the congregation knelt at the rail and lit a candle in memory of a loved one. It is just another moment in the life of our Church Family. We pray together, grieve losses together, celebrate our milestones and learn how to walk in the path of the Lord.

PARSONAGE PAINTING

Just in time for winter, the parsonage is looking good after a fresh coat of paint. Thanks to the Trustees for their continuing work to keep the church and parsonage buildings in good repair and to our Brightwaters neighbor Mr. Joe Baglio for donating the paint.



SOUP KITCHEN THANKSGIVING DINNER THANKS

On Thanksgiving Day our Soup Kitchen served the best holiday meal in town to over 100 guests - and sent them home with leftovers! Thanks to all the cooks and servers both from our Church and volunteers from the Bay Shore community as well as to first time coordinator Susan Yost for their service to our neighbors.



THANKSGIVING "THANK FULL" WALL

People entering our Thanksgiving Service had an opportunity to post something they were thankful for on our "Thank Full" wall. Our Facebook Page has a photo album with pictures of the individual cards. What a shower of blessings!

CRAFT FAIR THANKS

A very big thank you to all who helped with our 21st Annual Craft Fair/Bake Sale. Thanks to those who helped set up the outside sign, moved the furniture, made crafts, baked cookies, set up and worked at the Fair. We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the baskets - we had 16 this year - the most we have ever had. We have collected \$1,392.00 to date and there is a small amount of money left to be collected so we will definitely pass the \$1,400.00 mark! We couldn't have done it without everyone's help.

A GATHERING IN GOOD TASTE

In January, Adult Fellowship will feature a cooking demonstration by Newsday restaurant critic and food writer Erica Marcus. Erica promises to cook up some yummy dishes that will chase away the winter blahs. Participants will learn new techniques and hear more about the Long Island food scene. Everyone will receive copies of the recipes prepared.

Date: Saturday January 9th at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Fee is \$5.

To register, please see Beth DeCarbo.

IMPACT – FINDING PEACE IN A TROUBLED WORLD

We live in a time of fear – terrorist attacks, campus shootings and natural disasters. How can we find peace and learn to live the life that God wants for us? In this forum, we will share ways to cultivate inner calmness and be a rock for our families. This isn't about politics, it's about how we as people cope and find comfort.

WHEN: Thursday January 28, 7-8pm.

WHERE: Bay Shore-Brightwaters Public Library,

MODERATORS: Rev. Dyanne Blair-Pina and Ms. Dale Dowd.

SPONSORED BY: United Methodist Church of Bay Shore.

For more information email: impactbayshore@gmail.com



PULL OUT THIS PAGE OF FORMS OR PRINT AN EXTRA COPY FROM THE WEBSITE

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

Instead of sending cards to your church friends, you can participate in the Church Card that is mailed to all our members. Just fill out your name, the way you want it to appear, on the back of this form, AND RETURN NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 13. The cost is \$3.00.

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 the joyous holiday 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 on the reverse side and give it to Flaye Stahl or leave it at the church office. You may also call the church office at 631-666-7194 to order your plant.



PLEDGE DRIVE 2016

Our Pledge Drive continues through the end of the year. Your financial pledge to our Church is your personal and confidential commitment to honor God with the “first fruits” of your labors, and the fact that you pledge is more important than the amount.

If you have already returned a pledge for 2016 – THANKS! If not, we ask that you carefully and prayerfully consider what you can freely and joyfully and responsibly give, fill out the pledge form on the reverse, and return it by the end of the year, either in an offering at Worship or to the Church office.



VIEW FROM THE PEWS

The Worship Committee is planning for the coming year and needs your feedback in shaping Sunday services. The message and the music will always be central to worship and we are very blessed on both fronts.

Please spend a few moments thinking about Sunday services and tell us both what you love and what you think can be improved. Answer the three questions on the reverse and place your responses in the specially marked box in the church foyer. Answers can be anonymous, or include your name if you would like us to follow up.



CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

PLEASE RETURN TO CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 13th.

Print your name(s) exactly as you want them to appear.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

PLEASE RETURN TO FLAYE STAHL OR CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 13th.

NAME OF DONOR(S): _____

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.

BAY SHORE UMC 2016 PLEDGE FORM

My/our pledge to the church is \$_____ ()Weekly ()Monthly ()Quarterly ()Yearly
I (we) understand this commitment begins January 1st, 2016 and concludes December 31st, 2016, and may be revised at any time by contacting the church office at 631-666-7194 or by email at office@bayshoreumc.org

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

WORSHIP SURVEY

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SPECIALLY MARKED BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

What are your favorite and least favorite parts of the worship service?

Is there anything you would add or change in the worship service?

How important is the PowerPoint (screen) presentation to your Worship experience?

Name (optional)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1	Charles Winston
Dec. 2	William Harbert
Dec. 3	Jason DiGenaro
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 TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. Thrift Shop Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

CONNECT WITH BAY SHORE UMC

Website: bayshoreumc.org

Pastor's email: pastor@bayshoreumc.org Office email: office@bayshoreumc.org



Find us on Facebook: click on the  icon on the upper right of our website home page

Yahoo email group: to receive occasional emailed news and notices about the Church, please send a request to be added to office@bayshoreumc.org.

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Send news and announcements to Spire Editor Ellen Fager at citylife4@verizon.net

The SPIRE is available in electronic form on our website (click MEDIA / e-Newsletter) or printed and mailed. Send mailing requests, removal requests, and address corrections to the Church office:
Tel: [631-666-7194](tel:631-666-7194), email: office@bayshoreumc.org, Postal: 106 East Main Street, Bay Shore NY 11706

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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**“For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is Christ the
Lord.” – John 2:11 (King James 2000).**