



UNITED INTOUCH

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COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Somerville Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 48 West High Street, Somerville at 7:00 p.m. on November 24, 2009. Pastor Walther is participating in the service. Come to worship and give thanks.

MIDIRI BROTHERS IN CONCERT

There will be swingin' in the sanctuary on Saturday, November 21st, when *Music at United* presents **The Midiri Brothers** at 8:00 p.m. Joe and Paul Midiri will bring their quintet to United to perform the music of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Lionel Hampton and many others from the Dixie and Swing eras. For over 20 years, this amazingly talented group has entertained in the tri-state area, including the former *Jazz in Bridgewater* series, as well as at Jazz and Swing festivals from coast-to-coast.

Recently, Jane & Charley Huck had the opportunity to travel to Idaho for the Sun Valley Jazz Jamboree and they reported that, "the Midiri Brothers were one of the most popular groups at the jamboree. A live broadcast from the Sun Valley Inn on KYZK's *The Original Big Band Showcase* featured the Midiri Brothers in an Artie Shaw tribute. Over 1000 people rose to their feet for a standing ovation at the conclusion of the broadcast. They had a busy schedule performing at 3-4 venues each day of the jamboree and each performance was well-attended and enthusiastically received. The Midiri Brothers are fantastic and as the jamboree program stated, their 'musical excellence make them a must see!' So, don't miss the opportunity to hear them at United."

Come and swing in the sanctuary with the Midiri Brothers on November 21st at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15, if purchased in advance; \$20 at the door. Advanced sale ticket purchasers will also receive ***Dining on Main*** coupons for ten downtown restaurants – the coupons are good until December 21st. For concert tickets, call 908/722-4824 or the church office. Checks are to be made payable to: United Reformed Church (in the memo line note: Midiri Brothers concert).

TWELFTH NIGHT ON JANUARY 9TH AND 10TH.

The congregations of United Reformed Church and Bernardsville United Methodist Church will join together to present Twelfth Night Festivals to be held here in Somerville on Saturday, January 9th, at 7:00 p.m. and in Bernardsville on Sunday, January 10th, at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Come see and hear a 75-member cast in Elizabethan and Biblical costumes presenting choral and instrumental music celebrating the story of Christmas as might have been done in an Elizabethan manor. The Lord and Lady of the manor will welcome you to share in the festive celebration of the season and hear the message of the Nativity.

BASKET AUCTION & WASSAIL

Save the date

Due to the *business* of the upcoming holidays as well as the anticipation and preparation for the Twelfth Night pageant, the Parish Life Committee will hold the annual Wassail Party's basket auction during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, December 6th. This will give members and friends the opportunity to participate, not only by creating a basket to be auctioned, but by purchasing a basket or two or three or four – they make great holiday gifts! Proceeds from the sale will go toward purchasing new (and much needed) tables for Fellowship Hall.

So. . . grab one of those "old" baskets (from the attic, basement, or closet), that is no longer used, and start filling it with fun things or theme items, such as Christmas, birds, beauty, snacks, pets, etc. In no time at all, a wonderful basket will be created to be auctioned.

Save the date – Sunday, December 6th and plan to attend the Basket Auction during Fellowship Hour. Wassail and cookies will be served in addition to coffee and tea.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

It seems early but 'CHRISTMAS IS COMING'! The Outreach Committee has selected two projects to support for the holiday season.

1 – HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: Last year we opted to purchase flocks of chickens instead of exchanging Christmas cards with those we see all year. This year we have chosen to purchase A KNITTING BASKET. The gift of a Knitting Basket represents two llamas and two sheep (four animals famous for their warm, income producing wool). From shearing to spinning, weaving, and finally to selling woolen goods at market, the gift will help struggling families earn extra income to break free from the grip of poverty. Over time as the gift multiplies and more animals are passed on to others in need, entire communities will be warmed by the wool of the Knitting Basket. If we collect enough money we can even purchase a goat, pig, chickens,

bunnies or a share of a heifer in addition to the llamas and sheep. The deadline for donations is November 22nd, so we can have our check sent in time for Christmas.

2 – JAIL CHAPLAINCY TOY DRIVE FOR CHILDREN OF INMATES: Again we will collect toys for children of all ages (infants to teens). Donations of toys will be accepted any time now to early December. If you cannot get out to shop and would like to participate, members of the committee will be glad to take monetary contributions and shop for you.

We thank you in advance for your continued support of these worthy projects.

We also send out a great big thank you to the Sunday School children and parents for their making of casseroles for SHIP. They were greatly appreciated and helped feed 50+ people at SHIP's Galley on October 23rd. With these meals we were able to feed people who otherwise might not have had a meal that day. We also thank all of the volunteers who give of their time every month to prepare and serve food at the Galley.

The sympathy and prayers of the United Reformed Church are with the family of Richard Everett. Richard passed away on October 17, 2009.



Richard was Bill Everett's brother. Our prayers are with the family at this time.

Remember all of life, from its beginning to its end, is in God's hands and through the power of Christ's resurrection, the end becomes a new beginning in God's full promise.

DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN?

If you have a concern, please let the Church Administrator, Sharon Thompson know. We want to remember them in our prayers and mention their name in the "In Your Prayers" reminders for the week in our Sunday bulletin.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CELEBRATIONS FOR November

BIRTHDAYS

November 1	Jay Holcombe
November 5	Jim Phillips
November 10	Felonese Kelley Charles Moore
November 12	Jan McLachlan
November 15	Kelly Barry Rebecca Lane
November 22	Barbara Schwarz
November 23	Sandy Dibble
November 24	Tim Rollender

ANNIVERSARIES

November 4	Doug and Laurie Holcombe
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Sunday, November 1 – All Saints' Day

Ruth 1:1-18 or Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 146 or Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

Sunday, November 8

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 or I Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 127 or Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, November 15

I Samuel 1:4-20 or Daniel 12:1-3; I Samuel 2:1-10 or Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

Sunday, November 22

II Samuel 23:1-7 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) or Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day

Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; I Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; I Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

SHIP's GALLEY CREW ON TWO MONTHS LEAVE

United's SHIP's Galley crew completed their service for 2009 on Friday, October 23rd, as our monthly service, this year, falls on the day after Thanksgiving and again on Christmas Day when the galley is closed.

There have been so many wonderful volunteers, this year, who have worked and/or prepared food for the galley guests, which now average about 55 - 60 people per galley. Often 85 - 100 meals are served as seconds are usually provided. In October, the Sunday School parents provided casseroles, which were eagerly consumed and enjoyed by those attending. Also, Amy Stires' special 3-4 graders at Milltown School made the PB&J sandwiches (an eagerly anticipated staple for guests to take home) as well as sorting and wrapping the forks and spoons neatly in a luncheon napkin.

Grateful thanks go to United's volunteers who crewed SHIP's Galley this year: Nancy Aliberto, Sylvia & Bill Anderson, Larry Carey, Barbara Ciampercerro, Katherine Cole, Jane Coleman, Beverly Colligas, Dee Davall, Jane Huck, Carol Lane, Nancy Maggio, Lois Mason, Toni Moore, Freddie Oakley, Ruth Reader, Marge Rowell, Jeannette & Don Seip, Lincoln & Yanni Shimomura, Kendra VanHouten and the URC Youth Group, Paul Walther, and Doug Young.

FISH FOOD

Now that the weather is getting cooler and the holidays are approaching, let's add some non-perishables to the Fish Barrel located in the Narthex. Remember when shopping to add a few extra non-perishables items to your shopping cart and donate to this local charity. The need seems to be greater now with the economy, so help the cause and bring in your donations and place them in the fish barrel. Thanks!

UNITED INTOUCH DEADLINE

If you have information that you would like included in the December, 2009 issue of INTOUCH, please contact Sharon Thompson at (908) 725-4545, e-mail her at sharon.thom@yahoo.com., or put your article in the INTOUCH cubbie.

The “**must have**” deadline for articles is **November 23, 2009.**

OUR SUNDAY SERVERS for November, 2009

	Ushers* ***	Counters	Fellowship Hour**	Altar Guild
1	Elders serve communion Bev Colligas John Colligas	Chris Parenti Jane Coleman		Millie Moore
8		Michelle Lane Rosanna Wallace		Alice Gunzelman
15	Kathy Phillips Jim Phillips	Kathy Phillips Jim Phillips		Dee Davall
22	Barbara Schwarz Toni Moore	Marge Rowell Ruth Reader	Toni Moore Barbara Schwarz Alice Gunzelman	Ruth Reader
29	Elizabeth Fowler Gary Spratt	Cathy Stires Lois Mason		Toni Moore

* If you can volunteer to usher,
please give our Coordinator Gary Spratt at call at 908-252-9392.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE COME FORWARD AND GIVE GARY A CALL.

** If you can volunteer to serve coffee during Fellowship Hour, please call the church office or sign up following worship during our Fellowship Hour.

*****Please consider giving of your time. We are in need of volunteers. You can call Gary Spratt to volunteer to usher or Sharon Thompson to volunteer to serve coffee.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Members and Friends:

The season of Thanksgiving is fast approaching and within a few weeks the voices of Christendom will be united in that glorious hymn '*Now Thank We All Our God.*'

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

As with many hymns, this has a fascinating history. It was written in 1636 during the Thirty Years' War in Germany by the Rev. Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran priest. Rinkart's little village found itself surrounded by the enemy and put under siege. Plague, famine and fear set in; over eight hundred homes were destroyed and people began to perish in record numbers – on some days Rinkart conducted over fifty funerals! The pastors themselves also perished leaving Rinkart as the only clergy to negotiate with the enemy. He did so with such courage and faith that peace was attained and suffering ended. Aware that healing and thanksgiving are spiritually connected, Rinkart composed his hymn for the survivors of his little village.

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

So this Thanksgiving let us be certain to raise our voices in gratitude for all the blessings of God! While we don't live in the world of Martin Rinkart, we do live in a world hemmed in with more than enough stresses and strains. We long for the day when war, hunger, hostility, terrorism, racism and genocide will become dim memories. We long for the day when the global financial crisis will give way to economic productivity and prosperity for all. In our struggle for a better world let us remember – and give thanks – that God stands in our midst and may be trusted to keep those who abide in him.

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns, with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.*

God bless you at this Season of Thanksgiving, and always,

Pastor Paul

DATES TO REMEMBER IN

Sunday, November 1	All Saints' Day 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship (Communion) 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
Tuesday, November 3	Election Day
Thursday, November 5	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Friday, November 6	10 :00 a.m. Outreach Ministries Committee
Sunday, November 8	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship (Kendra VanHouten preaching) 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 11:30 a.m. Farm Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 10	7:30 p.m. Administration and Finance Committee 7:30 p.m. Parish Life Committee
Wednesday, November 11	11:00 a.m. Veterans' Day Service (see last page) 7:30 p.m. Worship Committee
Thursday, November 12	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Sunday, November 15	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
Tuesday, November 17	7:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting (Lounge) 7:30 p.m. Habitat Board Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, November 18	6:00 p.m. Food Bank Board Meeting
Thursday, November 19	6:15 p.m. Reflection Ringers 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Saturday, November 21	8:00 p.m. Midiri Brothers Concert (see page 1)
Sunday, November 22	9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
Monday, November 23	Intouch Deadline
Tuesday: November 24	7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Community Service (see page 1)
Wednesday, November 25	10:00 a.m. Collate Intouch (Note: Change in Date)
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SHIP'S Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
Friday; November 27	Office Closed
Sunday, November 29	First Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

A LATE REQUEST FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Not too late for the Worship Committee to put in a request for cotton fabric in the primary colors for use in making banners for Twelfth Night, scheduled for January 9, 2010. See Page 1 for details about the event. If you have fabric you can donate, please drop it off at the church office. If you have any questions, please speak to Ruth Reader. Thank you!

I AM A NEWCOMER I AM A RECENT ARRIVAL I HAVE BEEN COMING HERE FOR YEARS

A Message for Ushers and Greeters from the people who enter United:

Won't you please...

SMILE at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the church, during the first few moments I am in your building, and this impression will probably stay with me a long time.

HELP me find my place in the service. I will not find your help an intrusion. In fact, I will remember your kindness.

SPEAK to me during Fellowship Hour. I know you want to see your friends and settle that piece of committee business. But I may find it hard to believe that you truly care for each other unless I first see evidence that you care for *"the stranger in your midst."*

TELL me good things about your church and your pastor. I want to believe that I have come to a place where people love each other and where they believe that they are doing something exciting and important for the Lord.

NOTICE me – even if I am not a "family". I don't want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, a single parent, a teenager or an older person, or I have a disability.

TALK to me again the second week when I come back, and the third, and the fourth. I am still not a part of your church family.

INVITE me to become part of some church group or organization, I need more than worship every Sunday. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed by a group of people within the church who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.

IF you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will come back...the second Sunday, the third, and maybe forever. I will worship with you, join your choir, teach in your Sunday School, contribute to your canvass, and become a highly involved member of your church. In doing so, I will find my own life immeasurably enriched as a result of having become a member of your church.

Taken from an article by:

The Rev. Christopher Chamberlin Moore
Via Diocesan Good News Service

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday school has enjoyed a productive and busy month. On October 11th, the lesson focused on Mark 10:17-31 in which Jesus was trying to teach the rich man how to be a good disciple by giving to those who have less than he has. The younger children came up with loving acts that they could share with those around them during the next week. The older students made a casserole together and then each family picked another recipe that they cooked and brought in for SHIP to be served later in the month.

On October 18th, Sunday school had an enjoyable day at the Farm. The day was a mix of a Sunday school lesson, indoor activities due to the weather, and of course food. Seventeen children and adults were able to appreciate The Farm as a perfect place to spend a fall day. We finished out the month by participating in the worship service on October 25th. The children

assembled and passed out a “brown bag” filled with items which each had special reminders of God. Even the little things in every day life should help us to remember God and His constant love and ever presence in our lives.

Hope you didn't miss the picture and article about our Youth Group and their mission trip that was written up in the October 11th Community Section of the Courier News. If you did, check out the copy on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. It is wonderful that the word is finally getting out about the good work of our church!

***Just a reminder- no Sunday school on
Thanksgiving weekend.**

VETERANS DAY SERVICE

The Somerville War Veterans Memorial Committee is planning a Veterans Day Service on Wednesday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. The service will be held at the New Veterans Memorial Plaza on Grove Street in Somerville.

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