



Dear Friends:

Adult education at Community United Methodist is an exciting and engaging way for adults of all ages and stages in their faith journeys to grow in their relationship with God and with one another. There is a place for you!

Check out the descriptions of classes and other small group opportunities on the following pages and find an experience that interests you.

Please do not hesitate to let me know what I can do to assist you in your faith journey!

Peace,



Rev. Beth Elders  
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### **Fidelis**

*Location: Room 308*

This group enjoys engaging conversations each week that link their faith to the world around them. In an intimate, round-table discussion format, they utilize *FaithLink* (a weekly downloadable document that explores events in the news and other media and how they are related to one's walk of faith) to connect with one another and grow in faith.

### **Sojourners**

*Location: Fellowship Hall (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)*

The Sojourners Class is a dynamic group of adult Christians committed to the study of books and topics that are practical to their everyday lives. The class time begins with a fellowship period followed by a brief presentation and lively group discussion.

### **The Son-Light Class (10:00-10:50 a.m.)**

*Location: Room 101*

This wonderful class for developmentally challenged adults brings alive the scripture each Sunday. The class connects faith to life in the discussion of daily struggles offering a caring fellowship. After class, the members attend the 11:00 worship services together.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

*At Community United Methodist Church, adult Sunday school is a strong component of our life as a congregation. Approximately 175 adults are involved in some form of learning on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We offer different opportunities to meet the differing needs of adults of all ages. Every class is an open and welcoming place to be, and its members are delighted to receive visitors and guests. By visiting our many classes we hope that you will find one that feels like "home" to you.*

### **Community Forum**

*Location: The Parlor (Room 106)*

An excellent array of speakers, from inside and outside the church, offer a variety of subjects that keep this class lively and exciting. Topics may run for one week or several. Coffee and delicious snacks begin the hour, followed by lecture and discussion. A warm and welcoming place to be.

### **Kairos**

*Location: The "Stage" (Room 202)*

This group enjoys shared leadership and open discussion on a variety of topics about societal issues, biblical studies, and spiritual matters. They are eager to welcome visitors and explore a broad range of viewpoints. Monthly social events help make this class an interesting place to be.

### **Open Circle Class**

*Location: Room 307*

A warm and friendly class offering a succession of mini-series and single week opportunities on a broad spectrum of topics, from scripture to books, poetry, fine arts, and mission activities. An array of speakers who stimulate thought and offer new ideas. Discussion and laughter is encouraged and invited.

## **CUMC Adult Education Offerings** 2010-2011 Program Year

### **WEEKDAY/EVENING CLASS CATEGORIES:**

**Bible:** *Classes in this category give participants an in-depth or broad-based look at the Bible.*

**Journey:** *Classes in this category have to do with assisting people on different places of their Christian Journey, helping make connections from their lives of faith to the world around them.*

**Life:** *Classes in this category help guide people in their walk of faith while addressing issues pertinent to their place in life (i.e. – parenting, marriage, divorce, job loss, young adult, etc.).*

**Seasons:** *These classes are structured around the Liturgical Calendar and are seasonal classes that deal primarily with connecting the Scripture and other elements of the season with their life of faith.*

**Next Steps:** *Classes in this category are specifically targeted at those new to the Christian faith or want to take the next steps to deepen their understanding and connection with God and others on their faith journeys.*

**WEEKDAY/EVENING  
ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS:**

***BIBLE:***

**Uppity Women of the Bible: Esther**

Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30

(Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, Nov. 30, Dec. 14 - *alternate nights of women's ensemble rehearsals!* )

Led by Joy Sobczak

*Calling women of all ages! Are you ready to:*

- *Deepen your relationship with God?*
- *Strengthen your spiritual walk?*
- *Develop friendships with other women?*
- *Experience growth through a small group?*

*Explore the biblical story of Esther and its connection to your walk of faith?*

*Enter into an exotic and fanciful Persian kingdom complete with a dim-witted, king, a defiant queen, an egotistical lieutenant and a loyal uncle. With lavish banquets, extreme beauty treatments and dangerous liaisons at every turn, can the beautiful and courageous Esther avert disaster for her people? All this occurs in a Biblical book where God is never mentioned. This complex story ranges from slapstick farce to Shakesperian tragedy, yet it speaks volumes to women in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

*So, grab your Purim gragger and your hamantaschen – if you don't know what those are, you'll find out in session two – and join in this fascinating story of power, corruption, violence, courage, and faith.*

**Following Jesus: Steps to a Passionate Faith**

Three Saturday Workshops: January 15, January 22, January 29

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. *Lunch Provided!*

(Led by Beth Elders, Melissa Hood, and Mark Jacobs)

*Your Prayers, Your Presence, Your Gifts, Your Service, Your Witness.*

*This is what you have to offer Jesus, but how do you begin to use these offerings as you follow him?*

*You want to live out a passionate faith, but what are the first steps you need to take?*

*Join in the exploration of some answers to these questions and many others you may have about living out a passionate faith in this three-part workshop model small group class. Lunch is provided as we discuss the following topics:*

*Rediscovering Jesus*

*Jesus the Messiah*

*Unique Characteristics of Jesus*

*Savior of the World*

*Lord of All*

*Growing in the Spirit*

*The Holy Spirit*

*Understanding Spiritual Fruit*

*Understanding Spiritual Gifts*

*Sharing the Spirit*

*Living in Faith and Service*

*Spiritual Disciplines*

*The Church: Community of Christ*

*Understanding God's Call*

*God's Place for You*

## **NEXT STEPS:**

### **This We Believe: The Core of Wesleyan Faith and Practice**

*Based upon the book by the same title written by Bishop William H. Willimon*

Wednesday afternoons 5:30-6:30 p.m.

October 6<sup>th</sup> – November 17<sup>th</sup>

(Led by Beth Elders, Melissa Hood, and Mark Jacobs)

*For John Wesley, the Bible is the joyfully consistent testimony of God's never-ending grace and ever-seeking love. Likewise, studying the Bible is more than merely knowing what Scripture says; it is also about living every day as a child of God.*

*Beginning with the Core Terms, this class systematically lays out key Wesleyan tenets of faith so that you will have a fresh way to hear God's voice, share in God's grace, and become more like Jesus Christ.*

#### ***Session titles include:***

- *We Believe in One God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*
- *We Believe in Jesus Christ and His Reign*
- *We Believe in the Work of the Holy Spirit*
- *We Believe in the Guidance of Scripture*
- *We Believe in Salvation for Sinners*
- *We Believe in Christian Work and Witness*

### **Amos: Prophet of Justice**

Wednesdays Noon-1:30 p.m.

(Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 3)

Led by Al Streyffler

*Join this group as they look at the small but powerfully prophetic book Amos, who is known as the Prophet of Justice. Sometimes United Methodists are listed amongst the "Justice Churches." Is that description warranted?*

*Each participant will be urged to go to the hardware store to purchase a plumb bob.*

## **JOURNEY:**

### **Tuesday Morning Women's Book Group**

Tuesday mornings 9:00-10:30

(childcare provided upon request)

*This year, the Tuesday morning women's book study will be reading and discussing the bestselling books:*

- *"The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho*
- *"The Postmistress" by Sarah Blake*
- *"Mudbound" by Hillary Jordan*
- *"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee*
- *"Little Bee" by Christ Cleave*
- *"The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein*
- *"Half the Sky" by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn*
- *"Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home" by Rhonda Janzen*

*Come join the conversation! Everyone is welcome in this multi-generational, supportive, and fun-filled group!*

### Women's Book Study – “The Alchemist”

Tuesday mornings 9:00-10:30

(Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 28)

Based upon the bestselling book “The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho

(Led by Beth Elders)

*Meet Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who one night dreams of a distant treasure in the Egyptian pyramids. And so he's off: leaving Spain to literally follow his dream.*

*Along the way he meets many spiritual messengers, who come in unassuming forms such as a camel driver and a well-read Englishman. In one of the Englishman's books, Santiago first learns about the alchemists--men who believed that if a metal were heated for many years, it would free itself of all its individual properties, and what was left would be the "Soul of the World." Of course he does eventually meet an alchemist, and the ensuing student-teacher relationship clarifies much of the boy's misguided agenda, while also emboldening him to stay true to his dreams. "My heart is afraid that it will have to suffer," the boy confides to the alchemist one night as they look up at a moonless night.*

*"Tell your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself," the alchemist replies. "And that no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its dreams, because every second of the search is a second's encounter with God and with eternity."*

### Women's Book Study – “The Postmistress”

Tuesday mornings 9:00-10:30

(Oct. 5, Oct. 12, Oct. 19, Oct. 26)

Based upon the book “The Postmistress” by Sarah Blake

(Led by Beth Elders)

*Weaving together the stories of three very different women loosely tied to each other, debut novelist Blake takes readers back and forth between small town America and war-torn Europe in 1940. Single, 40-year-old postmistress Iris James and young newlywed Emma Trask are both new arrivals to Franklin, Mass., on Cape Cod. While Iris and Emma go about their daily lives, they follow American reporter Frankie Bard on the radio as she delivers powerful and personal accounts from the London Blitz and elsewhere in*

*Europe. While Trask waits for the return of her husband—a volunteer doctor stationed in England—James comes across a letter with valuable information that she chooses to hide. Blake captures two different worlds—a naïve nation in denial and, across the ocean, a continent wracked with terror—with a deft sense of character and plot, and a perfect willingness to take on big, complex questions, such as the merits of truth and truth-telling in wartime. “The Postmistress” is a story of women's lives, of life, death and love during WWII, and by end, a story about the art of storytelling itself.*

## LIFE:

### Emotionally Connecting With Our Children

Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

5:15-6:15 DINNER

6:30-7:30 PRESENTATION

(Led by Tracy Takeda, MA, LCPC, Therapist from Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center)

*As parents, we want to be the best we can be. We want our children to feel loved and to be healthy people. We want our children (of all ages) to feel and be close to us. What are some tips and tools to help us do this?*

*How do we encourage our children to entrust us with their feelings?*

- *How do we stay connected to their hearts?*

*What are ways to help instill our values and protect them from outside negative influences?*

*Join Tracy Takeda, MA, LCPC, therapist from Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center in discussing “Emotionally Connecting with Our Children.” Tracy has worked with children, teenagers and families for over 15 years as a counselor and has been a part of the Child and Adolescent Team at Samaritan for almost 10 years.*

*Childcare is provided. Please RSVP to the church office (630/355-1483 or [info@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:info@communityunitedmethodist.org)) no later than September 13<sup>th</sup> to reserve a place for your child!*