

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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CUMC Adult Education Offerings 2009-2010 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.).*

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.*

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.*

**WEEKDAY/EVENING
ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS:**

BIBLE:

A Mile in Her Shoes:

Lessons from the Lives of Old Testament Women

Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30

(Sept. 29, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10, Nov. 24, Dec. 1 - *alternate nights of women's ensemble rehearsals!*)

Led by Joy Sobczak & Mary Carhart

Calling all women! Are you ready to:

- *deepen your relationship with God?*
- *strengthen your spiritual walk?*
- *develop friendships with other women?*
- *experience growth through a small group?*
- *discuss connections between Scripture and everyday life?*

Sisters-A Mile in Her Shoes is a Bible-based video study that helps women (of all ages!) connect their story with THE story – getting to know the stories of women in the Old Testament and discovering how God speaks to us today as women of faith. During this six-week study, women will study the bold and inspirational lives of Deborah, Rahab, Hagar, Abigail, Hannah, and the widow with the oil. Life in ancient times was a struggle for survival, many times removed from the relaxed, comfortable existence most of us enjoy today. For women especially, simply living often meant enduring a harsh society that viewed women as voiceless entities more like property than persons. Still, faith blossomed and thrived. Come and walk a mile in their shoes!

JOURNEY:

Living the Questions

Thursday mornings 9:30-11:00 a.m.

October 1st – December 17th

(Led by Beth Elders)

You've heard others talking about their "LTQ" experiences, so come experience for yourself what this transformative series is all about! Living the Questions at CUMC is a 12-week small group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. It helps people in all places and stages of their faith journeys discover the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. The format of each 1 hour 30-minute session includes video interviews/discussions with leading theologians, church leaders, sociologists and biblical scholars; guided discussions; spiritual exercises and Bible study. Each session will also include thorough conversation, lecture excerpts, and spiritual exercises for practical applications.

Topics Include: *An Invitation to Journey, Thinking Theologically, Creativity & Stories of Creation, Restoring Relationships; Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love; Intimacy with God; Social Justice; A Kingdom without Walls; Lives of Jesus; Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry; A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle; Out Into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christianity*

Women's Book Study – “A Mercy”

Tuesday mornings 9:15-10:45 (starting September 15th)

Based upon “A Mercy” by the Nobel-Prize winning author Toni Morrison
(Led by Beth Elders)

In the 1680s the slave trade was still in its infancy. In the Americas, virulent religious and class divisions, prejudice and oppression were rife, providing the fertile soil in which slavery and race hatred were planted and took root. “A Mercy” reveals what lies beneath the surface of slavery. But at its heart it is the ambivalent story of a mother who casts off her daughter in order to save her, and of a daughter who may never exorcise that same abandonment. Come explore the powerful repercussions brought on by an act of mercy.

Men's Book Study – “The Shack”

Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30 p.m.

October 20 – November 10

Based upon the book “The Shack” by William P. Young
(Led by Jeff Haake)

Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant “The Shack” wrestles with the timeless question, “Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?” The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him. Come, join other men in this transformative book experience.

A Prayerful Study Dialogue of Faith and Practice

Wednesdays Noon-1:30 p.m. (9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28)

Thursday evenings 7:00-8:30 p.m. (9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29)

(Led by Al Streyffler)

Using “The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church” and “Boom, Voices of the Sixties” by Tom Brokaw, this class will explore conversations around the topics of:

- *The Natural World*
- *The Social Community*
- *The Political Community*
- *The Nurturing World*
- *The Economic Community*
- *The World Community*

and will include reading stories from “Boom” on the environment, racial justice, the women's movement, the Reagan Revolution, and the Democrat's identity crises.

The Book of Discipline states that “the standards of attitude and conduct set forth in The Social Principles shall be considered as an essential resource for guiding EACH member of the Church in being a servant of Christ in mission.”

Join us in the dialogue of faith and practice!

(Copies of “The Social Principles” and “Boom” are available from Al Streyffler or in the church office for a total of \$9.00.)

“FaithBooking” – Your Journey of Faith

Monday evenings 7:30-9:00

October 19th – November 9th

(Led by Sharon deWaard)

“Faithbooking is an opportunity to create a testimony in words and pictures of your own personal faith journey. We are commanded by the Lord to remember the significant events of our lives, and yet we forget the details so easily. That's why we need to write them down. As an old proverb reminds us, the palest ink is better than the best memory.” (Rhonda Anderson)

Faithbooking is a great way to grow in our faith as we remind ourselves of the ways God has been with us throughout our lives. It is also a way to teach our children about our own faith journeys. Lastly, our faithbook can be a guide for us in future decision making.

Sharon will help participants analyze their journeys of faith to help find the “fingerprints of God” in their lives. During your time together, you will explore questions that will help you think chronologically about your life and how your faith has grown and developed. During the four weeks you will put together your own personal Faithbook, a printed journal of your faith journey. In the last session, participants will be guided to share their stories of faith with others (as they are comfortable).

Come and walk this journey together with others!

LIFE:

Parenting 101 – Your Family and Money

Wednesdays:

Sept. 30, Oct. 28, Nov. 25, Dec. 16

4:30-5:30

(Led by Beth Elders)

Drop your child off in children's choirs, and come enjoy some fresh coffee and great conversation with other parents on the last Wednesday of each month! This informal, DVD-based conversation starter discusses ways that parents can help children develop money management skills and values at an early age. Session topics include how to talk about money, allowances, promoting independence, saving, and credit habits.

Family Movie Nights!

Friday evenings: October 16, December 11

6:00 – 8:30

(Hosted by the Christian Education Committee)

Families of all ages and types (with children, couples, singles – you name it) are invited to bring their blankets and come to Fellowship Hall for a night of food, fellowship, and fun! We'll pop popcorn and eat some thematic “munchies” (to match the theme of the movie, of course) as we watch a fun family-friendly movie! After the movie, we'll break into small groups and discuss how themes presented in each movie pertain to our walk of faith! Invite your friends and families for these exciting nights!

Movie Schedule:

October 16 – Finding Nemo

December 11 – Mulan

(All movies listed above are G-Rated for “general audiences”!)

NEXT STEPS:

Beginnings – An Introduction to the Christian Faith

Thursday evenings 7:00-8:30

October 1 – December 17

(Led by Melissa Hood)

Beginnings is a study that is designed to give participants a safe place to ask questions about the Christian faith, explore their walk with God, and form or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and Christian community. It is intended for adults hungry for an intentional walk with God that encourages a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The 12 sessions introduce the most basic themes of Christianity and explore the most fundamental questions of religion.

Session titles include:

- *So Is This All There Is?*
- *Who is Jesus and Why Should I Care?*
- *Why Am I Not Where I Want to Be?*
- *What Happens When I Die?*
- *Can I Trust God?*
- *How Does God Speak to Me?*
- *If I Don't Feel Lost, Why Do I Need to Be Found?*
- *Can I Start Again?*
- *How Do I Speak to God?*
- *How Can I Make a Life and Not Just a Living?*
- *Why Should I Join Any Group That Will Have Me as a Member?*
- *Love Feast!*

SEASONS:

Advent Study

Monday mornings 9:30-11:00 a.m.

(each Monday in Advent)

Led by Stephen Edwards

More information TBA

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.

Fidelis

Location: Room 101

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 (1st 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 308

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.