

Community
United Methodist Church
Open Hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

WORSHIP

Saturday, March 24
5 p.m.

Worship in the Chapel

Sunday, March 25
8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Traditional Worship

(SANCTUARY)

Fifth Sunday in Lent

'Discarding Religion'

The Rev. Tom Babler
preaching

Text: Philippians 3:4b-14

11 a.m.

OnCenter

Contemporary Worship

(TENT)

'Lost and Found'

The Rev. Haeran Kim
preaching

Text: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Saturday, March 31
5 p.m.

Worship in the Chapel

Sunday, April 1
8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Traditional Worship

(SANCTUARY)

Palm Sunday

'Passion'

The Rev. Haeran Kim
preaching

Text: Luke 22:14-23

11 a.m.

OnCenter

Contemporary Worship

(TENT)

Jim Best preaching

Text: Psalm 32

Sunday School

- 9:30 a.m. (All ages)
- 11 a.m. (Elementary only)

Wednesday Lenten Communion Services

*Weekly meditations on the
Seven Last Words of Jesus
and Holy Communion*

7 to 7:30 a.m. in the chapel

Pastor's Note

Listen quietly

Listen quietly to the sound of rain drops touching
the flower petals.

Your children's innocent minds become as clean and lovely
as the flowers.

Your children's innocent minds
become as clean and lovely
as the flowers.

Listen quietly to the sound of
chirping birds by the
rippling stream.

Your children's innocent
minds become as bright
and clean
as sparkling water.

Your children's innocent minds become as
bright and clean
as sparkling water.



The preceding is a song of my childhood that I have translated
from Korean. I grew up listening to and singing this song.

It was written by a pastor and was sung by many congrega-
tions, not only for children, but also for adults. It was popular in
churches all over Korea, sung not only on Sundays but also in Vaca-
tion Bible Schools.

After the song writer retired some years ago, he came to the Chi-
cago area. He shared stories of his life's ministry with a group of
younger pastors. It was obvious to me that he had lived his song.

As spring approaches, our children become more active; they are
free from the confinement of winter.

THE OTHER DAY I took my daughter, Euen, to the playground at
her school. I could not resist her plea to go there, which was her num-
ber one wish.

*I prayed that children
everywhere can enjoy
times of carefree
laughter and freedom.*

I sat on a bench watching the
children playing. I heard their laugh-
ter, giggles, calling to each other.
They looked so happy and carefree.

I met again a mother of two of
the boys who were playing. She had
two adopted boys from China and
Korea.

We shared conversation about our children, specifically, and all
children, in general. She is taking her sons to Chinese and Korean
language classes. I can see how her thoughts swing back and forth
among China and Korea and, of course, the United States.

AS I WAS WAITING for the time to take Euen back home, I found
myself singing that former pastor's song: "Listen quietly to the sound
of rain drops touching the flowers petals. Your children's innocent
minds become as bright and clean as the sparkling water."

I began to pray. I prayed that children everywhere can enjoy times
of carefree, laughter and freedom. I prayed that every child grows up
with love and with healthy minds and bodies.

Then I believe the whole world will be brighter.

As God gave each child to each of us, we ask God to give us love,
wisdom and guidance to be faithful adults.

Holy Week will include vigil, sunrise breakfast

By Stephen Edwards, Director of Music and Worship Planning

Easter is rapidly approaching and as a community of faith, there
are several things we should ponder as we prepare for that
special day.

What is important? Who are we as children of God? How do we put
our faith into action? How do we reflect on the profound and life-
changing sacrifice that Jesus made for each and every one of us?

We could let this week, Holy Week, pass by like any other week, or
we could make a choice, a choice to truly allow ourselves to experi-
ence Christ.

- **The Maundy Thursday Service** begins at 7:30 p.m., April 5, in
the sanctuary. On this night we remember and celebrate the final sup-
per Jesus shared with his disciples in the context of Passover. This
event institutes the mystery of his abiding redemptive presence in the
church's celebration of Holy Communion. This evening also marks the
beginning of the most solemn and joyful celebrations of the entire
Christian Year.

- **The Good Friday Service** takes place at 7:30 p.m., April 6, at
First Congregational Church, directly across the street from Commu-
nity UMC. This is one of the oldest of the many traditional services of
the Christian Church for Holy Week. This service closes with the death
and burial of Christ.

- **The Easter Vigil** begins at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary on Satur-
day, April 7. There will be no 5 p.m. worship service on April 7.

This is the night when we open our scripture to its most precious
pages. This night, we tell of how we were made, how God chose us
from among all peoples, how God freed us from bondage, loved us,
brought us into the promised land, and how God gives meaning to our
lives. We finish this service celebrating the risen Christ.

- **Easter Sunday** morning begins with the sunrise service in the
tent at 6:30 a.m. United Methodist Men is preparing the service and a
breakfast to follow.

Other services on Easter morning will follow the normal time
See **Holy Week** on back page

Lent, Easter opportunities for children and families

• Pretzels & Prayer: Children's Lenten Workshop

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join us on
April 7 — "Holy Saturday," the day before Easter — from 10 a.m. to
noon for a few hours of creative fun and exploration about prayer.
Come make homemade pretzels courtesy of Auntie Anne's!, learn the
prayer-centered history of these pretzels, and discover other ways to
pray: body, musical and memorized.

• Children's Palm Sunday Activities

All pre-school and elementary age children at the 8:30 and 11 a.m.
sanctuary services on Sunday, April 1, are invited to participate in the
children's Palm Processional. Meet **Beth Elders**, director of Christian
Education, and **Stephen Edwards**, director of worship planning and
music, in the back of the sanctuary before the service begins to receive

See **Children and families** on back page

You are invited

I am inviting everyone to join me and the Stewardship Committee on a journey, unlike any you have taken.

If you choose to come along, you will possibly acquire new friendships, new knowledge, deeper spirituality and even have fun.

You will read and hear some new and not so new thoughts on pledging, money, talents, volunteerism and how this all adds up to developing Community UMC — *our church* — into an even more integral part of our lives and our community's.

Consider this invitation the first of many you will be receiving. When I spoke to the congregation on an Advent Sunday, I asked everyone to join me in waiting for the Coming of Christ. Now I am inviting everyone to join me on a journey of faith.

Will you join me?

— **Bonnie R. Valiant, Stewardship Chairperson**

Lunches, film festival are highlights of Lent

Lenten activities at Community UMC (CUMC) include two firsts, a film festival on Saturdays in March, and lunches to explore scripture and other readings following the 11 a.m. worship services.

• **A Lenten Communion Service** will be offered every Wednesday through April 4 from 7 to 7:30 a.m. in the chapel.

• **Lenten Lunches** will take place each Sunday in Lent through April 1. From 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., we'll enjoy a light soup and sandwich while exploring and discussing scripture and other readings from a Lenten study book.

For more information and/or to RSVP for lunch, contact **Beth Elders**, director of Christian Education, at belders@communityunitedmethodist.org or by calling the church office, (630) 355-1483.



• **CUMC's Lenten Film Festival** will look at the themes of Sin/Alienation and Reconciliation in films to be shown on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in fellowship hall during March: March 24, Sojourners Class will present "North Country"; March 31, OnCenter and the Fidelis Class will host **Al Gore's** Academy Award-winning film "An Inconvenient Truth."

Child care will be provided by calling the church office early in the week of the showing, (630) 355-1483.

Wiley A Cappella Choir, drama group to perform at potluck

Friday, March 23, at 6 p.m., Community UMC (CUMC) will have an opportunity to experience an evening of music and drama from Wiley College's A Cappella Choir and Encore Players drama group. The college students, who will be in Northern Illinois on a spring break tour, will perform after a potluck meal.

The main course at the potluck will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring a salad or dessert, and to call the church, (630) 355-1483, to reserve space.

Wiley College, Marshall, Texas, is one of 11 historically black colleges related to the United Methodist Church.

288 respond to Healthy Church Index survey

By **Rich Fleming, Facilities Study Team**

Community UMC (CUMC) had 288 responses to the Healthy Church Index (HCI) survey that was conducted both online and on paper the past couple of months. The HCI is an instrument used to examine key dimensions that reflect church health by comparing our church's scores to national norms.

The survey is only a snapshot, a picture of a point in time. Low scores may have been lower or higher five years ago. High scores may indicate current strengths, unless they were higher in the past.

CUMC's 288 respondents are a strong response and a statistically reliable sampling. Due to the amount of detail in the report we will only share with you the executive summary of the survey here. Anyone who wishes to study the results in detail, however, can find paper copies in the church's library or you may access an Adobe Acrobat (pdf) file on the church's Web site: www.communityunitedmethodist.org.

Church's relative strengths

Compared to the national median, the church scored highest on the following questions:

- Our church gives a large portion of its resources to support missions, evangelism or outreach efforts.
- Our church effectively meets goals (deadlines, results, and budgets).
- Our church has an effective follow-up program for those who have visited.

■ Holy Week from front page

schedule: 8:30 and 11 a.m. in the sanctuary and 11 a.m. OnCenter contemporary service in the tent. This year promises to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with the praise and adoration He deserves.

In our traditional services, brass along with the combined Sanctuary Choir, Women's Ensemble, Sine Nomine, Liturgical Dancers and hand bells will herald the resurrection.

Our contemporary worship will celebrate with a special service of music, drama and a multimedia presentation.

Holy Week is truly a time to come together as a community and as individuals, a time to be the church, a time to encounter our Savior.

Soli Deo Gloria!

■ Children and families from front page

your palm branches and instructions, then joyfully process into the sanctuary during the Song of Gathering while waving your branches!

The Hosanna and Joyful Noise Choirs will sing immediately after the processional in the sanctuary at 11 a.m.

• Easter Sunday

The first-ever Community UMC Sunday School Easter Egg-Stravaganza will be 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 8, for all children. Nursery-age through elementary school are invited to join the fun during the Sunday school hour as we take part in an egg-stravaganza. Hunt for eggs, bring your own basket, make egg-citing Easter crafts, and learn more about the real meaning and celebration of Easter.

To allow our children to worship with their families and celebrate the joy of Easter together and to allow our Sunday school teachers to do the same, there will be no Sunday school during the 11 a.m. services. Nursery care will be provided.

For more information or to volunteer to help with any of these fun and faith-filled activities, contact Beth Elders at belders@communityunitedmethodist.org or call the church office, (630) 355-1483.

- Our church effectively meets needs of senior citizens.
- I am involved in regular smaller groups within the church.
- Our church effectively manages its financial resources
- Our church strives to make a difference in people's lives outside of our own congregation.
- Our church takes time to celebrate achievements and accomplishments.
- I help support the church financially.
- Our leaders practice what they expect others to do.

Relative opportunities for improvement

Compared to the national norms, the church scored lowest on the following questions:

- This church has a clearly defined vision of the future.
- This church makes effective use of various communication methods (bulletins, newsletters, telephone, e-mail).
- I am excited about where our church is headed in the next few years.
- This church's goals and directions are clear to me.
- Everyone is motivated by the church's vision for the future.
- I believe our church is heading in the right direction.
- This church has a clear statement of faith.
- I love telling my friends about my church.
- Our leaders effectively establish the church's direction, purpose and objectives.
- Changes are readily embraced by our congregation.

These strengths and opportunities for improvement can help us grow as a church. I encourage anyone who would care to discuss the HCI in more detail to contact me: (630) 717-5786 or Rflem9308@aol.com.

Thanks to all of you who participated in this important study.



Our purpose is to be a dynamic community of thinking and caring United Methodist Christians.

20 N. Center St., Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 355-1483 • www.communityunitedmethodist.org

Pastors	
The Rev. Tom Babler /	The Rev. Haeran Kim
Christian Education Director Beth Elders	Contemporary Worship Director Joel Janis
Lay Ministry Mary Jacobs	Youth Director Jim Best
Music Ministries and Worship Planning Director Stephen Edwards	Administration Lauralyn Theodore

Missionaries
Dr. Lahi and Yema Luhahi, *Kenya*
The Rev. Nkemba and Mbwizu Ndjungu, *Senegal*

A Stephen Ministry Church

As a congregation with open hearts, open minds and open doors, we fervently live into the words of John Wesley: "If thou lovest God and all humankind, I ask no more: Give me thine hand."

Our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability.