

Tidings

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Community

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

WORSHIP

Chapel worship 5:00 pm—Saturday
Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
8:30 and 11:00—Sunday
On Center/contemporary Worship
in the Tent—11:00—Sunday
Holy Communion served
on the first Sunday of the month

Sunday School Sunday School at 9:30 am Child care—At all services

ADVENT THEME:
AWAITING THE LIGHT

Saturday, December 1
5:00 pm Chapel
Rev. Tom Babler preaching

Sunday, December 2
8:30 am and 11:00 am
Sanctuary
First Sunday of Advent—Holy Communion
Tom Babler, preaching
Title: AN UNEXPECTED HOUR
Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

On Center
Contemporary Worship
Rev. Al Streyffler preaching
TEXT: Isaiah 2:4
TITLE: Beating Swords into Plowshares

Saturday, December 8
5:00 pm Chapel

Sunday, December 9
Second Sunday of Advent
Yema Luhahi preaching
CUMC's partner in mission in Kenya,
who will share her witness to the Gospel
and to her work of combating HIV/AIDS

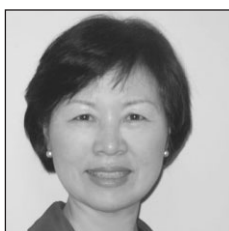
On Center
Contemporary Worship
Rev. Tom Babler, preaching

ADVENT COMMUNION
Wednesday Mornings--7:00 a.m.
November 28 - December 19

Services of Word and Sacrament will be
offered each Wednesday morning dur-
ing Advent. These services, held in the
Chapel from 7:00-7:30 a.m., include the
lighting of the Advent Wreath, witness to
the Word and Holy Communion.

Pastor's Note

By Haeran Kim



Every year when December comes, I remem-
ber a childhood Christmas gift that came to me
from the United States. It was a white teddy
bear. I was born in late 1950's, and the Korean
War had just temporarily stopped in 1953, so it
was a time when Korea was short on material
goods all over the country. That teddy bear came along with other gifts
and I will never forget that teddy bear.

When we prepare a gift with love and joy, we as givers already an-
ticipate the joy of the receiver. Then, the giver truly knows what it is
to feel to receive the gift through giving. Giving a gift to someone can
make us aware of abundance of love in our hearts for that person. That
can be also a precious gift.

I think of many gifts we all have received throughout this year. Some
are material gifts, and others are gifts of the heart. Some examples of
gifts of the heart are paying attention to someone, giving encourage-
ment, warm smiles, or showing love and patience. Another person gives
us the kind of intangible gift when they endure our shortcomings and
embracing our faults.

Volunteering our time and being dedicated to our work are other exam-
ples of gifts of the heart. We can also show love to those who suffer pain.

Before we get in a hurry to buy gifts, we might think what gifts come
from the sincerity of our hearts, instead of from dollars. I thank God for
the gift of prayer. My gift for you is a prayer for you and your family.

As December comes, let us search our hearts and ponder what gifts
we can prepare for Jesus, who comes as a baby. What actions will help
our neighbors hear about the love of Jesus? May we all know that the
real gift of Christmas is sharing the peace and joy that we have already
received and fulfilled from God. Amen.

Annual Messiah SingAlong – December 1, 2007, 7:00 PM

The
Messiah
Sing Along
has been a
family and
community
tradition for
21 consecu-
tive years in
the Naperville
area as a special preparation for
the Advent season.

Guest Conductor's include
Bill Chin, Associate Conduc-
tor of the Chicago Symphony
Chorus and The Oriana Singers.
Soloists this year include Eliza-
beth Wesley, soprano, Jo Roden-
burg, mezzo-soprano, Stephen
Edwards, tenor and Daniel Eifert,



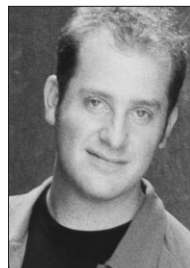
Bill Chin



Elizabeth Wesley



Jo Rodenburg



Stephen Edwards



Daniel Eifert

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Advent Calendar of Events

Awaiting Emmanuel – Starting November 27

A four-week Advent study for Senior High youth, led by Kate Walker.
Meeting Tuesdays, Nov. 27 to Dec. 18, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Morning Advent Communion Services – Starting November 28

A 30 minute worship service including Holy Communion held in the
chapel Wednesdays, Nov. 28 to Dec. 19, at 7:00 a.m.

Holy Word and Holy Work – Starting November 29

A four-week Advent study, led by Rev. Al Streyffler. See [www.com-
munityunitedmethodist.org](http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org) for information.

Messiah Sing-Along – Saturday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.

An annual tradition returns to the Sanctuary. Celebrate the season with
Handel's magnificent music in Community UMC's Sanctuary.

Advent Party – Sunday, December 2, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Come join the fun for Community UMC's annual Children's Advent
Party! Get into the spirit of the season as you bake cookies, make fun
holiday crafts, and create fantastic gifts for your friends and family.

Beginnings: The Spiritual Life – Starting December 4

A ten-week Advent study, led by Carol Pfeiffer. See [www.communi-
tyunitedmethodist.org](http://www.communi-
tyunitedmethodist.org) for information.

Yuletide Brunch – Friday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.

Come to Fellowship Hall for delicious food, holiday entertainment, and fel-
lowship – a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season, sponsored by the
United Methodist Women. Please call the office (630.355.1483 or email [info@
communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:info@communityunitedmethodist.org)) by Monday, Dec. 3 to make your reservation.

Chicago A'capella – Sunday, December 9, 4:00 p.m.

Chicago A'capella will perform a variety of holiday music. Purchase
tickets through the group's Web site, www.chicagoacappella.org.

Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 16, 5:00 p.m.

Come enjoy holiday music performed by Community UMC's vocal and
instrumental groups. Pre-concert music and refreshments begin at 5:00,
and the concert at 5:30.

Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 16, 2007 – 11:00 at OnCenter.

Nog-Apalooza – Monday, December 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Drop by the church for an open house hosted by the Community UMC
staff. Cookies and beverages will be served.

Longest Night Service – Wednesday, December 19 – 7:00 pm

This quiet service of music, Scripture, and prayers for healing for and
who desire it.

Christmas Eve Services – Monday, December 24, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm

5:00 Service – Bring the entire family to worship this Christmas Eve at
the Family Christmas Eve service. This interactive and informal worship
service for children of all ages features traditional Christmas carols in-
terwoven with dramatic skits and a retelling of the Nativity Story to help
make this Christmas Eve a transformative experience for all involved.

7:00 Service – Contemporary Service

11:00 Service – Candle lighting and Communion

More Community UMC News On Back Page

UMCOR's Sager Brown: Sacred Ground

By Ken Reed

That's how Kathy Kraiza described the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) Sager Brown facility at Baldwin, La., during opening ceremonies of a week-long Primetimers mission experience on Sunday, Oct. 21.

Kraiza, executive director of the Sager Brown facility, welcomed 28 Primetimers from around the country, including Ken and Betty Reed and Elmer and Mari Schirmer, members of Community United Methodist Church.

Primetimers, an activity of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, offers mission service and educational opportunities for adults 50 years and older. Attendees learn about and are a part of the exciting ways that United Methodists are engaged in missions around the world.

The Reeds and Schirmers discovered that Sager Brown is indeed sacred ground during their week of service and educational opportunities.

Established in the late 1860s as a home for African American boys who had been orphaned by the Civil War, the home and later a Gilbert Academy and Industrial School were purchased by Mrs. Addie Sager and Mrs. C.W. Brown and given to the Women's Home Mission Society, a forerunner of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church.

The home and school, which encompassed 10 brick buildings on 28 acres on the banks of Bayou Teche, later closed.

In 1992 however, Hurricane Andrew blew into the coast of south Louisiana and UMCOR arrived with volunteers and supplies and used the Sager Brown campus as a staging area. In 1996, UMCOR built the Sager Brown depot that now sends disaster relief supplies throughout the world. For example, in April, June and December 2006, Sager Brown shipped the following to Tbilisi, Georgia: 63,289 health kits; 7,393 school kits; 673 sewing kits; 1,961 layette kits;

472 blankets; and 1,013 sweatshirts for a total value of \$926,939.

Each year, more than 3,000 volunteers work in the Sager Brown depot.

The Reeds and Schirmers experienced life on the Bayou Teche through presentations, site visits, Cajun music, dance and cuisine. Primetimers learned about UMCOR's work at the Sager Brown campus and participated in field trips to a variety of local attractions to learn about the various cultures in the area, especially the contributions and influence of the Acadians (Cajuns).

More importantly, however, was the mission service work in the Sager Brown depot. During the week, the Reeds, Schirmers and the other Primetimers, along with about 30 short-term volunteers, packaged sewing, health, school, flood relief and layette kits, and sewed school bags.

The Primetimers participated in daily devotions, enjoyed a spirited and humorous welcome from the Mayor of Baldwin and an interesting discussion by a local sugarcane farmer who explored the planting, growing and production of sugarcane, the area's principal crop.

Tours of Oak Lawn Manor (a beautiful antebellum home), the Chitimacha (Native American) Museum, a rousing concert by the African American church choir at Trinity United Methodist Church, a tour of Martin's Accordion factory, and dinner and dancing to Cajun music at the renowned Cajun restaurant, Mulattes, were part of the experience. Three generations at Martin's Accordion factory provided toe-tapping Cajun music.

Primetimers also enjoyed a tour of Lafayette with visits to St. John's Cathedral and the Acadian Village. A trip up the Atchafalaya River and into a beautiful and foreboding swamp with "Cajun Jack" was a tour highlight.

Primetimers rounded out their week with a crab boil and a sharing service.

"Ken and I want to make a difference and intend to take a volunteer journey each year," Betty Reed said. "This vol-

unteer experience proved to me that we can make a positive difference in the world."

"This is the second trip we have taken and thoroughly enjoyed both," said the Schirmers. "We look forward to taking advantage of this opportunity in the future."

Primetimers events for 2008 include Kentucky, The Life and Spirit of Appalachia, Henderson Settlement, April 20 to 26; Washington, Faith Adventures in the Great Northwest, Ocean Park Retreat Center, May 4 to 10; Macedonia, Uncovering the Treasures of Macedonia, May 14 to 26; New York, A Global Perspective on Current Issues, June 8 to 13; New Mexico, New Mexico's Cultural Richness, McCurdy School, Oct. 11 to 18; Louisiana, Life on the Bayou Teche, Oct. 19 to 25; and Georgia, All Creatures Great and Small, Nov. 9 to 14.


For more information on these programs, visit this Primetimers web site: <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/about/us/my/programs/primetimers>, or call Community United Methodist Church, (630) 355-1483.

In addition to Primetimers, short- and long-term volunteers are welcome at Sager Brown. The Reeds will return to Sager Brown on Sept. 14 to 19, 2008, as short-term volunteers.

Dianna Dudleson is the UMCOR Sager Brown volunteer coordinator. Her telephone number is: 337-923-6238.

Join us, please, at first ever Nogapalooza

Stop by the church office, and enjoy a glass of eggnog/punch and homemade (by the staff!) Christmas cookies with the CUMC staff, Monday, December 17, 2007 between 1-3:00 pm. The whole staff looks forward to extending Christmas greetings to all.



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

United Methodist Church
Open hearts, open minds, open doors.

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 Lay Ministry Mary Jacobs Music Ministries and Worship Planning Director Stephen Edwards	Contemporary Worship Director Joel Janis Youth Director Kate Walker 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.

Our Community

Extends sympathy to Craig and Jan Mahlstedt on the death of Craig's brother, Tom Mahlstedt, on Monday, Nov. 12.

Continue to pray for our troops and their families: John Aitchison, Dave Cobbel, Christopher Coyle, Blake Crosby, John Ferrin, Alex Palmer, Tyler Paulus, Bryce Pope, Vincent Simonetti, Betsy Weiner, and Brad Woltman.

Community Prayer Gathering continues

Something exciting is happening at Community UMC, and you are invited to be part of it! As God's faithful people, we are called to pray for and with each other, and now we have a dedicated time for this. Every Wednesday we will meet in the Chapel from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., and together seek God's direction for our church life and ministries, for our facilities planning, and for whatever else the Lord places upon our hearts. Please prayerfully consider joining us in this important task, for wherever two or more are gathered in Christ's name, He is there in their midst. Nancy Snell, on behalf of prayer gathering group.

Happy Birthday

Dick and Lois Ester and their family were active members of Community United Methodist Church many years ago. Lois Ester will be celebrating her 80th birthday and her family, as a surprise, would appreciate cards for Lois, possibly sharing a few sentences that you may remember about her. Her birthday is December 5th, and the address is Lois Ester, 1115 7th Street, DeWitt, Iowa 52742 and cards can be sent the week of December 2nd.

Annual Messiah SingAlong – December 1, 2007, 7:00 PM

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bass-baritone. Non-professional singers are seated by voice part and non-singers are always welcome. It is truly one of the most enjoyable and fulfilling holiday experiences in the community and a great outing for the whole family.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. For more information, contact Stephen Edwards at 630.355.1483, sedwards@communityunitedmethodist.org or visit CUMC's website at www.communityunitedmethodist.org.