



# Tidings

an edition of  
The United Methodist Reporter

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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

**Saturday, February 9**  
5:00 pm Chapel  
Rev. Haeran Kim, preaching

**Sunday, February 10 —  
First Sunday in Lent**  
8:30 am and 11:00 am  
Sanctuary  
Rev. Tom Babler, preaching

Lenten Theme:  
**LENT: WHAT DOES IT MATTER?**  
Week 1: **SIN**  
Scripture Readings:  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
(sin in the Garden)  
Matthew 4:1-11 (temptation of Jesus)

Sermon Text:  
So when the woman saw . . .  
that the tree was to be desired  
to make one wise,  
she took of its fruit and ate;  
and she also gave some  
to her husband, who was with her,  
and he ate. Gen 2:6

**On Center**  
Contemporary Worship  
Rev. Haeran Kim preaching

**Saturday, February 16**  
5:00 pm Chapel  
Rev. Tom Babler, preaching  
**Sunday, February 17**  
Rev. Tom Babler, preaching

**On Center**  
Contemporary Worship  
Kate Walker, preaching

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## Our Community

Is praying with the Lapham and Whittington families after the death of Olga Whittington on Friday, January 25. Olga is the mother-in-law of Nancy Whittington, the grandmother of Katie Lapham, and the great-grandmother of Brian, Megan, and Daniel.

Is praying for our troops: Christopher Coyle, Blake Crosby, John Ferrin, Tyler Paulus, Joseph Pitonyak, Bryce Pope, Andrew Dean Russell, Vincent Simonetti, and Betsy Weiner.

### Lent: What does it matter?

## Exploring Relevant Topics in a Busy World

During this Lenten season, the following topics will be explored during worship:

- 2/10 — Sin — Rev. Tom Babler in the sanctuary, Rev. Haeran Kim at OnCenter
- 2/17 — Faith — Rev. Tom Babler in the sanctuary, Kate Walker at OnCenter
- 2/24 — Emptiness — Rev. Haeran Kim in the sanctuary, Rev. Tom Babler at OnCenter
- 3/2 — Healing — Rev. Tom Babler in the sanctuary, Rev. Al Streyffeler at OnCenter
- 3/9 — Revival — Rev. Tom Babler in the sanctuary, Kate Walker at OnCenter
- 3/16 — Palm Sunday — Rev. Haeran Kim at OnCenter
- 3/23 — Easter — Rev. Tom Babler in the sanctuary, Rev. Haeran Kim at OnCenter

## Daily Lenten Devotionals Available:

Take some time in this upcoming Lenten season to come together as a family and reflect upon your faith through a daily practice of Lenten Devotionals. “How Do I Thank you? Let Me Count the Ways” provides children and their families a chance to count the many ways that God blesses them and others throughout the year.

During each of the 40 days of Lent (Sundays excluded!), your family can read a small devotion together that includes a Scripture reading and prayer. Additionally, each reading will ask you to place a certain amount of change (1 cent for each day) into your Lenten “Thanks Box” (provided).

At the end of Lent, your Thanks Boxes will be collected, and the money will be sent to help children in Africa through the *Nothing But Nets* campaign.

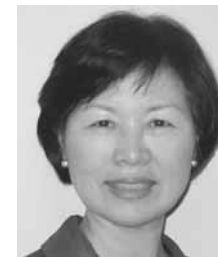
The devotional booklets and coin boxes are available in the church office or in your child’s Sunday school room beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

(For more information on Family Lenten Devotionals, please contact Beth Elders.)

## Let the music flow . . .

The Music Ministry of Community UMC invites you to join in one of our many wonderful ensembles! Lent is a perfect time to get involved in something dynamic and life-changing. We are in need of more singers, ringers, dancers, and instrumentalists. Please prayerfully consider how God could use you in the life of our music ministry. For more information, please contact Stephen Edwards at sedwards@communityunitedmethodist.org or at 630.355.1483 ex. 15.

## Pastor’s Note



Our Lenten journey begins. We have time now to make amends and change our ways, to get back to God and to become new and renewed people. The time is before us for a second chance. We are called to repent so that we may strengthen and deepen our relationship with God in Jesus’ love.

Following Jesus means everything about our life is different. The way we relate to others, the meaning we find in our life and how we look at life are different. Our decisions are affected about what to do on a day — to-day basis and who we choose to become, and about where we live and how we spend every minute.

### Let us pray.

Gracious God, as the trees in this cold February yet raise empty hands, shall we remind ourselves to dedicate sincere prayers. As we think of Jesus dying on the cross, sadness creeps into the corners of our hearts. As we look at ourselves and our sinfulness, it is through the grace of your love that we pray for forgiveness and reconciliation. As the trees not speaking a word, open our hearts and our ears to hear your voice.

Loving God, as the trees’ roots grow deep into the earth from which we draw deep and clear wisdom, let us search for the needs of others who are suffering so that we may reach out our hands to others. Without true repentance the real new day will never come in our hearts. Without your love, even though we walk a new path, we know that path will take us far way. As we look at the February trees yet without leaves, we pray from deep in our hearts.

Amen.

## Seeds for city gardens

The Hunger Commission will collect seeds for Chicago Housing Authority and for Marcy Newberry Center on February 17, 24, and March 2, 9. Senior Citizens at the CHA are already excited about receiving vegetable and flower seeds. They enjoy getting outdoors, exercising and socializing as they plant gardens all around the city.

Watch for the collection baskets outside the sanctuary and in the children’s and adults’ Sunday school classes, and bring lots of seed packets to help feed the hungry and beautify some barren city tracts.

Ruth Fawell

## How Shall We Worship?

### Biblical Guidelines for Worship

#### Led by Stephen Edwards

This concise book from the Vital Questions series provides to-the-point answers and presents the author’s viewpoint, while allowing room for reader thought and disagreement.

In *How Shall We Worship?* Marva Dawn turns to Psalm 96 to investigate key elements of worship, from music to liturgy. She reminds us about the importance of recognizing that worship is for God and not for us.

Worshippers of all ages are encouraged to participate in this enlightening study. We will meet on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-2:30pm starting February 12. Please contact Stephen Edwards via email at sedwards@communityunitedmethodist.org or via phone at 630.355.1483 by February 5 to reserve your spot in this exciting 6-week study. The cost of the book is \$10. If you can not attend every class, please do not let that stop you from being a part of this incredible study.



## KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY

P O Box 267-60200, MERU, Kenya  
Tel: 254-064-30301, 31229, 31171

Fax: 064-30162  
E-mail [yc@kemu.ac.ke](mailto:yc@kemu.ac.ke)

January 23, 2008

Rev. Thomas E. Babler  
Sr. Pastor  
Community United Methodist Church  
20 N. Center Street  
Naperville, IL 60540  
U.S.A.

Dear Rev. Babler,

Re: Appreciation

Receive warm greetings from KEMU.

It is with the utmost gratitude that we acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> January and the enclosed checks through the care of Prof. Lahi and Mrs. Yema Luhahi. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement during this time that our country is going through a period of violence and suffering, and for your prayers for peace and reconciliation. We are very grateful indeed for the service the Luhahis continue to give to our University and for their connecting you to the Methodist Church in Kenya. We give thanks also for the volunteer service of your congregants Mr. Clyde and Mrs. Joan Uebele.

The financial gift you have given us in support of the extension of the KEMU clinic into a health centre will go a very long way to help us achieve our objectives in this project including:

1. Improved service delivery to staff and students of KEMU;
2. Extension of the services given to the surrounding community;
3. Expansion into a teaching hospital where nursing and medical science programmes can be offered in consonance with government requirements that universities teaching medicine and nursing have their own teaching hospitals;
4. Provision of a medical research facility.

We are eagerly looking forward to meeting your Mission Team that is coming to KEMU. We wish you God's protection and care as you travel, and His blessing in all you do.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Mutum Mugambi, DSM., MBS.  
VICE CHANCELLOR

cc: Lahi & Yema Luhahi, Missionaries, GBGM  
Edson Burton, Administrative Board, Chairperson  
David & Barbara Korb, Mission Committee, Co-Chairpersons



*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](http://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  
Kate Walker

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*

**A**s 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.

## UMCOR Layette Kits collection a success!

Thank you to all CUMC members who supported the Kairos-sponsored mission project to collect items for UMCOR Layette Kits! We were able to provide the Chatham Distribution Center with 64 completed layette kits. That means, in approximately one month's time, we collected; 384 diapers, 128 diaper pins, 128 sleepers, 128 onesies, 128 receiving blankets, 128 washcloths, and 64 baby sweaters. With an estimated cost of \$35 per kit, that totals about \$2,240 in donations. Wow! A special thank you goes out to the UMW Knitting Circle who provided 19 hand knit sweaters to the cause! Thank you for giving your time, talents and your yarn. Another thank you goes out to Marianna McCauley, who diligently counted all the monetary donations that came into the office and kept Kairos informed so that we knew exactly how much shopping we could do. Thank you also to all of the church members who came on January 26<sup>th</sup> to help pack supplies and enjoy a night of games and pizza. It was loads of fun. Once again, CUMC came together to make good things happen!

—June Green

## A Lenten Small Group Study

Two Different Class Offerings (*find the one that fits your schedule!*):

- \* **Tuesday Evenings from 6:30-8:15** (beginning February 12<sup>th</sup>)
- \* **Wednesday Mornings from 9:30-11:15** (beginning February 13<sup>th</sup>)

### WHAT IS LIVING THE QUESTIONS?...

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic. CUMC is pleased to offer just such an environment this Lent through participation in Living the Questions, a small group study that has received national acclaim since its inception.

Living the Questions at CUMC is an 8-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.



### WEEKLY SESSIONS — Each session includes:

- conversations with leading theologians, church leaders, sociologists and biblical scholars
- sermon and lecture clips
- digital parables illustrating aspects of an evolving faith
- concrete spiritual practices (e.g., lectio divina, body prayer, journaling)
- spiritual disciplines (centering, openness, patience, etc.)
- suggestions for engagement in acts of social justice
- fresh, original jazz interpretations of classic hymns arranged by Barb Catlin
- other internet resources (including a glossary of traditional theological ideas reinterpreted for the 21st Century)

### Topics Include:

- Thinking Theologically
- Creativity & Stories of Creation
- Restoring Relationships
- Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love
- Intimacy with God
- A Kingdom without Walls
- Lives of Jesus
- Out Into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christianity

### FORMAT

The format of each 1 hour 45-minute session includes video, guided discussion, spiritual exercises and Bible study. The 30+ minute videos for each session will include conversation, sermon clips, lecture excerpts, and spiritual exercises for practical applications (including different forms of prayer and meditation, movement, walking the labyrinth, etc).

### Contributors:

Nancy Ammerman, John Bell, Marcus Borg, Minerva Carcaño, John B. Cobb, Jr., John Dominic Crossan, Heather Murray Elkins, Lloyd Geering, Leslie Griffiths, Stanley Hauerwas, Alan Ladd, Culver "Bill" Nelson, G. Lynn Nelson, Larry Powell, Siyoung Park, Stephen Patterson, Tex Sample, John Shelby Spong, Roger Strom, Emilie Townes, Regina Walker

**For more information or to RSVP for a class, please contact Beth Elders ([belders@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:belders@communityunitedmethodist.org) or 630/355-1483 ext. 14) - [www.livingthequestions.com](http://www.livingthequestions.com)**

## UMW book circle

February 20, at 7:30 p.m. is the date for the United Methodist Women's Book Group discussion of *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. Sally Hines will lead the discussion and Irene Schindel is the hostess. Irene lives at 5 Notre Dame Cr. in Naperville. Please call her at 630.355.1386 if you plan to attend.

## United Methodist Men

Baseball fans, young and old — spring training is just three months away. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 12. Join Phil Rogers, baseball guru, for another fun-filled night talking about the national pastime sponsored by the UM Men.

## Notes from CUMC's VIM team in Kenya

(To view the Community With Kenya blog – sign in to [communityunitedmethodist.org](http://communityunitedmethodist.org), and find the link on the bottom of the second page)

Dan Hartman writes...

I spoke with Laury yesterday (Sunday 1/27) via phone. It was brief but she said they are so busy that her head is spinning. She said it is an amazing place and the people are very special. I also heard from her via email this morning and they hope to be able to add more to the blog. They are feeling very blessed by the people of Meru and by CUMC.

### MONDAY (1/28) IN MERU

From Judy Burton - - Ed is able to send me messages with his Blackberry but not able to access the blog with a computer. "Tom and I are on our way to help another VIM group with their project which is behind and they need to leave Thursday. We are building a chicken coop at Yemi and Lahi's church so they can raise chickens and hens (eggs) for the poor. Still cannot access the internet. No electricity today, but maybe tonight. We are all fine...and what an amazing trip. I will need a week for every day to share the stories!"