



# Tidings

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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, March 8**  
5:00 pm Chapel  
Rev. Tom Babler, preaching

**Sunday, March 9 —**  
8:30 am and 11:00 am  
Sanctuary  
Rev. Tom Babler, preaching

Lenten Theme:  
**WHAT DOES IT MATTER?**

Week 5: Revival  
Scripture Readings:  
Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Then [the Lord] said to me,  
“Prophesy to these bones,  
and say to them:

“O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.”  
-Ezek. 37:3,4

On Center  
Contemporary Worship  
Roger Beitzel preaching  
Week 5: Revival

**Saturday, March 15**  
5:00 pm Chapel  
Rev. Haeran Kim, preaching

**Sunday, March 16**  
**Palm Sunday**  
Rev. Haeran Kim, preaching  
Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11 &  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

On Center  
Contemporary Worship  
Kate Walker, preaching  
Lent: What does it matter?  
Week 6: Paradox  
Text: Matthew 21:1-11

## Our Community

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

Prays with Beth and Jim Best after the death of Beth's niece, Ryanne Mace, in the shootings at Northern Illinois University on February 14. A memorial service was held on February 18 at Baker UMC in St. Charles

## Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday — March 16, 8:30 and 11:00 am** — All services will include processions with palms. On Maundy Thursday, March 20, at 6:30, participate in a shared meal and worship as Christ's final acts of service and the Last Supper are remembered. On Saturday, March 22, children in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to participate in Pretzels and Prayers from 10-12:00. Come and make homemade pretzels, learn the prayer-centered history of pretzels, and discover other ways to pray such as body prayers, musical prayers and memorized prayers. Easter Vigil, the Sacrament of Baptism and Communion will be held as well as traditional Scripture passages. This service will replace the regular 5:00 Saturday worship service.

On Sunday, March 23, Easter will begin with a sunrise service at 6:00 am held in the tent. Welcome Easter with word and music. A breakfast hosted by the United Methodist Men will follow in Fellowship Hall. Easter worship services will be held at traditional times of 8:30 am and 11:00 pm.

## March 20, 2008 6:30 p.m. — Fellowship Hall

Come join Community United Methodist Church on Maundy Thursday, March 20th, as we remember and actively participate in the symbols of Fellowship, Service, & Redemption through a Fellowship Meal, and by participating in the Services of Handwashing and Holy Communion.

The evening will begin at 6:30 with a catered dinner, as Christ's final meal is remembered, shared with his disciples; participating in that act as all eat together.

Immediately after the meal, we will take part in an informal worship service, remembering Christ's acts of servanthood as we take part in a Handwashing Service, and his final acts of redemption as we participate in Holy Communion.

Make this Holy Week come alive to you and your family by attending this transformative experience on Maundy Thursday. As we eat, sing, and pray together we will remember our call to be a unified people serving one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

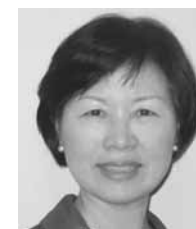
For more information, or to RSVP for this event, please contact Beth Elders (belders@communityunitedmethodist.org or call the church office).

(This is a family-friendly event; all are welcome regardless of age. Childcare is provided for children under two.)

## Mississippi ReBuild Mission Trip

Dick Legg, Betsy Roche Judy Allen, Joan Uebele and Pat Spencer are on a Mission trip to Gulfport, Mississippi to continue the rebuilding efforts. They will return on March 8th. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Pastor's Note



Rice is symbolically very important to the whole country of Korea. It was a staple food in that country, at least when I was growing up there. Of course, things change and many people now try to eat a simple breakfast and other things, but rice is still eaten in many homes for all three meals. People say if they have rice and kimchee (fermented vegetable), they have a basic meal.

Christians practice their faith with rice in Korea. Whenever they cook, they set aside one more person's rice in a bag before they begin cooking. This means that three times a day, a person's rice will be saved in a bag. It is like every Christian household has one more person in their family. When the bag is filled, they bring the rice bag or the money it is worth to the church.

It is a practical offering to the church that is done very naturally with rice which is life. The church uses the money or the rice bag for church expense, staff salary or church mission. The rice was called "Holy Rice." The idea of practicing the giving of the "Holy Rice" connects home and church with faith so that they naturally have thoughts of taking care of church as their part of home. Some portion of the "Holy Rice" goes to the denomination for mission. I would name that "apportionment" in the United Methodist Church. As they faithfully practice giving the "Holy Rice," they also express their gratitude at any opportunity with special offerings, for example, thankfulness of birthday, entering college, finding a job, anniversary, you name it. Through Community Church, I learned of "First Mile Giving," which is the church operating budget includes apportionment that is assigned to the denomination, United Methodist Church.

"Our apportionment goes to the World Service Fund to empower our denomination's evangelistic efforts, stimulate Bible study and spiritual commitment, encourage church growth and discipleship and help God's children everywhere. The apportionment goes to the Ministerial Education Fun to help those who answer the call to ministry to lead them to proclaim God's word in the world. Bishops have always had a very special role in our church through overseeing and promoting the church's spiritual and temporal interests as well. The 11 U.S. historically Black colleges and universities supported by the United Methodist Church have played a unique role in U.S. higher education. Their graduates are leaders in the African-American community and in a rapidly changing, more diverse United States. We United Methodists acknowledge that we are but a small part of the worldwide Christian church the living body of Christ." From the flyer, *The People of the United Methodist Church*.

Friends, when you cook meals for your family, how about setting aside the cost of one more person's meal. This would be, symbolically, feeding one more person in your family.

When the piggy bank is filled, take it to the church as a "Holy Meal." Your holy meal will connect your home and your church with your faith and love.

That is the "First Mile Giving".

## We worship together . . . .

On March 30 CUMC will come together in combined worship. There will be two services on Sunday morning, March 30 in the sanctuary, and both of those services will include OnCenter and Traditional worshippers.

A rehearsal for a Praise Choir will meet following the Maundy Thursday (3/20) service for thirty to forty-five minutes and also on March 27 from 7:00-8:00pm in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to sing in the praise choir!!!

## Short-Term Disciple Bible Study: Invitation to the Old Testament

*An 8-week exploration into the writings of the Old Testament*

**Wednesday Mornings, 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

**Tuesday Evenings, 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

*Two Class Sessions — Find the class that fits your schedule!*

Short-Term Disciple Bible Study, Invitation to the Old Testament invites participants to hear the story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many voices of the biblical text. It then invites us to discover how our stories are interconnected with *the* Story as contained in the Old Testament texts.

What does it mean to be God's chosen people? And how does the story of Israel's covenant with God inform our own identity as heirs of that covenant? Through this study, participants will be invited to listen afresh to the witness of the Old Testament to hear God's call and purpose for their own lives and respond to that call.

### Sessions Include:

- |                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. The Making of the Hebrew Bible  | 5. Israel Has a King                 |
| 2. The Creation Story of Israel    | 6. Division and the Rise of Prophecy |
| 3. Out of Bondage                  | 7. Exile and Response                |
| 4. Promise and Problem in the Land | 8. Restoration and Renewal           |

For more information, or to register for a class session, please contact Beth Elders (belders@communityunitedmethodist.org or call the church office at 630/355-1483).

## United Methodist Women

**Book Circle** — The March 19 selection is "Ladies Auxiliary" by Tova Mirvis, at 7:30 p.m. Mary Babler will lead the discussion while Mari Schirmer at 7S348 Baltusrol Lane will be the hostess. Please call Mari, (630)355-8532 if you will attend. New readers are always welcome.

## Seed Drive

Donate vegetable and flower seed packets to fill the baskets in the halls and Sunday School classrooms. You can also donate money, and the Hunger Commission will buy the seeds. Checks can be made out to "CUMC — Seed Project". The Seed Project will provide nutrition, beauty, exercise and socialization to many Chicago Housing Authority residents. The Seed Drive ends March 9.

## Community Players

Community Players' spring show is *Arsenic and Old Lace*. The Players performed this show 25 years ago; Ollie Taylor, who will direct this spring, played Mortimer. Auditions will be this Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2:00 p.m. and Monday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in room 202 (the stage). Auditions will be readings from the script, and performances will be May 9, 10, 16, and 17.



*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

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*

**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.

## Small group offerings following Lent Claiming the Promise

An Ecumenical Welcoming Bible Study Resource on Homosexuality "In this study we will explore what it means for those among us who are lesbian and gay Christians to claim kinship as daughters and sons of God. We will seek to listen to and understand the different assumptions and beliefs that keep some of us from affirming the reality of that promise for lesbian women and gay men.

As we try to solve this dilemma in the life of the church, we naturally turn to the Bible to discern God's Word. Yet it is some of the words of the Bible that create this dilemma for some Christians today. We are called to sort through those specific — and perhaps troubling — biblical references prayerfully, as we seek to discern God's living, healing, saving Word.

We will study the issues that are embedded in this current church dilemma, not as an academic exercise, but as a dialogical discernment process that can literally save lives. As we study, may we continually be reminded that people who live and work and worship among us are personally affected by this current church dilemma and by our responses to God's promise."

Come learn why we claim the name "reconciling"!

Time: Every Tuesday 12:00-1:30 p.m. for seven weeks.

April 15th – May 27th, 2008

Room: 101

The Cost of the Book is \$6.50

Child care provided.

Please contact Haeran Kim at 630-335-1483 ex.13

## Professor Frank Spina to present lecture at Community March 26

Through a special relationship with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, you can view a live video presentation of **Professor Frank Spina's** lecture on "*Progressive and Evangelical in a Post Christian World*" on the large screen in the sanctuary of **Community United Methodist Church 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 26.** Dr. Barry Bryant, the Jim and Sharon Walker Associate professor of Wesley and Methodist Studies at Garrett-Evangelical, will be present to provide background information prior to the lecture and lead a discussion at the conclusion of Spina's remarks. Dr. Spina's lecture will begin at 7 p.m. The lecture is free of charge and open to everyone.

Professor Spina is one of the speakers in a two day conference at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary entitled, "Distinguished Scholars, Church Leaders Slated for Conference Exploring 'Progressive and Evangelical in Post-Christian World.'" During the conference, a slate of seven distinguished scholars and church leaders explore what it means to be both progressive and evangelical in the early 21st century — and why blending these two impulses is vital for religious and social renewal. The conference will examine how evangelism is, first and foremost, a call to Christian discipleship; how it is integral to the nurture and instruction in the Christian faith; how evangelization at its fullest expression is the virtuous practice of the Christian faith.

Frank Spina, professor of Old Testament and biblical theology, Seattle Pacific University, has published extensively, including "The Faith of the Outsider: Inclusion and Exclusion in the Biblical Tradition" and is a frequent speaker at clergy conferences, churches, and universities; he serves as associate priest at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Bellevue, Washington.

Barry Bryant is the Jim and Sharon Walker Associate Professor of Wesley and Methodist Studies at Garrett-Evangelical. Ordained in 1984, he has served as pastor, chaplain and professor. While pastor of Brooklands Church of the Nazarene in Manchester, England in 1985-87, he was an adjunct professor of Old Testament at Nazarene Theological College at The University of Manchester. After graduating from Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville and earned a Master of Divinity at Duke Divinity School, 1980-83, and a Ph.D. at King's College London in London, 1989-92. He was elected a member of the University of London Convocation by the university Senate in 1992. Most recently he was Associate Professor and Chair of Wesleyan Studies at Memphis Theological Seminary.

This event is sponsored by Community United Methodist Church and the Office of the Chaplain at North Central College. Rev. Tom Babler is a member of the Board of Trustees at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.