



Tidings from Community United Methodist Church July, 2008

Please enjoy all the news from CUMC. The topics below show how the news is organized.

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For more information about Community United Methodist Church please call the church office at 630-355-1483 or visit www.communityunitedmethodist.org.

Pastor's Note – Rev. Haeran Kim

“Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil.”
-Ephesians 5:15-16

How is your summer?

Summer makes us to think that we can relax without school, looking forward to vacation and without many regular programs. Suddenly our conversation goes like this, “it seems summer time flies by faster.” We need wise voices telling us how to use the time we are given. We need wise counsel helping us to balance all the demands on our time. We need wisdom to help us with the deepest issues of time when we face the limits of our time on earth and the reality of life's finitude.

What will you do with the time you have? We among friends often talk about life being like driving down the highway. What we mean by this is that when we are young, our life speed is like 20 miles an hour. That means we have a long way to go. If we are in our 60's and 70's, we realize that time is flying by much faster. Our time is more limited

In this summer I read the Biblical passage that gives us advise, “to make the most of the time,” to remember the Sabbath, and keep it holy wherever we will be. The Sabbath is about rest and the enjoyment of God's good creation. It is about pausing to reflect on the gift of life. Although time is finite, we have all the time we need, and we need all the time we have. Time is like a current in a river, whether slow-moving or fast-flowing, or the rhythm which lies beneath the melody of music. We need to make the most of our time, to be filled with the Spirit and sing psalms and hymns and time with songs of praise and thanksgiving. We do with the time we are given and we are called who we are and what we believe.

Worship News

Chapel worship, 5:00 pm—Saturday

- Saturday, July 12 –** Rev. Haeran Kim preaching
- Saturday, July 19 -** Rev. Tom Babler preaching
- Saturday, July 26 -** Preacher TBA

Traditional Worship in the Park at 8:30 and in the sanctuary 10:30—Sunday

- Sunday, July 13 –** Rev. Haeran Kim preaching
- Sunday, July 20 -** Rev. Tom Babler preaching
- Sunday July 27-** Rev. Barbara Ross preaching

On Center/Contemporary Worship in the Tent, 11:00—Sunday

- Sunday, July 13 -** Rev. Al Streyfeller preaching
- Sunday, July 20 -** Rev. Beth Elders preaching
- Sunday, July 27 -** Rev. Tom Babler preaching

Holy Communion served on the first Sunday of the month
Sunday School at 9:30 am
Child care—At all services

CUMC prayer gathering – Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Chapel

Each Wednesday for a short service of prayer and song in the chapel.

Community UMC's Summer Schedule began June 8.

- Sunday worship services will be at 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and Tent.
- Community UMC will hold Summer in the Park in July. The 8:30 a.m. worship service will be held in Central Park, just south of the church.
- Children's Sunday School will be offered during 10:30 worship. Classes for 2- and 3-year olds will be in room 207, and for age 4 through 5th grade in Fellowship Hall.
- The school-year schedule will resume August 24.

CUMC's Joys and Concerns

We pray for our troops and their families: Christopher Coyle, John Ferrin, Joseph Pitonyak, Bryce Pope, Andrew Dean Russell, Erik Schultz, and Vincent Simonetti.

Our sympathy

to Bonnie McLaughlin and family of Don McLaughlin, who passed away on June 22. A memorial service was held at Community UMC on June 28.

to George Smith and the family and friends of Glenna Smith, who passed away on June 27. A memorial service will be held at Community UMC on July 17.

to Sally McFaul after the death of her uncle, Charles Jennings.

to Mary Elliott and Sue Frankson after the death of their grandmother, Izora Erickson, on June 27

We celebrate the births of:

Naomi Gruber Cann on June 29 to Patricia Gruber and Marty Cann. Proud big brother is Benjamin.

Wyatt Robert Kraskiewicz on June 30 to Jenna and Brian Kraskiewicz. Zink and Martha Sanders are the proud grandparents.

Rylee Darlene Christiansen on July 3 to Kari and Craig Christiansen. Proud grandmother is Peggy Gaskins.

Upcoming Special Events, Fellowship and Spirituality

UMM plan reception

Plan to celebrate with Jim and Prudy Sheldon on July 20th following the 10:30 service. Jim and Prudy, long-time Community UMC members and active at the District and Conference levels of the UMC as well as the local church, will be moving to the Otterbein Retirement Community in Lebanon, OH. Join them in Fellowship Hall for light refreshments and a chance to say goodbye

TEEN Knitting and supper - Monday July 14th

Young Knitters Wanted: The Knitting Circle wants junior high and senior high ladies to join ANY of the weekly Monday 7 p.m. meetings. They are especially invited to the Teen Knitting and Supper Night on Monday July 14th at 6 p.m. There will be a Taco Bar and Ice Cream Sundae Bar so everyone can choose their own ingredients. We'll have supper together and then chat and knit, crochet ...and chat.

Bring your girlfriends, moms, grandmas, and neighbors! There's yarn, needles and instruction available if you'd like to learn how to knit or crochet. Experienced knitters are welcome, too. Reserve for July 14 dinner: e-mail krazinski@ntsource.com or call Mary Markwell at 815-436-7414.

If you can't make it on July 14th, stop by any Monday night in the church parlor between 7 and 8:30 p.m. to see what the Knitting Circle is all about - - it's like an open house every Monday, year round.

Trustees

The Board of Trustees along with the entire congregation thanks John Klein-Collins who has volunteered to lead the effort in mowing the grass and taking care of the landscaping around the entire Church building and the Parsonage on Benton. John has been working with members of the Youth since early May to keep the grounds looking good. Thanks John!

The Trustees have worked with members of the Finance Committee to secure funding to re-roof our entire Church building. The Ad Board was presented and approved a proposal to refinance the mortgage of the parsonage on Sara Lane to provide the necessary funds. The project is expected to cost between \$85,000 and \$95,000. A bid has been approved by the Board of Trustees and work is expected to begin on or around August 1st.

Working with the Christian Education Committee, the Trustees have completed the installation of chair rails and repainting the children's classrooms. Along with the new tables and chairs, the classrooms provide an inviting space for our children. Special thanks to all the Sunday School teachers in preparing the rooms and to Jim McCloud for leading this project on behalf of the Trustees.

The Trustees have created a sub-team to evaluate capital needs projects to maintain our facilities. Bill Denwood and Eric Pfeiffer will lead this effort. It is anticipated that the list will include projects such as HVAC, tuck pointing the church, and fire and electric code compliance needs.

Over the past two years, room 204 and the garage at 105 E. Benton have been used to temporarily store items from many ministry teams. Room 204 has been cleaned out, but there are many items left in the garage. If your team is storing items in the garage, please work with the Trustees and Office Staff to find a permanent home for them. Items left in the garage beyond August 15th will be considered for donation.

We are in need of help in maintaining the yard at the parsonage on Sara Lane. If you can help with mowing and upkeep (mower and gas provided ☺), please contact Eric Pfeiffer, Bill Denwood, or Ed Cotner.

If you have questions or comments for the Trustees, please email us at Trustees@CommunityUnitedMethodist.org.

Worship

Worship Support Team - An easy way to feel you are a part of CUMC is to volunteer for service in the area of Worship Support. For the upcoming fall season, please consider serving in one of the following areas:

- Communion Server – serve communion on one of the first Sunday's of the month, or on special occasions such as Christmas and Easter
- Communion Steward – provide communion elements for one of the first Sunday's of the month
- Ushers – usher with one of the five teams on a rotating basis

Instructions will be provided for any of the above positions. Please contact the church office with your preference of service time.

Martha Sanders
Worship Support Chair

The Community Swingers

Just two games left! Our last games of the season are July 15 and 29 at Calvary Church on Rte 59, 6:30 pm. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the game!

Social Concerns and Missions

If you would like to be on Missions email list and receive up to date information on mission progress and activities at CUMC please email Dave Korb at korb@d@yahoo.com.

Joy Sobczak is on a VIM trip to Iowa from June 26 to 29 to help with the flood aftermath as part of the North Central Jurisdictional Response. Please keep her, and all the people impacted by these recent disasters, in your prayers.

Christian Education for Adults

Disciple I and III will be offered this fall. Register your interest on the sign-up sheets outside the Sanctuary and in the Tent, or by contacting Beth Elders in the office.

Christian Education for Children



United Vacation Bible School 2008

United Vacation Bible School, a joint ministry of CUMC, Wesley UMC, and 1st Congregational UCC churches, was held June 23rd-26th. The approx. 95 children who attended had a "surfin" good time while they sang songs, did science experiments, made crafts, played games, ate snacks, and immersed themselves into the Bible stories through drama – all which helped them learn Bible stories and then connect them to their everyday lives. The UVBS Steering Committee would like to thank the numerous volunteers who helped to make this year's ministry such a huge success. Mark your calendars now for United Vacation Bible School 2009 – June 22nd-25th



(Photos courtesy of Toni Reiss)

EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN CUMC'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES FOR 2008-2009!!!



Beginning on Rally Day (August 24th), CUMC will be unveiling two exciting new additions to our children's ministries.

At the 9:30 hour, our children's Sunday school (4 years old through 5th grade) will be learning how to "Build a Heart of Faith" with the new Sunday school curriculum **Rock Solid**. **Rock Solid** engages young hearts and minds with age-appropriate multisensory activities, crafts, stories, and games, all designed to give children an opportunity to know God through Jesus and experience life-changing transformation. (Children in the 2 and 3 year-old class will continue growing in faith through the *Toddlers and Twos* curriculum.)

At the 11:00 hour, CUMC will debut a Children's Chapel model of worship education for children ages two through 3rd grade. Using the curriculum **Kids Own Worship**, children will worship through fun songs and exciting hand-on Bible learning experiences; celebrating God's power and unconditional love in a developmentally-appropriate way. (Children's Chapel/**Kids Own Worship** will take place at both the CUMC and Meiley Swallow locations.) In order to make any of these exciting ministries possible, we are in need of adult and youth volunteers! Worship

Leaders and Teachers are needed for the 11:00 ministries, and Lead Teachers and Assistant Teachers are needed for the 9:30 ministries. There is a place for you! Come have fun while making a difference in a child's journey of faith! Contact Beth Elders (belders@communityunitedmethodist.org) or any Christian Education Committee Member to sign up to help or for more information.

PARENTS: Mark your calendars now for our **CUMC Children's Ministries Informational Session** on August 3rd immediately following the 10:30 worship services. During this brief, informal time together, the CE Committee will share information about the 2008-2009 Children's Ministry changes and address any questions (*Watch your mailboxes for more information*).

Prayer at CUMC

So, I said that I would write something about prayer for the Tidings. But...I don't really know where to begin! And WHY am I writing this?!?! I think I'm writing this to encourage us all in prayer, and to share a few reflections. I certainly don't want to write a treatise on prayer, because no one would read it anyways and it'd probably be boring. Oh - but isn't that exactly what most of us feel about prayer - that it's BORING?! After all, it's hard to sit still and pray, to stay focused, and to set aside time in our busy schedules for some kind of stagnant activity in which we seldom see any results. Right? WRONG!!!

Do you want to experience power? The Bible says that "the fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful." (James 5) Do you want to see change? In 1 John 5, we're assured that prayer changes things and makes things happen. Do you want to be more like Christ? Then you need only look to the example of His prayer-filled life to see the importance He placed on prayer. Jesus also tells us that "if you ask anything in my name, I will do it", and Hebrews 10 says that we should not neglect meeting together and praying for one another. With so much admonition in Scripture, why don't we pray more?!

Perhaps it's because we don't truly believe in prayer's power. We haven't yet learned how to approach God in a unity of spirit and in a trust in His will. Perhaps we've not seen our prayers answered as we'd like. Maybe it's just that we don't make prayer a first priority in our day, and then all the little details of life squeeze it out. Whatever the cause, Jesus does tell us to pray. And Paul tells us to pray. The entire Bible tells us to pray! And that's the main reason I do it - out of obedience, I guess. Also, though, I've experienced God in prayer (WOW!), and I've seen amazing results, and prayers answered in my life.

Last fall, in his "Pastor's Note" in the Tidings, Tom asked the question: "Can we become a more prayerful church?" He particularly was writing around all of the concerns re. our facilities, and decisions which needed to be made. Tom reminded us of our special need for wisdom and guidance at that time, and asked us, as Community Church, to "wrap the facilities conversation in prayer." Thus, a Wednesday evening prayer gathering was birthed - half an hour of coming before God in intentional prayer. I believe great fruit has been born of this intentional praying for one another and for our church.

And so I ask you: Will you pray? Will you help to wrap our church in prayer, and join you heart and voice with others as we lift our needs to God? John Wesley said "The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion." It's wonderful to pray alone (and we should), but we also need to be praying with one another. A brief look at the book of Acts will convince you of that!

I have a book entitled "The Kneeling Christian", which has truly inspired me. In the book, the author states, "Praying only in secret may be a hindrance. Children of a family shouldn't always meet their father separately. It is remarkable how often our Lord refers to united prayer - "agreed" prayer. He told us to pray "Our Father", and said "If two of you shall join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst."

Wednesdays at 6:30 may not be a good time for you to attend. Please let us know when a better time would be, if you think that you'd like to come and pray with others sometimes! We pray for individual needs, world needs, and, of course, church needs. In the words of Steven Curtis Chapman: "Let us pray, Let us pray. Everywhere in every way. Every moment of the day, it is the right time! For the Father above, He is listening with love. And He wants to answer us, so let us pray!" God bless us all, Nancy Snell

Community UMC Prayer Team

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

It is a common belief that prayer is beneficial to those in need. Further, many believe that intercessory prayer is also beneficial to those doing the praying. It offers us the daily opportunity to be in touch with our sisters and brothers in Christ and to share in their joys and sorrows. This strengthens our love for others and deepens the level of caring in Community. Our prayer chain is a small group that meets daily in the spiritual sense, but rarely in the physical sense. Many want to be part of this prayer chain because they wish to help people in need, but prayer team members are finding blessings in their own lives as a result of their daily prayers. Isn't that just like our God?

I heard the voice of God saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Then I answered, "Here I am! Send me." Isaiah 6:8

Community UMC Prayer Team is in need of some new members. To find out more, please contact Mary Jacobs at mjacobs@communityunitedmethodist.org; or call the church office at 630-355-1483.

Stephen Ministry

Summertime and Stephen Ministers are Active

Just because it is summer and many members of our congregation are enjoying vacation time, it does not mean that our Stephen Ministry program is inactive. All of our Stephen Ministers are currently assigned to care receivers and are continuing to deliver "distinctively Christian caregiving" within our community. Many Stephen Ministers continue contact through email and telephone while out of town so that no one needing their presence is left untended.

Stephen Ministers base their care on the Caregiver's Compass, which was designed by Stephen Ministries of St. Louis – the group that trains Stephen Leaders and provides the materials for training Stephen Ministers. The compass has Jesus as its center and the source of the power for the caring ministry. The four points of the compass remind Stephen Ministers that they are:

- Compassionate – able to share the sufferings of their care receivers;
- Full of faith – relying solely on God to be the one who heals all wounds;
- Skilled – knowing how to listen, understand and empathize;
- Trustworthy – maintaining confidentiality, visiting care receivers regularly, and remaining committed to their ministry.

If you or anyone you know needs the comfort and care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Mary Jacobs or Tom Babler for more information.

Regular Weekly Meeting Schedule

Check church calendar at www.communityunitedmethodist.org – "calendar" – lower right hand corner.

Special Events at CUMC

During the week of July 20 – 7-25 – the International Calligraphy Conference, which is meeting on the campus of North Central College, will be using classrooms at CUMC from 8:00 am – 11:00 pm. Preceding the classes, there will be a reception for calligraphers from all over the world in Fellowship Hall on 7/18. There will be displays in the parlor and in the library, which is open to the public.

Finance

The church's finances consist of 5 categories

- The First Mile or Operating Budget
- The Second Mile or Designated Giving
- The Third mile or Church Mortgage
- Other Funds or In and Out
- Capital Reserve Fund

Last month's eTidings had an article explaining the First Mile, Operating Budget, so it can be referred to for this category. That report indicated that 85% of our income comes from envelope giving. This year 233 units pledged \$773,000.

The Second Mile, Designated Giving, is included in the annual Stewardship Program in the Fall. The Mission Committee, each year, determines which mission projects will be included. Members can pledge to any or all of these projects. The Mission Committee then decides when the funds in these projects are transferred. This year there are 21 of these projects which cover local to international missions and 89 units pledged \$78,000.

The Third Mile, Church Mortgage, was established in March of 2002 in the amount of \$480,000. This was at the end of the Accessibility Project which added the elevator, bathrooms, chapel, school rooms and the new entrance. This mortgage has been paid down to about \$240,000. Pledges to the Third Mile have declined over the years. This year the pledged amount is \$30,000 by 55 units. The annual mortgage payment is \$39,000 and there is a carryover fund from previous years to pay this difference, at least for a few more years.

Other Funds, In and Out. These funds, or accounts, are for keeping track of the various monies that are collected by the church and passed on to their recipients. The offerings at Christmas, Easter, One Great Hour, and the like are used here. This year there are 31 of these accounts. Some are on-going and some are used for a special purpose only once.

Capital Reserve Fund This fund is used by the Trustees for capital improvements that are outside of the normal scope of maintenance in the Operating Budget. Redoing a room, fixing the boiler and broken pipes, etc. Money for this fund has come from two sources: Refinancing the mortgage on the parsonage at 707 Sara Lane and the CUMC Foundation. Money from the Foundation was recently used to buy chairs for the Sunday School rooms. The parsonage mortgage was recently refinanced to provide money for the new church roof.



Sunday, July 20, 4:00 pm

Grace UMC in Naperville, 300 E. Gartner Road, Naperville, IL

Tickets: 630-355-1748

In the first U.S. concert tour, the children in this amazing choir are capturing hearts. Playing to audiences of over 1,000 people in New England in June, the choir received 5 standing ovations in a concert at Yale University. The Jirani Children's Choir will be in Northern Illinois Conference for eight concerts. Don't miss this event of the summer.