



Tidings from Community United Methodist Church

September, 2008

For more information about Community United Methodist Church please call the church office at 630-355-1483 or visit www.communityunitedmethodist.org. The church calendar is also on-line now – visit www.communityunitedmethodist.org and click the “Calendar” link in the lower-right corner.

CUMC Welcomes Dr. Emery Percell

Pastor Emery Percell has joined the CUMC staff as interim senior pastor during Tom Babler's renewal leave of absence beginning September 1. We warmly welcome him.

Emery's roots run deep in the Northern Illinois Conference. His work is well known to many including members of our staff. We are very happy that he is willing to share some of his retirement time with us.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

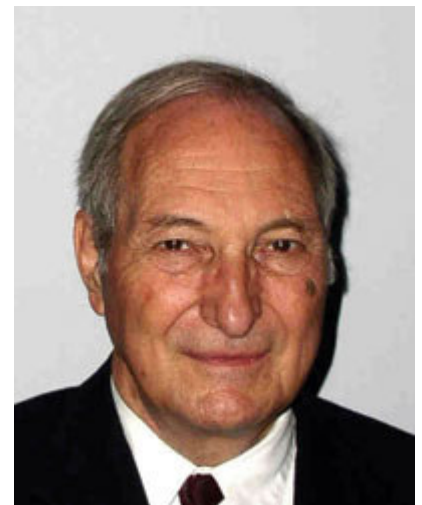
About Emery

Dr. Percell, a resident of Chicago, IL, received the BA (magna cum laude) from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, the Master of Divinity from the Iliff School of Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry from the University of Chicago. While a student at the University of Chicago, he was a University Fellow in New Testament and wrote on "The Authority of the Bible in the Church."

Originally ordained as Elder in the Rocky Mountain Conference of the Methodist Church in 1961, Dr. Percell transferred to the Northern Illinois Conference in 1963, where he served six churches until his retirement in 2004. His pastoral assignments included 17 years in university settings as he worked in parishes adjacent to the University of Chicago and Northwestern University campuses. Among other teaching responsibilities, Dr. Percell has been an instructor at the University of Chicago Divinity School and Garrett Evangelical Seminary. He also served the Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA as the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, 2005-2006. He is currently teaching United Methodist Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary.

Dr. Percell is known for his ecumenical commitments, having served as president of the Hyde Park Council of Churches and Synagogues, the Greater Rockford Clergy Association, and the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council. Dr. Percell has received numerous awards, including Alumnus of the Year at Iliff School of Theology, the Asbury Award for Extraordinary Service to Higher Education in The United Methodist Church, and a Lilly Foundation Award for "being one of the 100 pastors in the denomination most effective in influencing persons to choose ordained ministry." He was elected as a delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church in 1996 and 2000.

Dr. Percell's spouse for over 50 years, Betty Ann, passed away two and a half years ago. He has four children, including a daughter who is director of a Nursery School in Santa Rosa; a son who is a business executive living in Tustin, CA; a daughter who is pastor of the Waterman United Methodist Church; and a son who is a rancher in Colorado. He also has five grandchildren.



Worship News

Weekly Worship Schedule

Chapel Worship is held on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Traditional Worship is held in the Sanctuary on Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. OnCenter Contemporary Worship is held in Meiley-Swallow Hall, 31 S. Ellsworth (one block south and east of the church) on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Child care for children up to age 2 is available in the Nursery during all worship services, and for children age 2 and 3 in room 207 during 11:00 Sunday worship.

Senior Outreach Services

Community UMC provides two monthly services for persons who find attending Sunday services difficult. The Reminiscence Service, for persons with Alzheimer's, is held on the second Tuesday each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The Senior Assisted Living Service, providing worship and fellowship for homebound persons, is the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. These services welcome all. Please contact Sally McFaul to offer your gifts at these services.

Chapel Prayer Gathering

Our Prayer Gathering meets in the chapel on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. to sing and to pray silently or aloud, for our world and our congregation. It's great to be together in the presence of God – come and see!

Inquirers Classes

Classes for persons interested in joining Community UMC will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel on Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, 12, and 19, for persons joining on Oct. 26. If you – or someone you know – are interested in joining or in attending the class, contact Mary Jacobs, one of the pastors, or the church office.

Joys and Concerns

Our Sympathy

- ✝ To the family of Neville Diamond, after the death of his mother, Cynthia Diamond, on August 8.
- ✝ To the family of John Vass, after the death of his brother.
- ✝ To the family of Bill Denwood, after the death of his mother, Jean Denwood, on August 27.

Other News

We have received word that John Ferrin, the son of Jean Kosiara, has returned from Iraq.

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

Upcoming Fellowship Events

Senior Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet at Pancake Café on Rickert Road on Tuesday, September 16 at 11:30 a.m. Come and share good food and fellowship, and invite a friend! Please RSVP to Gertie Brown by September 15.

United Methodist Women

The UMW Evening Outreach Circle will begin its fall schedule with a potluck on Tuesday, September 16, at the home of Mari Schirmer. Over the course of the year, the group will discuss the three studies recommended by the National UMW, along with other topics. They will begin with a biography of Susanna Wesley. Contact Mari at (630)355-8532 with questions.

The UMW Book Circle will begin the fall season with a 6:30 p.m. potluck on Wednesday, September 17, at the home of Sally Hines, 1417 Durness Ct., Naperville. "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini is the selected book. If you enjoy reading and discussing the book afterward, you are warmly invited to try us out. Please contact Marty Schwab at (630)369-9544 if you plan to attend.

The UMW's Fall Potluck is Wednesday, Sept. 24. Kim Cosentino of Declutterbox.com will offer tips to help you get organized. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7:00 p.m. Bread, desserts, and beverages are provided; please bring a dish to share. Childcare is available; please contact the office by Sept. 17 to reserve it.

The UMW Knitting Circle has completed 185 prayer shawls and 96 other items, like premie baby sweaters and hats. They meet every Monday night, 7-8:30 p.m. in the church parlor to knit, crochet, and chat. Join them soon.

CWU Human Rights Retreat

Church Women United's Human Rights Retreat is Friday, Sept. 19 from 9:30 to 2:00 at Knox Presbyterian Church. "God's Wisdom Honors Children" is the worship and program theme. The program will include the presentation of the Human Rights Award to Dian Nilan, founder of HEAR US, Inc. and former Director of Hesed House. Actress Annette Baldwin will portray Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, in a presentation on Hull House activities. The cost is \$10, which includes a catered lunch. Mail your registration check made out to "CWU Naperville" to Mary O'Keefe, 6 S. Wright St., Naperville, IL 60540 by September 15. Please bring non-perishable food, which will be donated to Hesed House. Contact Liz Bradley with questions.

Youth and College Students

Youth Director Nick Giannasi invites parents of youth to “Parents and Pizza” during Youth Fellowship on Sunday, Sept. 28. Share some time and pizza and talk with Nick during Junior High YF at 2:00 p.m., or Senior High YF at 4:30 p.m. Parents are also invited to talk with Nick between YF times, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. – youth may want to visit the rehearsal of Sine Nomine, the youth choir, during that time.

The North Central College Outreach Ministry would like to include Community UMC young adults who are away at college. This program sends cards (and sometimes cakes) to students on their birthdays and other special days. Parents are asked to send contact information for their students to the church office.

Ministry Reports

Community Cares Celebrates 15 Years!

Now – you all know what Community Cares is, right? This is a vital caring ministry provided to families when a loved one dies. When the family requests a meal, this fantastic group of people provides a meal. For 15 years, many dedicated volunteers have cooked, worked during the day, and made phone calls, to make this ministry work. Now there is a great opportunity for people to join the present teams – and there’s a place wherever you can serve.

There is a need for: workers (during the actual day); callers (those who will call for food contributions); those who could prepare homemade desserts and/or salads for the meal.

The uniqueness of this volunteer opportunity is – you may not be called at all – or you may be called upon 2-3 times in a year. The beauty is – you are giving such a gift to the bereaved family. Carol O’Neill and Liz Bradley will happily answer any of your questions.

FYI – 15 years ago Carol O’Neill presented the idea of a “Care Team” – offering this wonderful ministry for families. Carol has headed up this team, now called Community Cares for the past 15 years and has worked along with countless other volunteers. This truly is a “community” who cares!

Hospitality Opening New Doors

To extend the same welcoming hospitality provided at North Center at the hospitality and information tables, a similar set up has been created at OnCenter. All supplies are located on site; the donuts ordered and information about church events ready to go at Meiley Swallow...what is needed are enthusiastic, energetic, friendly hosts to make it all happen! Individuals, couples, small groups, Sunday school classes, ministry teams, anyone and everyone are invited to sign up to host the table this upcoming year. Join the welcoming face(s) of CUMC at Meiley Swallow and sign up now at the OnCenter information table, at the North Center hospitality table, or by contacting Mary Jacobs or Judy Burton.

Finance

August Finance Report

A complete report for August for the 1st Mile is not available at press time. Income for August was \$73,458 which is the best August since 2003. Total income through August is \$615,353. If this rate of income continues the total for the year would be \$925,000. This would be close to last year. However, this does not mean that Apportionment would be paid in full. Expenses will be harder to control this year, due to cost increases, especially the utilities.

We renewed our CD, in the amount of \$44,000, at Park National Bank for 7 months at a rate of 3.60%. It expires on April 2, 2009.

Another Word about Apportionment

Last month we learned that our Conference assigns its budget to each District which then apportions this amount to its churches by a Board of Stewards, made up of the church Finance Chairs. How do they do it?

Each church in our District, about 65, submits their total gross expenditures every year. The last 4 years, minus the peak year are averaged. This average is multiplied by a size factor determined by the expenditures to determine the gross expenditure for each church.

These expenditures are added together to make a gross base for the District. Each church's gross expenditure is then determined as a percentage of the gross base. That percentage is used to calculate the individual church's apportionment share of the District's budget.

The final apportionment, per church, is determined by limiting any increase from last year to 25% and some rounding to make the monthly apportionment payment in even dollars.

Elmer Schirmer
Chairman of the Finance Committee

One Community Campaign

As of September 12, the One Community Campaign for the Meiley-Swallow Hall Lease has payments and pledges totalling \$35,077, just over half-way to our goal of \$70,000. Sept. 27 and 28 are the commitment days for the campaign. Please prayerfully consider your gift to this ministry of Community UMC.

Missions

October is Missions Month

October is **Missions Month** – a multifaceted, Christ-centered time of celebration, education, and participation at Community UMC.

On October 2, sixteen members lead off by traveling to the **Midwest Mission Distribution Center** in Chatham, IL. In addition to delivering school bags and school supplies, they will spend two days sorting and packing emergency supplies for distribution to flood, hurricane, and tornado-damaged areas.

World Communion Sunday is October 5. A special liturgy and the sharing of ethnic breads during Communion will unite us in celebration with Christians everywhere. The World Communion offering received throughout the United Methodist Church will support scholarships for ethnic-minority students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and for those seeking second careers in church-related vocations.

Sunday, October 12, is **Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Appreciation Day**. All who have participated in a VIM trip will be recognized. They will receive a rainbow-colored ribbon in recognition of their mission service.

The annual **CROP Walk** for hunger follows on **Laity Sunday**, October 19. CUMC members and friends will join others throughout the U.S. in walking to raise money and awareness of the increasingly underfunded national food programs which face growing demand for their services. See the CROP Walk article below for how you can support this event.

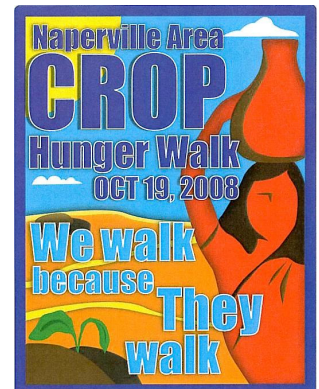
Art will enhance our focus on the Rainbow Promises supported through our **Second Mile Giving**. The worship centers will display banners made from the cloth our VIM team brought back from Kenya. (Check out the Community with Kenya blog on the CUMC / Missions website for September news of the clinic construction.) Watch for profiles of VIM participants, a crossword puzzle, and colorful Rainbow inserts in the weekly bulletins.



CROP Walk

We walk because they walk. On Sunday, Oct. 19th, people from all over Naperville will be participating in the 26th annual CROP Walk. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. It is a program overseen by Church World Service. This hunger-fighting program, started by American farmers sending surpluses to post-WWII Europe, celebrates its 61st anniversary this year! Walk or sponsor a walker this year, as we continue the fight against hunger, locally, nationally, and internationally. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds benefit the Northern Illinois Food Bank and Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Two walk distances (1K, 5K) are available to suit all participants.

Walkers may register at the CROP Walk table in the donut hallway with Jim Davidson or David Hollander between Sunday services leading up to the walk. The walk steps off from Community United Methodist Church at 1:00 p.m.! All CUMC walkers will be treated to a pre-walk luncheon provided by your grateful co-chairs. Sponsors are also welcome at the CROP Walk table, or online at www.napervillecropwalk.org, where money can be pledged for the general Community UMC walking team. One hundred percent of your donations will go to the fight against hunger, thanks to generous corporate sponsorship of the event. Last year Naperville raised over \$75,000 for people in need. This year we at CUMC have set goals of registering 50 walkers and raising \$6000 from our church. Individual walkers who collect \$200 or more will receive a special gift from CWS/CROP. Any questions may be directed to Jim Davidson (420-0159) or David Hollander (369-8388), your CUMC CROP Walk co-chairs, or visit <http://www.napervillecropwalk.org>.



PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)

Community UMC is once again serving as a Sunday night PADS site, and providing staff on the second Sunday each month. Watch the bulletin boards and sign up to donate food and supplies. Volunteers are also needed for staffing, especially to wash linens once a month, or blankets twice a year. Contact Nancy Schroeder to volunteer or for more information. Last year seventy Community UMC volunteers contributed to this nine-month program.

Hunger Commission

The Commission is keeping busy, as usual. Community UMC is in the middle of our annual School Kit drive, to collect supplies for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois. You can get lists of the needed supplies at the church, and drop off donations in the office or the baskets in the halls. The commission is also collecting empty icing (cake frosting) containers, to make children's Arks for the Heifer Project later this year (we can't get the plastic Arks from our usual suppliers). Finally, the Perennial Plant Sale isn't until next June, but the Commission is already preparing! If you have any pots from this year's sale (or from garden centers), drop them off next to the Benton parsonage so they can be washed and re-used. Contact Nancy Abernethy for information.

Youth Work Trip

Community UMC's Youth Work Trip to Washington DC was a wonderful experience for all involved. The youth will be sharing their stories with several of the Sunday School classes over the next few weeks. They will also give a brief presentation in the worship services on September 28. The shareholder luncheon is also scheduled for September 28; persons who bought shares are invited to come and talk with the youth, and also pick up your picture of the work trip participants.

Missions Blogs and E-Mail

Thanks in part to Community UMC's generous support through the Christmas offering and other special gifts, work has begun on the expansion of the Kenya Methodist University Health Center. Visit the Community With Kenya blog, <http://communitywithkenya.blogspot.com>, for the latest update, including photos of the work.

Community UMC also keeps a blog for Volunteers in Mission trips at <http://cumcvim.blogspot.com>. If you would like to be on Missions email list and receive up to date information on mission activities at Community UMC, please email Dave Korb at korbdb@yahoo.com.

Christian Education

Rally Day

CUMC had an exciting Rally Day this year, as we rallied back together after the summer and celebrated many new beginnings:

- ✚ The beginning of a new 9:30 Sunday School year, featuring newly-painted and decorated children's Sunday school classrooms, new TV/DVD's mounted in 5 children's classrooms, and a new curriculum.
- ✚ The opening of OnCenter worship in the new Meiley-Swallow Theater on the North Central College campus
- ✚ The premier of our 11:00 children's chapel ministries – held in Room 204 (20 N. Center) and in the lobby of the Meiley-Swallow Theater.



A big thank-you to the Christian Education committee for their tireless, dedicated, and passionate efforts in the preparations for and execution of Rally Day as well and the 2008-2009 program year. They are a tremendous group of volunteers who are constantly working to find new opportunities for our children, youth, and adults to grow in their faith and their relationship with God and one another.

Confirmation

8th and 9th Grade Confirmation Classes begin on September 22nd. The Confirmation retreat (for both grade levels) will take place Friday, September 26th through Sunday, September 28th at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, MI. Registration materials were distributed at the orientation meetings and are due to Beth Elders in the church office no later than Sept. 22.

After discussions with youth, parents, volunteer leaders, Community UMC staff members, and the Christian Education Committee, the decision was made to change our Confirmation ministries. In the 2008-2009 program year, we will be confirming our 9th grade students on February 22nd and our 8th grade students on May 17th. Seventh grade students will begin confirmation classes in early 2009.

After this year is complete, CUMC will begin the confirmation experience halfway through a youth's 7th grade year and will confirm students in May of their 8th grade year.

This change was made in order to accommodate the busy schedules of our youth and recognize and honor the many responsibilities and changes that ninth grade students experience during their freshman year.

For more information about Confirmation ministries at Community UMC, please contact Beth Elders.

Bible Sunday

Third Grade Bible Sunday will take place on Sept. 21. Bibles will be presented at the 8:30 Sanctuary service and the 11:00 OnCenter service. Come and congratulate these children on this important milestone in their faith!

Volunteer Opportunities

Community UMC is still in need of several volunteers in our 9:30 and 11:00 ministries. Volunteers are especially needed in the 2 and 3 year-old classroom at 11:00! If you love to work and play with young children, please contact Beth Elders (belders@communityunitedmethodist) to sign up to help or for more information.

Adult Education

Check out these new and exciting upcoming adult education opportunities!

Living the Questions

Wednesdays, Sept. 24 – Dec. 17, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.; led by Beth Elders

You've heard others talking about their "LTQ" experiences, so come experience for yourself what this transformative series is all about! Living the Questions at CUMC is a 12-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. The format of each 1 hour 45-minute session includes video interviews/discussions with leading theologians, church leaders, sociologists and biblical scholars; guided discussions; spiritual exercises and Bible study. Each session will also include thorough conversation, lecture excerpts, and spiritual exercises for practical applications.

Topics Include: An Invitation to Journey; Thinking Theologically; Creativity & Stories of Creation; Restoring Relationships; Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love; Intimacy with God; Social Justice; A Kingdom without Walls; Lives of Jesus; Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry; A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle; Out Into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christianity

Short-Term Disciple: Introduction to the New Testament

Tuesdays, Oct. 28 – Dec. 16, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.; led by Haeran Kim

Using Matthew's Gospel as a starting point, this study explores how the new Testament writers and the early Christian community wrestled with the coming of Jesus--his life, actions, mission, death, and resurrection--and the implications of his arrival for their lives and their communities of faith. Moving through the Gospel of Matthew sequentially, the overarching themes from this story of Jesus provide the conversation topics for each of the eight sessions. Each theme is then traced through other related passages in the New Testament.

Participants are invited to join the conversation of *Who is Jesus and what is his significance for our lives?*, study afresh this story of Jesus, and learn more about their calling to discipleship and to community.

The Emergent Church

October 15, 22, 29 and November 5, Noon-1:15 p.m.; led by Al Streyffeler

In a recent United Methodist Report article, Phyllis Tickle relates, "Roughly every 500 years, the Christian church experiences a seismic shift – and it's in the middle of one right now." She describes this event as "The Great Emergence". This group will be looking at a book by Brian McClaren (the "guru" of the emergent church movement), "Everything Must Change", to guide our thoughts. Participants will also be invited to join in a field trip to an emergent church in the Chicago area and/or an OnCenter worship experience based upon Emergent Church components. The study will also be drawn from "The New Christians: Dispatches from the Emergent Frontier" by Tony Jones.

Connections

Welcoming District Superintendent Diana Facemyer (September 21)

The Aurora District Superintendency Committee invites everyone, clergy and laity, to a welcome celebration for our new Aurora District Superintendent. "It's a Fiesta" at Trinity UMC, 2505 Boomer Lane, Yorkville, on September 21. Meet and greet begins at 4:00 p.m., and the celebration program at 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Jodenn Immer, (630)409-8162.

Institute for Small Group Ministry (September through May)

The Small Group Institute offers opportunities for laity and clergy to learn more about the history, theology, and role of small groups, as well as training for small group leadership. These one-day workshops are held on Saturdays through the academic year. The cost is \$10 per session, or \$50 for six sessions. For more information or to register, contact Rev. Haeran Kim.

Want Ads

United Methodist Women Garage Sale

The fall garage sale is Saturday, Oct. 4. Donations of gently-used housewares, toys, games, books, small appliances, furniture, sports equipment, and children's clothing (no adult clothing, please) may be dropped off in the storeroom north of Fellowship Hall starting at noon on Sept. 28. Volunteers are needed to help with setup and pricing, the sale itself, and cleanup afterward; contact Kay Lawson at (630)420-0977. Proceeds from the garage sale help Community UMC's United Methodist Women meet their yearly pledge.

Help Wanted

The Caring For Community All-Church Work Day is Saturday, October 25 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The Trustees invite all members to join them for a day sprucing up the church and grounds. Your generous contribution of time helps us save money! Projects will include groundskeeping, painting, and minor repairs. Teams will be organized and led by the Trustees. Contact Bill Denwood at wdenwood@comcast.net for information.

For Sale

Community has over 100 metal folding chairs, most dating from the EUB days. You can own one for just \$2. The grand piano located behind the stage (room 202) is free! But you have to provide transportation... Contact the church office if you are interested.

Staff Directory

Rev. Tom Babler, Senior Pastor

Rev. Emery Percell, Senior Pastor (epercell@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Rev. Haeran Kim, Associate Pastor (hkim@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Rev. Beth Elders, Minister of Christian Education (belders@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Nick Giannasi, Director of Youth Ministries (ngiannasi@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Stephen Edwards, Director of Music and Worship Planning (sedwards@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Joel Janis, Director of Contemporary Worship (jjanis@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Mary Jacobs, Director of Lay Ministry (mjacobs@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Lauralyn Theodore, Church Administrator (ltheodore@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Marianna McCauley, Administrative Assistant (mmccauley@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Robert Brinck, Church Treasurer (rbrinck@communityunitedmethodist.org)

Ken Cox, Office Assistant (kcox@communityunitedmethodist.org)