

---

## This Month's Top Stories

### Special Church Conference

A special church conference will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this conference is to consider preliminary building plans and elect a director to the Community UMC Foundation Board. Rev. Diana Facemyer, Aurora District Superintendent, will preside. All members of Community UMC have voice and vote. (For more information, see the Facilities Study Committee report on page 4.)

### 2008 Apportionment Paid In Full; 2009 Budget Passed

At the January 21 Ad Board meeting, the Finance Committee reported that Community UMC paid our 2008 apportionment in full, and finished the fiscal year essentially in balance. The Ad Board also approved the Finance Committee's proposed 2009 church budget. (For more information, see the Finance report on page 4.)

### Fat Tuesday Returns

February 24, 2009 is the date, and 6:00 pm is the time, to celebrate Community UMC's annual Fat Tuesday – a time to feast and frolic with CUMC friends. This fun-filled event is hosted by CUMC's Evangelism Committee, who will provide the entrée (pasta with assorted sauces) and drinks. Those attending will be invited to bring garlic bread, salad, vegetable, or dessert. Sign up will begin at the Information table February 1. Live Dixieland music – activity for the kids – a good time – feasting and frolicking by all!



---

## Pastor's Note

### Prayer

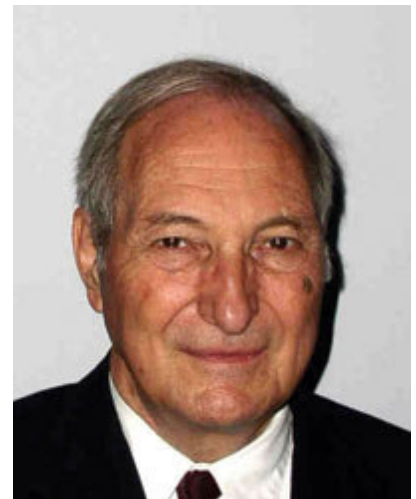
We are changing our worship order in the liturgical service a bit. Mostly this is to emphasize the importance of prayer; the Prayers of the People.

John Wesley taught that Prayer is sacramental: a Means of Grace. In his sermon entitled, *The Means of Grace*, he lists prayer first, scripture second and finally, the Lord's Supper and Baptism. It took me several years to really appreciate why Wesley put prayer first.

One of the important things I learned was that prayer really took the place of sacrifice for our Hebrew ancestors in the faith. When the Jews were taken captive to Babylon in 485 BC, sacrifices were forbidden them. But, they could pray! Even when they returned and the temple was rebuilt, prayer continued to be of greater importance even though sacrifices were resumed. The sacrificial nature of prayer continued in Judaism after the temple was destroyed by the Romans.

The second thing I learned is that, in ancient Israel, the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies on one day a year, on the Day of Atonement, to make a sacrifice for the sins of all the People. Unlike the custom among surrounding clans, however, the High Priest said no prayers in the Holy of Holies. The sacrifice was made in Silence! The Presence of God was experienced in The Silence!

When Jesus was crucified, at the third hour when darkness descended, the 'veil of the temple', of the Holy of Holies, was torn so that all who will may enter. Jesus opened up The Silence. We, too, can meet The Presence of a Holy God in The Silence!



Together, as we worship God, we have a special time for prayer. Sometimes, we have thought of it as the 'pastoral' prayer. But, it is really the Prayers of the People. Every articulated joy and concern; every unarticulated joy and concern is part of The Prayers of the People. Our prayers are sacrificial because we lay ourselves on the altar, as it were, in thanksgiving and in intercession for the healing and aid of those for whom we pray.

Then, together we enter The Silence to experience The Presence. It is a holy moment that must not be rushed. So, we stop all our busy-ness and wait. After an appropriate time, we join in the Prayer our Lord taught us to say.

As we begin to experience Prayer in this fashion in our worship, I invite your response and reflection. There is power when we pray together. It is, for us, a Means of Grace!

Rev. Emery Percell

## Worship News

### Preaching Schedule and Lectionary

**January 24 and 25:** Rev. Emery Percell, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Haeran Kim, OnCenter.  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

**January 31 and February 1:** Rev. Beth Elders, Chapel and Sanctuary; Jeff Haake, OnCenter.  
Communion Sunday.  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

**February 7 and 8:** Rev. Haeran Kim, Chapel and Sanctuary; Nick Giannasi, OnCenter.  
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

**February 14 and 15:** Rev. Emery Percell, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Al Streyffeler, OnCenter.  
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

**February 21 and 22:** Rev. Emery Percell, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Haeran Kim, OnCenter.  
Ninth Grade Confirmation.  
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

### Ninth Grade Confirmation, February 22

The Ninth Grade confirmation class will be confirmed at the 11:00 Sanctuary service on February 22, 2009. A reception hosted by the Eight Grade class will be held afterward. All are welcome to celebrate with the newest members of Community United Methodist Church.

### 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.

## Joys and Concerns

### Our Congratulations

- ✠ On the birth of Lucas Thomas Swistak on January 6, to Emily and Derrick Swistak. Joe and Betsy Roche are the proud grandparents.
- ✠ On the birth of Christina Judy Chari on January 17, to Peter and Ana Chari.

### Our Sympathy

- ✠ To Vernetta Heim, Irene Schindel, and the other family and friends of Margaret M. Schultz, who died on December 3, 2008.
- ✠ To Carrol and Bill Lankenau, after the death of Carrol's sister-in-law, Dorothy Benson, on January 20, 2009. Carrol's brother Art, husband of Dorothy, lives in Joliet.

### Our Troops and their Families

We continue to pray for our troops and their families: David Cobbel, Christopher Coyle, Scott Radunz, Andrew Dean Russell, Vincent Simonetti, and Brad Woltman.

## Community News

### 90+ Celebration

Seniors Ministry is planning a 90+ Celebration on Sunday, April 19th at 11 a.m. with a reception following the service. We will be celebrating the lives of those who will be 90 years or older during 2009. We don't want to leave anyone out. Let us know if you will be 90 or older in 2009, or if you know someone who will be 90 or older by calling Lynda Krazinski at (630)778-0956 or [krazinski@ntsourc.com](mailto:krazinski@ntsourc.com).

### Community Players

For many years Community Players has wanted to produce the world's favorite musical, *The Sound of Music*. On March 20, 21, 27, and 28, 2009, the dream will come true. Community Players will stage performances at Community United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. A matinee will also be given on Saturday, March 28. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (12 and under). There is also a special family (parents and children) ticket for \$25.00. Mark your calendars now to attend this wonderful family event.

*The Sound of Music* will be directed by Ollie Taylor, with musical direction by Lana Sutton. Dean Craig is the Assistant Director and Dave Hollander is the Producer. The cast includes the following:

Mary Elliott as Maria; Susan Weiner as Mother Abbess; Becky Klein-Collins as Sister Berthe; Amy Hollander as Sister Margaretta; Marilyn DiCola as Sister Sophia; Dave Mueller as Captain von Trapp; Nate Burke as Franz; Susan Biggs as Frau Schmidt; Sarah Hollander as Liesl; Nathan Hollander as Friedrich; Annie Weiner as Louisa; Jeremy Russell as Kurt; Megan Lapham as Brigitta; Brynn Frantz as Marta; Hannah Klose as Gretl; Bryan Craig as Rolf; Beth Buffington as Elsa Schraeder; Paul Singelyn as Max Detweiler; Don Fleschut as Herr Zeller; Toni Reiss as Frau Zeller; Bill Snell as Baron Elberfeld; Nancy Snell as Baroness Elberfeld; Dale Zimmerman as Admiral von Schreiber; Dave Hollander as Lieutenant; with appearances by Roger Beitzel, Ed Green, Garth Lawson, James Morrow, and Jim Morrow.

The Nuns' Chorus features the following talented singers: Kathy Beitzel, Laura Denklau, Beth Elders, Carol Gerhardt, Shannon Kennedy, Stephanie Kennedy, Caroline Klose, Lori Klose, Katie Lapham, Mary Markwell, Jill Morrow, Chris Mueller, Toni Reiss, Emily Riederer, Avery Sipla, Pam Smith, Nancy Snell, Marsha Taylor, and Rosemary Zimmerman.

If you would like to help with costumes, set construction, artistic work on scenery, publicity, ticket sales, ushering, or in one of the many other ways needed to produce this show, contact Ollie Taylor at (630)355-6805 or by e-mail at [t212325@wowway.com](mailto:t212325@wowway.com). Break a leg.

## Ministry Reports

### Christian Education

#### Secret Angels

The Secret Angels service club for kids had a great time in December making cookies and blankets for the staff and patients at Edward Hospital's pediatric emergency room. The Angels are now ecumenical, and 78 children from Community UMC, Wesley UMC, First Congregational UCC, Immanuel Lutheran, Our Saviour's Lutheran, and Saints Peter and Paul participated in the event. Watch the news for more Angels projects.

#### Sunday School Teacher Recruitment

Community UMC needs a few teachers for children's Sunday School in the Spring quarter. For more information, contact Beth Elders, [belders@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:belders@communityunitedmethodist.org).

### College Outreach

Community UMC treats college students to a home-cooked lunch once a month, on Sundays after services. The next lunch will be February 1. Community UMC will also be treating students to pizza and a movie, also on Sundays after services. If you would like to support these ministries, you can sign up at the tables outside the Sanctuary to donate food; or contact Carol Pfeiffer at (630)428-7505 to find out other ways to help.

## Facilities Study Committee

At the Special Church Conference held in June 2008 a resolution was passed which charged the Facilities Study Committee to continue its work to develop a feasibility plan for the renovation and expansion of the church building to meet City Building Code requirements and to accommodate the future ministries of the congregation in line with the Church's mission and vision. Additionally, any such plan will include a new worship space for the OnCenter service. Since that meeting the Facilities Study committee has been actively collaborating with the Aspen Group to fulfill this charge by developing a proposed design concept with estimated costs which will be shared with the church at a future Special Church Conference.

To date the committee is close to finalizing this design concept. Many ideas, designs and concepts have been suggested by members of the congregation and the committee has sifted through pages of interviews with ministry teams, committees, church staff and the Healthy Church survey to develop a list of Priority requirements. In addition, several City Building and Fire Code and infra-structure improvements have been added to the list of Priority requirements. The list of Priority requirements included the following:

- More efficient heating, air-conditioning and ventilation systems
- Upgrade of electrical systems
- Fire suppression system throughout remainder of church
- Fire Code compliance
- Multi-purpose space that can be used for youth activities, OnCenter services, Community Players and other special events
- Move nursery and toddler rooms to first floor
- Updated offices and space for church staff
- Move Son-Light class from 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classroom
- A fellowship/gathering space for 75-100 people
- Exterior facelift for main entrance to church
- Increased storage areas

The Aspen Group was asked to marry these requirements with a realistic and prudent budget. The committee has reviewed several iterations of floor plans and is now very close to finalizing a recommendation to be shared with the church as a whole. We encourage your attendance and participation at this review.

Rich Fleming-Chair  
Gwen Burke  
Ed Cotner  
Dean Craig

Ed Green  
David Hollander  
Rich Kaffka  
Jim McCloud

Emery Percell  
Martha Sanders  
Lauralyn Theodore

## Finance

### 2008 Revised Budget

This year we entered December with a \$43,000 deficit. Our December income was \$120,000 and we ended the year with a deficit of only \$2,700.

The other good news is that our full Apportionment was paid again. This small deficit is certainly gratifying for the troubling times that were endured.

Also, the members who contribute but do not pledge contributed \$116,000 this year. This item is difficult to budget but this year we received \$6,000 over the budget.

The Finance Committee thanks all the members who contributed over and above their regular giving.

### 2009 Primary Mission Budget

The Finance Committee members put a lot of time and effort into the many revised versions of this budget and the final proposed Primary Mission Budget for 2009 was approved at the Ad Board meeting last night. This shows a deficit of \$78,000. Truly, a "faith" budget.

Because the final pledges are not concluded until February, we must estimate the pledge income at this time. Last year the average pledge was \$3,300. This year it is \$3,000 and may go lower. The income in the budget is made up of the known pledges to date and an estimate of the pledges yet to come. The lower average pledge is the main reason for an estimated income below \$900,000 and the large deficit.

Elmer Schirmer  
Chairman, Finance Committee

## Hunger Commission

### Seed Drive

The Hunger Commission's annual seed drive has begun. Collection baskets will appear in the halls and classrooms soon; in the meantime, watch for sales on vegetable and flower seeds. The seeds are donated to garden projects at Marcy-Newberry and the Chicago Housing Authority.

## Missions

### Loaves and Fishes

On Saturday, January 17, members of Community UMC and Wesley UMC got together to help the Loaves and Fishes food bank, on Fifth Avenue in Naperville. Lynda and John Krazinski, Mari Schirmer, Joan Uebele, Tom and Sylvia Kupferer, and Greg Hubert helped sort and box food donations. Wesley UMC is pursuing an ongoing, monthly Saturday time slot to continue this ministry.



### Upcoming Mission Trips

Mark your calendars for a mission trip to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the week of March 29 to April 4, 2009. United Methodist churches have requested help for 5000 area homeowners doing flood clean-up (cooks are also needed). This is an adults-only trip, and costs \$200 for food, lodging, and supplies. Contact Dick Legg at Richard116@aol.com or (630)420-2738 for details.

### Year-End Mission Summary

Some of our 2008 mission giving:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ✦ Easter Offering – \$7,852           | ✦ Christmas Offering – \$12,638                |
| ✦ CROP Walk – \$4,712                 | ✦ Heifer Project – \$6,612 (an ark, plus some) |
| ✦ Human Relations Day – \$1,583       | ✦ Peace With Justice Sunday – \$1,425          |
| ✦ One Great Hour of Sharing – \$2,158 | ✦ Native American Sunday – \$1,884             |
| ✦ World Communion Sunday – \$840      | ✦ United Methodist Student Day – \$736         |

Community UMC also contributed nearly \$100,000 to Second Mile projects in 2008. Thank you for your support.

## Records and History

We need a little help. Can anyone identify the people in the picture? We know some of the student's names (the Lawson and Jelinek boys, and the Schroeder girl), but not everyone. There's also a little uncertainty about the year, and what class is being taught.

In 2007, the Administrative Board formed the Committee on Church Records and History to produce and publish an updated history of the church in 2012. The committee will have a formal roster – and if you are interested in joining, contact Ken Cox – but really, *everyone* should be a member! Anyone might know that one little fact that we'd like to include, like the names in this picture. Or perhaps you can read German; a lot of our old records and books are in that language. And of course everyone has their own memories of the last ten, twenty, or fifty years of Community UMC, and their favorite stories that should be preserved and celebrated.



We'll be publishing little quizzes like this one every month in the e-Tidings. There's no danger of running short of material – we have boxes of unlabelled photos and scribbled records to sort through.

## Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee is moving ahead and recently met with some small groups to get feedback on what we have completed so far. The intent was to see if we were on the right track. The groups reviewed statements that communicate our values – statements about what we consider to be important, our core strengths, or what we have to offer prospective members. We had some lively discussions and received great input and we are now reviewing the comments and incorporating them into the final statements.

Our next step will be to present the statements to the Ad Board for approval before they are communicated to the individual ministries and the entire congregation. Once we have a clear understanding of who we are and where we want to go, we will begin to pull together an overall plan.

The strategic planning team will meet with the staff and various committees and ministries as we get ready to identify overall goals and the issues that might stand in the way of achieving those goals. Once those overall goals are identified they will also be presented to the congregation. Our intent is to try to communicate at each stage along the way. The final step will be to establish action steps, timelines, and a detailed plan.

Things are moving along. we are just about to complete the first phase and move on to the next one. The committee appreciates hearing from anyone who has suggestions or questions. You can contact Sally Hines, Dan Hartman, Becky Klein-Collins or Al Brunsting by e-mail or phone.

## Trustees

### Caring For Community in January

The first Caring for Community all-church work day in October was a great success, with dozens of people helping to care for this great building with cleaning and repair projects both inside and out. This work would have cost the church several thousand dollars, if we had hired services.

The next Caring for Community will be Saturday, January 24, starting at 8:30 a.m. Once again, we'll have a wide variety of projects – all inside this time, of course! – so any and all skills are helpful.

## Youth

### Junior High Winter Retreat

The JHYF Winter Retreat, "Deep Freeze," will be Feb. 13-15 at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva. The cost is \$129; scholarships are available. Contact Nick Giannasi, [ngiannasi@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:ngiannasi@communityunitedmethodist.org), for information and registration materials.

## A Devotion

The Tuesday evening Disciple I class rephrased Psalm 112 as part of their study of right living, and wanted to share it with the congregation.

Hallelujah!

Your life will be awesome, if you fear God and find joy in following his way.

Your family for generations to come will be held in high esteem,  
blessed with riches and reputation.

You will be a leader for all who desire to follow his way,  
an example of good character, of grace, of mercy, of justice, of generosity.

A person of good character will not yield to temptation, and lives long in our memory.

Their steadfast belief in God will help them overcome evil;

they are generous to those who have nothing,  
and their generosity makes them strong.

But the wicked waste their time in anger, and they come to nothing.

Joyce Brunsting, Ken Cox, Robbie Graham,  
Jeff Haake, Peg Hiltz, Patti Hollingsworth,  
John and Lynda Krazinski, Bill and Nancy Snell,  
Dale Zimmerman

## Web Site and E-Tidings

For more information about Community United Methodist Church please call the church office at 630-355-1483 or visit [www.communityunitedmethodist.org](http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org). The church calendar is also on the web site; click the "Calendar" link in the lower-right corner.

E-Tidings is published monthly, generally around the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and covering through the next month of events. It is e-mailed to households and placed on the church web site. If you have news for e-Tidings, please send it to Lauralyn Theodore, [ltheodore@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:ltheodore@communityunitedmethodist.org).

To sign up to receive e-Tidings, e-mail Ken Cox, [kcox@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:kcox@communityunitedmethodist.org).

## Staff Directory

Rev. Emery Percell, Senior Pastor ([epercell@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:epercell@communityunitedmethodist.org))

Rev. Haeran Kim, Associate Pastor ([hkim@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:hkim@communityunitedmethodist.org))

Rev. Beth Elders, Minister of Christian Education ([belders@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:belders@communityunitedmethodist.org))

Nick Giannasi, Director of Youth Ministries ([ngiannasi@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:ngiannasi@communityunitedmethodist.org))

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

Joel Janis, Director of Contemporary Worship ([jjanis@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:jjanis@communityunitedmethodist.org))

Mary Jacobs, Director of Lay Ministry ([mjacobs@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:mjacobs@communityunitedmethodist.org))

Lauralyn Theodore, Church Administrator ([ltheodore@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:ltheodore@communityunitedmethodist.org))

Marianna McCauley, Administrative Assistant ([mmccauley@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:mmccauley@communityunitedmethodist.org))

Robert Brinck, Church Treasurer ([rbrinck@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:rbrinck@communityunitedmethodist.org))

Ken Cox, Office Assistant ([kcox@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:kcox@communityunitedmethodist.org))

Lorna Jansen, Church Organist ([ljansen73@comcast.net](mailto:ljansen73@comcast.net))