
This Month's Top Stories

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be taken on March 21 and 22. With this offering, the United Methodist Church rebuilds lives and communities around the world by helping the United Methodist Committee on Relief keep its promise that 100% of your designated gift goes to specific causes. Please give generously.

The Sound of Music

The Community Players present Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* on March 20, 21, 27, and 28. See page 3 for show times and ticket information.

E-Tidings Extra

Watch your e-mail and the church web site for a special Holy Week issue of e-Tidings, to be sent April 2. This issue will have details of our Holy Week services and devotional activities. Visit the church website Lent page, <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/lent.html>, for the schedule.

Pastor's Note

Lent 2009

Springtime! Thanks be to God for the new life after the cold of winter! How glad we are to see the green shoots of early flowering plants coming up through dead leaves of last year. I saw some daffodils coming up last week. They are signs of joy. Some days, the temperatures even give them a boost.

The Old English word for 'spring' was 'lencten' which became 'lent' in our language. I see signs of new life as we prepare our lives for the joy of Easter Day. The forty-long Lenten season of repentance (re-thinking) has led to some interesting new thoughts. One young woman told me that she had never thought much about her baptism, but during Lent this year, she was thinking more about the possibilities of her life because she had begun to reclaim her baptism. It is 'springtime' for her.

There are new ideas and visions for our Community Church. Sometimes they come up in stormy weather. But, every one of them is a sign of new life and possibilities. It is 'springtime' in our congregation. There would be no Easter Day of new life without these struggles.

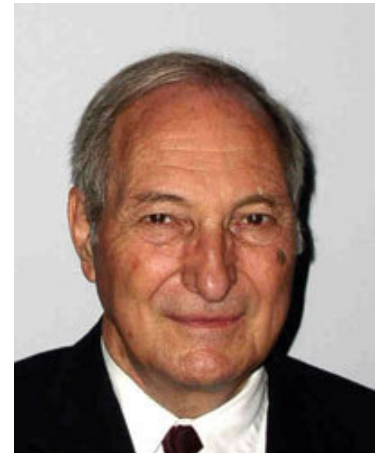
And, Easter Day there will be! The garden tomb was empty. The disciples of Jesus had varied experiences of his appearing among them, but the fact remained uncontested: the tomb was empty.

Christ is alive; and, the Spirit of the Risen Christ is with us in the Church even today.

Actually, every Sunday is a celebration of the Risen Christ. Lent is forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter--excluding Sundays! So, even though we focus on our 're-thinking' on these Sundays in Lent, we are really celebrating the Risen Christ. That is apparent in the joy and excitement of our worship. One person told me she felt extraordinary joy in the OnCenter service last Sunday. The joy of our children up around the baptismal font was a happy time for all of us in the traditional service. One little guy wanted to be "baptized next." Our choirs and the dancers are great blessings!

The Spirit of the Risen Christ moves among us in all the many things we do now and will guide us into the future. Easter Day will be a time of celebration. It will remind us once again that every morning is a new beginning in the economy of Christian hope.

Peace,
Emery Percell



Worship News

Preaching Schedule and Lectionary

March 21 and 22: Rev. Emery Percell, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Haeran Kim, OnCenter.
One Great Hour of Sharing
Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 28 and 29: Dr. Emery Percell, Chapel and Sanctuary; Nick Giannasi, OnCenter.
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 4 and 5: Lay Readers of the Passion Narrative, Chapel and Sanctuary; Jeff Haake, OnCenter.

Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

Mundy Thursday, April 9: A service remembering the Last Supper will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 10: A cantata service will be held at Wesley UMC at 7:30 p.m. (see below)
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Easter Sunday, April 11 and 12: Rev. Emery Percell, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Haeran Kim, OnCenter.
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Joys and Concerns

Our Congratulations

- ✠ To the Community UMC candidates who were approved at the recent Conference Candidate's Retreat: Sharon Rice was approved for commissioning as a Deacon; Chris Winkler was approved for commissioning as an Elder; and Beth Elders was approved for professional certification in Christian Education.
- ✠ On the birth of Riley Louise Bathan to Sarah and Michael Bathan on March 15. Riley is the granddaughter of Tom and Mary Babler.

Our Sympathy

- ✠ To Roberta and Dwight Hollonbeck after the death of Roberta's sister, Ellen Jane Seaman, on February 28.
- ✠ To Morris and Amy Westerhold after the death of Morris's mother, Virginia Westerhold, on March 5 in Springfield, Illinois.
- ✠ To Jim Callison, after the death of his father on March 13. Sympathy cards may be sent to Jim and Phyllis at N 6159 Woodland Rd., Sheboygan, WI 53083.
- ✠ To Cindy O'Drobinak and her family, after the death of Cindy's grandmother, Loriene Blankenship, on March 14. Loriene is the great-grandmother of Bailey O'Drobinak.
- ✠ To Bill Shirley, after the death of his sister Margaret Orr on March 14. A memorial service will be held Monday, March 31 in Tarentown, Pennsylvania.

Our Troops and their Families

We are happy to announce that Andrew Dean Russell, grandson of Bob and Pat Stockner, has returned from his third tour in Iraq to his family in Colorado. We continue to pray for our troops and their families: John Aitchison, David Cobbel, Christopher Coyle, Scott Radunz, Vincent Simonetti and Brad Woltman.

Random Acts of Kindness

This column will appear as random acts of kindness are shared with the e-Tidings editor, Lauralyn Theodore (ltheodore@communityunitedmethodist.org). No names are necessary, but as you observe these special acts – please share them.

- ✠ To the individuals who faithfully come in, pick up sheets used for PADS, wash them and return them for the next week;
- ✠ To the individual who drove a PADS family to Wheaton – new to the system, they did not know what to do;
- ✠ To the individual who treated the same family to hamburgers as they waited for the 7:00 pm Sunday PADS;
- ✠ To the parishioner who taught Children's Chapel on 3/15 with no advance notice, stepping in for another teacher who couldn't be there. She did a GREAT job.

All deserve a HUGE thank you!

Community News

Community Players Present *The Sound of Music*

Community Players will stage performances of *The Sound of Music* on March 20, 21, 27, and 28 at 7:30 p.m. There is also a matinee on March 28 at 2:00 p.m. 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. Tickets can be purchased at church on Sundays or by calling Ken Cox at (630)983-8707.

The Sound of Music is 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; with appearances by Roger Beitzel, Ed Green, Garth Lawson, 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.



Community Swingers

Time for Community Swingers! Ladies, are you ready for some softball? Come play on Community UMC's ladies softball team. We begin practice on Tuesday, April 7, 6 pm (location TBD). Practices will be on Tuesdays through mid-May. The games will also be Tuesdays from mid May through July – we play other churches in the Naperville area. If you have questions, please contact Becky Klein-Collins at (630)355-1251, bkleincollins@wowway.com. Join us – it's a lot of fun!

Inquirers Classes

Classes for persons interested in joining Community UMC, or simply in learning more about the church and about the United Methodist Church, will be held Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. from March 15 through April 5, for members joining on April 19. If you are interested in these classes, contact one of the pastors or Mary Jacobs (mjacobs@communityunitedmethodist.org).

Ministry Reports

Christian Education

United VBS, Summer 2009

United Vacation Bible School 2009 is June 22-25. This year we're going to Camp E.D.G.E. (Experience and Discover God Everywhere). Registration is now open to members of the participating churches, and opens to the public on April 26. Registration forms are available at <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/UVBS/uvbs.html> and in the office. Camp E.D.G.E. welcomes three age groups:

Campers are age 4 through those entering 5th grade in fall 2009. The camping fee is \$25 per child, or \$40 for a family (rates go up May 18). Registration will close on June 1 or when the camp is full.

Junior Counselors are children entering 6th grade in fall 2009. They will help with our younger campers.

Volunteers are adults and youth entering 7th grade or higher in fall 2009. Volunteers run UVBS, leading campers in the activities and helping with setup and cleanup. Volunteers are generally needed all four days. This year, as a way of thanking our volunteers, the camping fee will be reduced by \$5 for each volunteer form attached to the child's registration.



VBS Decorations Needed

The theme for this year's UVBS is Camp E.D.G.E., a fun-filled camp-like atmosphere where children can learn to experience and discover God everywhere! In order to help give our children a feeling of truly being in a camp setting, we're in need of some decorations! The UVBS Steering Committee is looking for the following items:

- Undecorated artificial Christmas Trees (of all sizes!)
- Large Clean Rocks
- Stuffed Wildlife Animals (raccoons, bears, and other forest wildlife)
- Tents (of all sizes!)
- Sleeping Bags
- Hiking Backpacks (Adult Sizes Only)
- Outdoor folding chairs
- Coolers
- Canteens
- Lanterns
- Flashlights
- Binoculars
- Maps
- Large Inflatable Rafts
- Kayaks or Canoes
- Compasses
- Life Vests

If you're able to donate these items for use during the week of June 21-25th, please clearly mark your name on each of the items and bring them to Beth Elders' office no later than June 15th. (Please note, all items received will be used for decoration only and will be available for you to pick up on the afternoon/evening of June 25th.)

Nursery and Sunday School Teachers Needed

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

We also need help in the Nursery and the 2's and 3's room on Sundays. Visit either room to sign up, or contact Mary Elliott at (630)585-0787 for more information.

College Outreach Ministries

Community UMC invites college students to be our guests at the NCC International Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall on April 5, following the 11:00 services. On April 12, an Easter Brunch will be held from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All college students are encouraged to stop by and enjoy fellowship and food. Bring a friend!

Keep in touch by joining the Facebook groups “NC3: North Central College at Community” and “Community UMC-College Connections.” Helpful information and upcoming events will be posted. Join, and invite friends?

Your generous contribution when you pick up a doughnut and coffee on Sunday morning supports this program. We host monthly lunches and provide treat bags at exam time for both NCC students and Community UMC students who are away from home. Want to be a part of this great group? Call Carol Pfeiffer at carolericp@yahoo.com.

Covenant Groups

Looking for another way to grow your faith? During Lent, many of us take on a spiritual discipline or study to enhance our faith. If you want to continue this journey year-round, you might want to consider a covenant group. Here are some of the basics for covenant groups to demystify them a bit.

Why start or join a Covenant Group?

There are several reasons to start or join a covenant group. The primary reason is to continue to grow in your faith and become a better disciple. Covenant groups were started by John Wesley as a means for Christians to continue to grow in their faith and to hold each other accountable for that faith journey. It is also a good way to get to know other people who share similar beliefs with you.

What is a Covenant Group?

- ✚ A covenant group is usually about 4 to 7 people who meet for one hour each week to hold themselves mutually accountable for their discipleship, by trying to live up to their covenant (set of clauses in various areas of faith that each group member strives to meet).
- ✚ They do this by creating a covenant based on the general rule of discipleship that states that we are, “to witness to Jesus Christ in the world and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- ✚ Covenant groups are a place where Christians “watch over one another in love” by giving each other a weekly compass heading.
- ✚ They have meetings that are task-oriented to help each other become better disciples.
- ✚ Covenant groups are a trustworthy and effective means of identifying and nurturing leaders in discipleship for mission and ministry.
- ✚ They are not where our discipleship happens, but were we make sure that it happens.
- ✚ Covenant Groups are not:
 - Bible study groups
 - Prayer groups
 - Encounter groups
 - Sharing groups
 - Neighborhood groups
 - Service groups
 - Advocacy groups
 - Outreach groups

So how do these weekly meetings work?

The dynamics of the group will vary between groups, but generally the following will apply:

- ✚ No permanent leader – this rotates between members
- ✚ Process of questions and answers following the covenant and “checking in”
- ✚ Meeting should be limited to one hour
- ✚ The covenant is the agenda
- ✚ Develop an atmosphere of trust and sharing
- ✚ Focus on those aspects of one’s discipleship that can be helpful to the other members – remembering that we all have different gifts and we can learn from each other
- ✚ Confidentiality. Anything shared in the group staying with the group.

If you are interested in learning more about covenant groups, or want to start your own, please contact Cindy Lytle or Beth Elders.

Hunger Commission

Seed Drive

The Hunger Commission's annual seed drive has begun. Collection baskets are now in the halls and classrooms. Your donations of flower and vegetable seeds go to garden projects at Marcy-Newberry and the Chicago Housing Authority. Cash donations are also welcome; mark your check "Seed Drive."

PassAlong Perennial Plant Sale

The Hunger Commission will be potting baby plants for the June 6 PassAlong Plant Sale in the parsonage garage on Benton from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, April 8-9 and 15-16. We have a fun time together, so put on your spring work clothes and bring a good attitude. Our "pot parties" are open to all and drug-free! OJT – on the job training – will be offered to first timers!

Library

New Books

Two new books purchased for the church library cover very different but very important aspects of medical wellness. The first is by Virginia Morris and is titled "How to Care for Aging Parents." The revised and expanded 2004 edition covers everything from medical care for the aged, redefining parent/child relationships, getting power of attorney, and coping with dementia. Though containing over 600 pages, it retails for only \$18.95. I am reading it as the child of an aging parent entering an institution reluctantly and only because of severe health issues. I am discovering how little I know about my father's affairs, financial and legal, and this book at least provides a starting point. If you are a Boomer with parents of the Depression or World War Two generation, I urge you to pick up this title.

The other book is called "Good Germs, Bad Germs" and was written by Jennifer S. Sachs. It is a fascinating look at how our bodies deal with germs and bacteria (did you know a newborn will have 1,000 bacteria covering every square centimeter of its body after only 24 hours of life), the well-reported dangers of too many unnecessary inoculations for conditions antibiotics cannot heal, and how medical science teeters dangerously at times between inventing new medicines and creating super bugs that can survive almost anything. Written for laypeople, the book contains many stories and vignettes illustrating the author's scientific points. I recommend it to anyone wanting to learn more about preventive care.

Both books are available at Anderson's Bookshop (\$14.00 paperback) in Naperville and will be available in our library in a few weeks.

Library Move

Because of a water seepage problem in the library, some books have been moved to Room 305 until the situation is taken care of. Members of the Board of Trustees helped moved the books for safe keeping. A big thank you is extended to those who helped this move.

Missions

Upcoming Mission Trips

Community UMC's Mission Trip to Cedar Rapids will be commissioned at the March 29 service. Dick Legg, Is Dittrich, Haeran Kim, Tom and Sylvia Kupferer, Jim Rainwaters, and Larry and JoAnn Roessler will be in Iowa from March 29 through April 3. They will join a team of 31 people from churches in Rockford, Apple River, Loves Park, Belvidere, LaSalle, and Hanover in Illinois, and from Dubuque in Iowa, doing cleanup of last year's flooding.

OnCenter

On Center has been busy RE-THINKING LENT, and we have been blessed with inspiring and spirit-filled worship services. Below is a short re-cap of where we have traveled in our Lenten journey so far, and where we plan to go next.

- ✠ March 1 – Lynn Pries helped us re-think our ALLIGENCES – what are we counting on....the promises of our baptism, or the culture in which we live.
- ✠ March 8 – Jeff Haake helped us re-think our GOALS and reminded us that, while having goals is a good thing, life throws us changes, so we need to be constantly open to God's direction in following our journey.

- ✚ March 15 – Al Streyffler helped us re-think THE LAW with a lively message that introduced a new perspective in “keeping the Sabbath holy” with finding delight– how are we all doing with finding the delight in our everyday lives?
- ✚ March 22 – Haeran Kim will be helping us to re-think ETERNAL LIFE and what that means for us today
- ✚ March 29 – Nick Giannasi will be helping us to re-think our INVESTMENTS – and what does investments, and risks and rewards, have to do with our faith? Come check it out!
- ✚ April 5 – Jeff Haake will help us re-think the PALM and the PASSION, and how do we deal with the tension between the joy of the entry to Jerusalem and what we know is to come. Come to experience and understand the light and the dark part of our Lenten journey.
- ✚ April 12 – EASTER SUNDAY!! Haeran Kim will bring us the great news with a sermon titled “The End is not the End”. Come hear the good news!!

There have also been a few changes at On Center. March 1 was Joel Janis’ last Sunday with us and we are grateful for his 2.5 years of service to On Center. Cindy Lytle has replaced Joel as Interim Director of Contemporary Worship until such time as our new senior pastor, Mark Jacobs, arrives.

During this interim period, we are experimenting—“mixing it up!” We are adding a lively children’s moment in some of our services, we have rearranged where people sign in, and we are working to get more people engaged in the service in a variety of ways. OnCenter needs all of the congregation to help make it work! Come and visit! Encourage folks to drop in and see what we are doing! Please volunteer to be a grusher (greeter/usher), communion server, help with children’s chapel or let Cindy know if you would like to be involved in some other way. As always, OnCenter is open to any new ideas you might have...just e-mail Cindy at clytle@communityunitedmethodist.org, call her at the church, or catch her after a service. OnCenter is looking for all your thoughts, prayers and actions! See you at On Center!

Cindy Lytle
Interim Director, OnCenter

Records and History

Last month’s quiz was apparently a real stumper. No one has stepped forward to identify the plaque on the wall by the south tower door to Center Street, titled “*Community Church Members Extending Their Life’s Interest Beyond Their Lives*”. We’ll leave that one open for another month. In lieu of a quiz this month, you are all invited to visit the history home page, <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/history/history.html>. It now has the first chapter of the 1962 church history, *A Time For Remembrance*. More chapters will follow.

Senior Outreach

Celebration of Wisdom

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. This should be a fun service with old familiar hymns, favorite Bible passages and interesting people.

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. Lynda Krazinski 630-778-0956 or krazinski@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Trustees

Caring For Community – All-Church Workday June 13

Mark your calendars for the morning of June 13. Come and help at the Caring for Community all church workday. It’s a great place to see your friends and meet new people. All are invited and welcome; there are opportunities for all ages. There will be indoor and outdoor work at 20 N. Center and exterior work at the 707 Sara parsonage. Let’s get the place in great shape to welcome the new minister. In May there will be sign up opportunities for experienced folks and newbies. We’ll start and end the morning with refreshments. Childcare is available. For now, save June 13. Your help is important and appreciated!

United Methodist Women

Prayer Shawl Ministry

On February 14, 2008 Northern Illinois University (NIU) remembered the one-year anniversary of the campus shootings with a special memorial event. The NIU Campus Minister and Wesley Foundation put out a request for prayer shawls. The Community United Methodist Knitting Circle delivered five prayer shawls to First UMC DeKalb; many other shawls were received from churches within our district and conference. At the 2-14 memorial event, "NIU Remembers, A Day of Reflection" over 100 prayer shawls were given to the NIU community to be made available in the Peace Room, where NIU students, faculty, staff and community can go to remember.

Youth

Summer Work Trip

This year, our SHYFt (Senior High Youth Fellowship) group is going to Costa Rica for their annual work trip. The trip takes place from July 13 – July 20, and the youth will be partnering with the church's Mission committee and Strong Missions (<http://www.strongmissions.com>) in helping the poor of San Jose, Costa Rica by building a clothing and souvenir work shop. There are a number of ways the mission team will be raising funds for this trip. First, the mission team will be writing support letters to friends, family and local business asking for prayer and material support. Secondly, the team will sponsor a Servant Auction Dinner on May 30th, in which a silent auction of incredible donated items and a live auction of Mission Team work groups will be held during a time of dinner and entertainment. Thirdly, the mission team will sponsor our annual Flamingo Fundraiser. If you are interested in supporting the trip through prayer or giving, contact Nick Giannasi at nickgiannasi1@gmail.com or (630)770-5997.

Youth on the Web Site

Check the youth page on church web site, <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/teens.html>, for the 2009 calendar (you'll need Excel to read it) and the application for the summer work trip (PDF).

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. 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 15th 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. To sign up to receive e-Tidings, e-mail Ken Cox, kcox@communityunitedmethodist.org.

Staff Directory

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