

News Highlights

Advent at Community UMC

The liturgical season of Advent marks the start of a new Christian year, as we await the arrival of Jesus Christ. Celebrate the season at Community UMC with our special worship, music, mission, and fellowship opportunities. See the special section beginning on page 2 for all the details.

Farewell to the Manbecks

Deane and Connie Manbeck are moving to Minnesota later this month. The Community Forum class invites all church members to attend an Open House in the Parlor beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 22 to bid them a fond farewell.

Stewardship Sunday

Community UMC members should have received their stewardship packets. Stewardship Sunday is November 21-22, and cards will be collected at all worship services that weekend.

Pastor's Note

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November is Stewardship month in many churches. It's that time of year when churches give their members the opportunity to make an intentional financial pledge to the work of Jesus Christ through their home congregation. Financial giving is ultimately a spiritual matter ... a matter of focused, singleminded devotion to God. Our giving is just one aspect of how we show devotion to our God, but an important aspect. The way we handle our personal finances matters to God. So I invite you to join me in taking the steps necessary to allow God to become the manager of our dollars.

A very old story tells of a man who was going to be baptized in a river. As he prepared to join the pastor in the river he turned and handed his wallet off to his wife. On seeing this the pastor said: "Brother, we baptize all of you or none of you."

How pleased God would be if we could offer to God all that we are ... including our finances. The future is bright and the opportunity to serve Christ is exciting. With excitement, let's honor Christ on November 21 and 22 with financial pledges that flow from our heart to God's.

Pastor Mark



Worship News

Message Series: Money Matters

November 14 and 15: Rev. Mark Jacobs, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Melissa Hood, OnCenter.
"Simply Debt Free," 2 Kings 4:1-7

November 21 and 22: Rev. Mark Jacobs, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Melissa Hood, OnCenter.
"Simple Discipline," Matthew 25:14-30

Joys and Concerns

Our Troops and their Families

We continue to pray for our troops and their families: John Aitchison, Matthew Burke, Ryan Gray, Matthew McFee, Vincent Simonetti and Brad Woltman.

Advent at Community UMC

Advent Worship Services



Weekly Worship Series – “Plugging into Christmas”

November 28 and 29: Rev. Melissa Hood, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Mark Jacobs, OnCenter.
“Hope and Devotion,” Luke 21:25-36

Lectionary: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

December 5 and 6: Rev. Mark Jacobs, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Melissa Hood, OnCenter.
“Part of the Plan,” Luke 1:68-79

Lectionary: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 12 and 13: Rev. Beth Elders, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Mark Jacobs, OnCenter.
“Outside the Box,” Luke 1:39-45

Lectionary: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 19 and 20: Rev. Mark Jacobs, Chapel and Sanctuary; Rev. Melissa Hood, OnCenter.
“Discovering Joy,” Zephaniah 3:14-20

Lectionary: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Advent Chapel Worship

Community UMC will again offer weekly Wednesday morning worship services in the Chapel. Services will be held December 2, 9, 16, and 23. Services are at 7:00 a.m. and last about one-half hour.

Senior Outreach Services

Our monthly services of worship and fellowship for seniors will include special Christmas music in December. The Reminiscence service, for persons with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, will be on Tuesday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The Senior Fellowship Service, for homebound persons, will be on Wednesday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Eve Worship

Two services will be held on Christmas Eve.

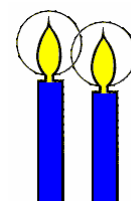
The Family Service at 5:00 p.m. is a child-friendly, interactive worship service. Children of all ages will experience the joy of Christ’s birth through music, Scripture, and story. Invite your friends and family to this exciting and accessible service!

The Traditional Service begins at 10:30 p.m. with a musical pre-service concert. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be shared, and the service will end with the candle-lighting of the Sanctuary.

Advent Devotions

Children’s Advent Books

Daily advent devotions are a great way for children and parents to explore the meaning of the season together. Family devotional booklets and calendars will be available at all worship services, in children’s Sunday school or children’s chapel classes, or in the church office. They feature a brief Scripture reading and reflection, interesting discussion questions to chat about over dinner or at bedtime, and a closing prayer. Preschool devotional coloring books are also available in the 2- and 3-year old classroom and the pre-K/Kindergarten classroom. These have a different picture to color for each day of advent that help young children connect with the Christmas story. Advent calendars will also be available for children of all ages, helping them count the days until Christmas and connect with what this holy day truly means.



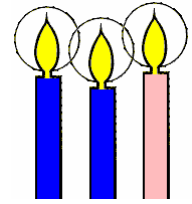
Adult Devotionals

Advent is a time for prayer and reflection as we anticipate the birth of Christ. During Advent, we invite adults to visit www.upperroom.com and discover how they can grow closer in their relationship with God during this season of preparation through daily Advent devotions. Watch for a list of more websites containing daily devotions and blogs to come soon.

Advent Missions and Service

Marcy-Newberry Gift Trees

Community UMC will again this year be in ministry with the Marcy-Newberry Association of Chicago to help provide their children with much-needed clothing, books, and other gifts at their annual Christmas party. Watch for the gift "trees" to appear soon. Take one or more ornaments, purchase the items indicated, and return the wrapped gift (taping the ornament on the package) to the church office no later than **December 9**. Gifts will be delivered to Marcy-Newberry on December 11. Volunteers are needed to deliver the gifts – please contact Beth Elders to volunteer to help. Our thanks to the Community of Parents for hosting this year's gift tree, and a big thank you to the children for lovingly coloring all of the ornaments!



Hanging of the Greens

The Confirmation class, with help from their teachers and mentors, will be decorating the church for Advent on Sunday, **November 29** after the 11:00 worship services (lunch is provided). They will hang the greenery in the Sanctuary and outside, and put up the Christmas trees.

Heifer Project

Community UMC and the Hunger Commission have supported this mission very nearly since it was organized in 1944 – First EUB collected \$1600 to send goats to Japan after World War II. We will once again be trying to fill an “ark” (or two, or three) of animals for delivery to communities throughout the world. The children’s Sunday School classes have already begun their drives. Adults can visit the tables outside worship to purchase their animal – you can get a lovely card telling that special person that a unique gift has been made in their name.



Secret Angels

This Advent season, elementary-age children are invited to participate in joyful and “sole-ful” service as they learn about the importance of giving to others. Children and their families are invited to help make a difference in lives of children in Africa by donating their *gently-used* children's shoes to “Soles for Africa.” (Fun fact: After World War II, along with collecting for Heifer goats for Japan, Community UMC’s youth participated in a Naperville shoe drive which collected 1500 pairs of shoes for youth and adults in Europe and Japan.)

Drop off your shoes in the “shoe box” just inside the church doors, or bring your shoes with you to a fun-filled morning of service on **December 12** from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. We'll collect all the shoes that have been donated and will bake cookies to share with the residents of a local nursing home. As the cookies bake, we'll watch the new Veggie Tales movie "Saint Nicholas: A Story of Joyful Giving" and learn some more about the joy of giving what God has given us to others. After the movie, we'll carpool over to the nursing home to share our cookies and our voices as we sing Christmas carols together! Clean out your closets and bring in those shoes – invite friends and family members to do the same and to join you on December 12!

Secret Angels is an ecumenical children's mission group hosted by Community UMC, First Congregational UCC, and Wesley UMC for elementary-age children. For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Beth Elders, belders@communityunitedmethodist.org.

PADS

Community UMC hosts this homeless shelter every Sunday night in Fellowship Hall, and staffs the shelter on the second Sunday of each month. The next hosting date is **December 13**. Please sign up outside the Sanctuary to provide food and other supplies when the posters appear, and help care for those in need this holiday season.

Christmas Card Collection

Church Women United is collecting Christmas cards for Illinois prisoners. To donate, please sign one or more cards, attach a first class postage stamp on each envelope, and drop in the red box by the office. Do not seal the cards or use stickers, glue or tape. Anyone wishing to join us in addressing the cards, please come to St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Tuesday, **December 1**, at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Liz Bradley, (630)983-8737. We thank you for your continued support of this important project.

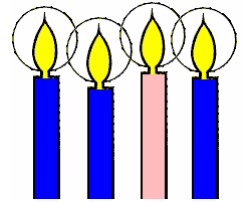
Christmas Offering

Community UMC will direct this year’s Christmas offering to ministries which promote health and wellness. Watch for the annual Christmas letter from the Missions committee with more information. The offering will be taken at the Christmas Eve services.

Advent Fellowship

Children's Advent Party

Children ages 4 years old through 5th grade and their families are invited to get into the spirit of the Advent season as they bake cookies, make fun holiday crafts, and create great gifts for their friends and family at this year's Children's Advent Party on **November 22** from 3:00-5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed – contact Beth Elders to volunteer to help with this year's festivities.



“A Child is Born” Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert will be Sunday, **December 6**. The concert begins at 4:00 p.m. with the handbell choirs in Fellowship Hall. After a brief intermission, the second half of the concert will begin in the Sanctuary, featuring the adult and children's vocal ensembles, the dancers, and a brass ensemble. All are invited to enjoy this program of seasonal music (with a few other selections...). Bring the whole family, and invite some friends.

Family Movie Night

On **December 11** from 6:00-8:00 p.m., families of all ages and stages (with or without children) are invited to come together for an evening of fun, fellowship and faith as we watch the movie "Mulan". Bring your blankets (and your dinner, if you'd like) and settle in for a free night of family fun. Thematic and yummy munchies and beverages will be provided. After the movie is over, we'll have some casual small-group conversations about issues of faith found in the movie and how it pertains to our own walk of faith.

Peace and Calming Yoga Class

During the busiest time of the year, take some time for yourself for a little “peace and calming” with a four-week yoga class. The class will be held at Community UMC on four Wednesdays in December (2, 9, 16, and 30) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and costs \$40. Pre-register with Katie Tompkins, katie@lotustouchtherapy.com.

Community News

Health Advisory from the Parish Nurse Ministry Team

During the 2009-10 flu season, please remember that the flu virus is transmitted from person to person by *contact*, such as with hand-shaking or holding hands with an infected person, and by *droplet transmission*, from unprotected coughing and sneezing when in a 3 to 6 foot range. Therefore, it is important to practice the following during church attendance.

1. Follow cough and sneeze etiquette when in close contact with persons in your groups.
2. Use appropriate hand hygiene, such as washing hands or using available alcohol hand sanitizers after hand contact and before eating. (Hand sanitizers are available at worship services, either in the front seating or in the back of the worship area. We suggest Sunday School classes and other groups that serve food have hand sanitizers available on the food table and encourage their use before eating.)
3. In all cases keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth unless your hands are clean and you are eating.
4. Stay home if you have a cough, elevated temperature, and other flu-like symptoms.

“Steel Magnolias” Presented in New Venue

The last two Community Players performances of Robert Harling's “Steel Magnolias” will be on November 20 at 7:30 p.m. and on November 21 at 2:00 p.m. The shows will be presented at Grace United Methodist Church, located at 300 E. Gartner Rd. in Naperville. Tickets are \$12 for adults and may be reserved by calling Ken Cox at (630)983-8707. Seating is open, and walk-ups are welcome.

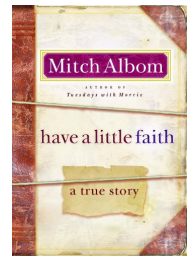
United States Census

Community UMC will be providing space for the U.S. Census Bureau to test applicants for the 2010 Census Team. Testing will be held Monday through Friday during the day and Thursday evenings. For more information, including how you can apply for a temporary, part-time position, visit www.2010censusjobs.gov or call the local census office at (630)785-2900 or (866)861-2010.

Ministry Reports

Christian Education

The Tuesday Morning book group has begun reading Mitch Albom's "Have a Little Faith," a beautifully-written story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds, two men, two faiths, and two communities. When an eighty-two-year-old rabbi from Albom's old home town asks Albom to deliver his eulogy, what follows is a conversation surrounding questions that are as old as time itself. Come explore our stories together!



Community of Parents

"CoPs" invites you to develop a stronger, more fulfilling relationship with your spouse and children. Join us for a discussion about the five love languages and learning to speak the primary love language of your spouse and children. Community of Parents will be meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor and discussing "The Five Love Languages" by Gary Chapman and "The Five Love Languages for Children" by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell. We will also be planning events coming up in December and January. If you have any questions please contact Tara Cotsonas at (630)226-5193 or tcotsonas@yahoo.com .

Senior Visitation

People need to know that there are others who care for and about them. Community UMC has a senior visitation team of persons who visit those who are homebound or in nursing facilities. Visiting is a calling, and sharing laughter and prayers and conversations with those who are homebound is a way to discover our caring gifts and gain a rich appreciation for life and health. Like all ministries, we take away more from the experience of visiting than we give. If this sounds like a caring outreach that you would be interested in, please contact Mary Jacobs at mjacobs@communityunitedmethodist.org or at (630)355-1483.

United Methodist Women

Evening Outreach Circle

The Circle will meet at the home of JoAnn Roessler, 1212 Clyde Dr, Naperville on Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Please give JoAnn a call, (630)355-0748, if you can come. Rev. Melissa Hood will be leading the discussion "Meeting God in Community."

Book Circle

The Circle will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 18 to discuss "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Barbery and Anderson. Sally Hines will lead discussion, and Nancy Whittington will be hostess at 509 Aurora Ave., unit 306. Please call Nancy at (630)9061-5244 if you plan to attend. New readers are always welcome.

Youth

Uth Band at OnCenter, November 22

The newly-formed band for youth in grades 6 through 12 leads worship at OnCenter on Sunday, November 22. The band will lead at OnCenter one week in each month with five Sundays, and will appear at other worship services once each month. To join the band or for more information, contact Stephen Edwards in the office.

JHYF Winter Retreat

The JHYF winter retreat is at Covenant Harbor, Wisconsin from January 15 to 17. Get your permission form from the website at <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/youth.html>. Contact Nick Giannasi with questions.

Calendar

Every Week At Community

Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:30 p.m. Adult, Youth, and Children's Sunday School Classes; Confirmation Class
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Services at 20 N. Center and 201 E. Franklin
- 1:00 p.m. Uth Band Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. JHYF
- 7:00 p.m. SHYFt
- 7:00 p.m. PADS shelter

Mondays

- 5:15 p.m. Covenant Groups
- 5:30 p.m. Rainbow Dancers
- 6:30 p.m. Open Circle Ringers
- 7:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesdays

- 9:15 a.m. Women's Book Study of "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Book Study of "A Mile in Her Shoes" (alternate Tuesdays)
- 8:00 p.m. Women's Ensemble Rehearsal (alternate Tuesdays)

Wednesdays

- 4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise and Hosanna Choirs; Carillon Bells
- 5:30 p.m. Tower Bells

Thursdays

- 9:30 a.m. UMW Studio Workshop
- 6:30 p.m. OnCenter Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Saturdays

- 5:00 p.m. Worship Service

Day by Day Calendar, November 16 to November 30

Monday, November 16

- 7:00 p.m. College Outreach Ministry

Tuesday, November 17

- 7:30 p.m. Community of Parents "Languages of Love" (page 5)
- 7:30 p.m. UMW Evening Outreach Circle (page 5)

Wednesday, November 18

- 9:30 a.m. Senior Fellowship Service
- 7:30 p.m. UMW Book Circle (page 2)

Friday, November 20

- 7:30 p.m. Community Players Presents "Steel Magnolias" at Grace UMC (page 4)

Saturday, November 21

- 2:00 p.m. Community Players Presents "Steel Magnolias"

Sunday, November 22 – Stewardship Sunday

- 3:00 p.m. Children's Advent Workshop (page 5)

Monday, November 23

- 1:00 p.m. Deadline for e-Tidings

Thursday, November 26

Church office and building closed – Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 27

Church office and building closed

Sunday, November 29

- 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Service Project – Hanging of the Greens (page 3)
No Youth Fellowship or Youth Band this week

Visit www.communityunitedmethodist.org and click on the "Calendar" link for a full church calendar.