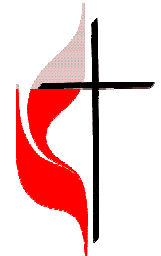


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## News Highlights

### 2010 Stewardship Campaign

As of December 10, pledges received total 66% of the dollars required to support Community UMC's 2010 ministry programs. If you have not already returned your pledge, help "Light the Flame" by doing so. Watch the bulletins, posters, and pre-service screen announcements for regular updates on the status of the pledge drive, presented using the UMC cross and flame logo – the colored portion of the cross shows the amount pledged.



### Community of Parents

Would you like to leave the children at home for an evening of fellowship? If so, come to the Community of Parents meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor for a cookie exchange. Bring three dozen of your favorite cookies to share. You can bake alone or with a friend, and bring both the cookies and the friend! If you have any questions, please contact Tara Cotsonas at (630)226-5193 or tcotsonas@yahoo.com.

### Heartland Blood Drive

The next blood drive will be Monday, December 28 from 3 to 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Contact Joan Uebele at (630) 983-8937 to schedule your appointment. Heartland is providing a special incentive this time. All donors have a chance to win a \$1000 gift card (see the posters for details). But remember, even if you don't win the prize, you will still have made a gift that will save a life.

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## Pastor's Note

These are tough times we live in, some of the toughest I've seen in my lifetime. I remember one day in high school my econ teacher said to our class that the world had changed and all the economic theories she had taught us no longer seemed to work and the experts didn't have a clue. Today millions are disillusioned with life and uncertain about the future because they feel there's nothing ... no one to trust.

As we begin the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the Good News is that there is someone to believe in, something to stake our life on, and someone to trust. In John 15:4 Jesus offered himself to us. "Abide in Me," he offered. As we face an uncertain 2010 and beyond we can do so with joy ... not fear. To trust Jesus ... practice bearing fruit like Jesus ... have the mind of Jesus ... to let His purpose be our purpose ... this is the way to joy and meaningfulness in life.

So, as we begin 2010, for the month of January our weekend worship theme will be "Thrive: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." The five practices we will look at over the five weekends of January are: Radical hospitality, Passionate worship, Intentional faith development, Risk-taking mission and service, Extravagant generosity. These are the five practices or core values that are foundational for any disciple or congregation wanting to be fruit producing or Christ-like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This series is based on a book by Robert Schnase, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. In addition to the message series we will be offering small group discussion times in order to study this book together. This is the first step in our blueprint to be a vital Christ centered church for the future. Watch the announcements for the class schedule.

Some of our ministry teams are already at work steering toward these practices. It is exciting, because it dispels the fear and fills the future with hope.

With hope and trust in Christ,  
Pastor Mark



## Worship News

### Advent and Christmas Worship

**Wednesday Chapel worship** continues through Advent. Services will be December 16 and 23 at 7:00 a.m. and last about one-half hour.

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

### January Message Series: Five Fruitful Practices

On each of the five Sundays of January, Community UMC's worship message will be based on one of the Five Fruitful Practices of a Healthy Congregation, as developed by Bishop Robert Schnase of the UMC. See the Pastor's Note on page 1 for more information.

## Joys and Concerns

### Our Sympathy

- ✠ To the family and friends of Mary Montgomery, who died on November 27.
- ✠ To Frances Fuller, after the death of her husband Allen Fuller on December 4. Allen and Frances are former members of Community UMC.
- ✠ To the Frederickson family, after the death of Will Frederickson on December 9. Will is the husband of Ulrike Frederickson and the brother of Eldora Juha and Audrey Murr.

### 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.

### A Note on Pastoral Care

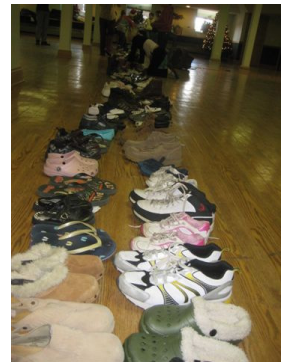
Your church family desires to be present with you in all circumstances. Please be intentional in communicating with the church office when you have a medical emergency, a procedure, or hospitalization. Due to privacy laws, medical professionals and institutions will *not* notify the church. Let your family know that you would love a visit from your pastors and friends at CUMC and ask them to give us a call if you cannot call us yourself.

## Ministry Reports

### Christian Education

#### Secret Angels

On December 12, the children of Secret Angels met and had a fantastic time learning about Joyful Giving! They collected 218 pairs of gently-used children's shoes to be given to elementary-age children in Africa, baked 27 dozen cookies, and shared these cookies and their Christmas carols with the residents of the Sunrise Nursing Homes on Chicago Ave and on Ogden Ave. Thank you to the adults who volunteered to help make this day a success. Even the youngest among us can make a difference, and these children are a great example of how this can happen. Great job, kids! Watch for information on our next Secret Angels gathering in the Spring!



### Community College Connection (C<sup>3</sup>)

#### Community UMC Students

College students and their parents, mark your calendars for December 20 after the 11:00 services, when C<sup>3</sup> will be hosting a pizza party for Community UMC college students. This is a great chance to catch up with your friends while you're back from college on break.

#### College Lunches

The college lunch program took a break for December, but resumes on January 10. College students are invited to enjoy a home-cooked lunch in the Parlor after the 11:00 services, with leftovers to take home. Community UMC members are invited to support this ministry by signing up to provide casseroles, salads, desserts, and fellowship; watch for the sign-up sheets outside worship services on Sundays.

## Missions

### Christmas Offering

"Lord, when did we see thee sick?" ties together the Christmas offering recipients: health kits at the Midwest Mission Depot in Chatham, dental work at the free DuPage Community Clinic, and the United Methodist Global AIDS fund. 25% of the Christmas offering will be paid toward our congregation's connection of apportionments. Thanks to the Parish Nurses for the Christmas "Lord, when did we see thee sick" bulletin board.

### Heifer Project

Your one-stop Christmas gift shop is now open on Sundays in the hall next to the donut table. We can please everyone on your list with the unique honor gift of a Heifer animal. You'll get a lovely card to let them know about the gift, and a family somewhere in the world will get an animal that will change their life for the better.

### Mission Reports

**In the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Naperville Crop Walk**, Community UMC's 26 walkers raised \$4001. The total proceeds from the walk were approximately \$59,000 with 25 churches and affiliated organizations participating. This year the walk broke the \$1,000,000 mark for funds raised to fight hunger both locally and throughout the world. 25% of proceeds are split between Naperville's Loaves and Fishes Pantry and the Northern Illinois Food Bank and the balance is distributed by Church World Services to hunger causes worldwide. We are really proud of this congregation's continuing support of hunger causes, particularly in this challenging economy. Our thanks, from your co-chairs, Jim Davidson and David Hollander.

**JUST jail ministries** thanks Community UMC for helping bring Christmas hope into the DuPage jail. Thanks to Joyce Brunsting for organizing the CUMC candy-run. The JUST jail staff goes Christmas caroling and gives out bags of sweets and stamped Christmas cards to be sent to the inmates. Go to [www.justofdupage.org](http://www.justofdupage.org) to see how to volunteer your time, your TV, VCR or your Forever stamps.

Gifts for 100 children were delivered to Marcy-Newberry on Friday, December 11 and were met by smiling faces, and numerous "thank you's" from the teachers. We pass those thanks along to all those who donated gifts; special thank-you's go to Community of Parents for hosting this year's gift tree, to their children who lovingly decorated the ornaments, and to those who helped deliver the presents!

**The UM Student Day offering** was \$720. This special Sunday offering supports scholarships for UMC members going to United Methodist colleges including North Central, Duke, and Northwestern. Many Community UMC members have used this fund over the years. The goal is \$1 per member.

**Dick Legg, Larry Kahler, and Is Dittrich** participated in the Volunteers in Mission trip on November 13-14 to Wesley Woods UM campground near Lake Geneva, WI. They worked with other northern Illinois volunteers to repair and winterize the camp facilities. This UM campground is used by congregations for year-round youth, confirmation, all-church, and choir retreats. We'll be sending a work team again next year – join us!

### Spring Mission Trip

Mark those new 2010 calendars for April 7-11 for a trip with Dick Legg to Detroit, Michigan. More information will follow – watch the announcements and e-Tidings.

## United Methodist Women

### Assembly 2010

Assembly 2010, a three-day conference hosted by the United Methodist Women celebrating and empowering women of faith in mission, will be April 30 to May 2 in St. Louis, Missouri. Visit [www.umwmission.org](http://www.umwmission.org) to register or for more information. See the December 1 e-Tidings for more information.

### Evening Book Circle

The Book Circle will next meet on January 20 at the home of Brenda DeGeer, 113 Quail Hollow Ct. in Naperville, to discuss "Remembering the Bones" by Frances Itani (please note, this is a different book than originally scheduled). Sue Mack will lead the discussion. Please RSVP to Brenda at (630)369-8590, if you are able to attend. Interested readers are always welcome.

## Youth

### SHYFt Winter Retreat

Senior High YF will be going to Phantom Ranch February 26 to 28. Get your permission form from the church web site at <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/youth.html> and return it to Nick Giannasi.

## Year-End Schedule

The church office will close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 31. The office and building will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Jan. 1, 2010.

You are encouraged to have all contributions to the church by Sunday, Dec. 27. For tax purposes, to be counted for 2009 all offering must be given on or before Dec. 31; mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31.

## Calendar

### Hospitality Outreach

*By popular demand, e-Tidings will now highlight the teams which staff the hospitality tables at 20 N. Center and at 201 E. Franklin each Sunday. When your group is scheduled to provide hospitality, please consider sending a short note to e-Tidings describing your mission or ministry.*

**December 20:** The **UMW Evening Book Circle** will host at 20 N. Center. The circle meets monthly at members' homes to increase awareness of our mission in the world and foster understanding of various peoples around the world by reading and discussing books selected by the members. Contact Marty Schwab for more information. The **OnCenter Team** will host at 201 E. Franklin. This team plans and staffs the OnCenter contemporary worship service each week. Contact Melissa Hood for information.

**December 27:** The **Evangelism Team** hosts at both sites. Evangelism leads Community UMC's in the Great Commission to make disciples, both by supporting and strengthening faith development among our members and by going into the world. Contact Phil Gorski for information.

**January 3:** The **Bell Choirs** host at both sites. Community has three bell choirs: Open Circle and Carillon for adults and Tower Bells for youth. The choirs rehearse once a week, and play once (or sometimes twice) a month. Contact Stephen Edwards for information or to join a choir.

**January 10:** The **Children's Choirs** host at both sites. Joyful Noise, for children age 3 through kindergarten, and Hosanna, for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders, both rehearse weekly (on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.) and sing once a month. Contact Stephen Edwards for information or to join a choir.

### 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 (resuming January 10)
- 2:30 p.m. SHYFt
- 5:00 p.m. JHYF
- 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
- 8:00 p.m. Women's Ensemble Rehearsal (alternate Tuesdays)

#### Wednesdays

- 7:00 a.m. Advent Chapel Worship (through December 23)
- 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, December 16 to January 15

### Wednesday, December 16

- 9:30 a.m. Senior Worship and Fellowship Service
- 5:30 p.m. Lay Leadership Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

### Thursday, December 17

- 7:00 p.m. Church and Society Team

### Tuesday, December 22

- 7:30 a.m. Community of Parents Cookie Exchange (page 2)

### Thursday, December 24

- 12:00 p.m. Church office closes
- 5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Service (page 1)
- 10:30 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service (page 1)

### Friday, December 25

*Church office and building closed*

### Sunday, December 27

*No JHYF, or SHYFt today*

### Monday, December 28

- 3:00 p.m. Blood Drive to 7:00 p.m. (page #)

### Wednesday, December 30

*No choir rehearsals today*

### Thursday, December 31

- 12:00 p.m. Church office and building close

### Friday, January 1, 2010

*Church office and building closed*

### Wednesday, January 6

- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministries

### Sunday, January 10

- 1:00 p.m. Uth Band rehearsals resume

### Tuesday, January 12

- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

### Wednesday, January 13

- 8:15 p.m. Administrative Board

*Visit [www.communityunitedmethodist.org](http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org) and click on the "Calendar" link for the full church calendar.*