
News Highlights

Haitian Earthquake Relief Appeal

UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, is conducting a special appeal on behalf of the people of Haiti in the wake of the recent earthquake. You can make a donation through the church; please make your check to "UMCOR" and write "418325 Haiti Emergency" in the memo line. You can also give on-line through the GBGM at <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=418325&id=3018760>.

Community of Parents Potluck

All are invited to a potluck lunch this Sunday, January 17 at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring your family and a dish to share and join us for fellowship, good food, and fun. Please RSVP to Tara Cotsonas at (630)226-5193 or to tcotsonas@yahoo.com. We thank the Community of Parents for organizing this event.

90+ Celebration

This spring our church is doing another celebration of folks that were born in 1920 or before. They will be 90 years old or older in 2010. We don't want to miss anyone. They can be members, constituents, or your relatives who are living in the area. **Do YOU know of anyone that might have been born in 1920 or before?** Even if you're not sure of their age, please contact Lynda Krazinski at krazinski@sbcglobal.net or (630)778-0956.

Pastor's Note

"Take hold of the life that really is life." Those encouraging words of scripture are at the heart of Christian living and our current worship series "Thrive!" God desires that we live life to the fullest. God invites us to move beyond surviving our ever present daily fears, challenges, and concerns and live with intention as a centered, vital, faith-filled people who thrive. It is God's desire that we thrive in our worship, our service, our faith, our giving and our hospitality at all times, and in all places.

My good friend Ruth often reminded me that being a Christian is a choice. We choose to live into the values and beliefs that Jesus taught us are the path to living life to its fullest. Making healthy choices requires practicing our faith; it is a choice, it is a process, it is a journey.

Imagine the difference we will experience in our homes, in our workplaces, our schools and this congregation if we choose to embrace and live into the radical, passionate, intentional, risk taking and extravagant lives God has in mind for us. Imagine the difference we can make in the world.

Over the next two weeks we will continue to explore the practices which will guide our choices as a community of faithful believers in a world hungry for hope. I am looking forward to seeing you in worship and meeting your family and friends.

"Take hold of the life that really is life!" 1 Timothy 6:19.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Melissa



Worship News

January Message Series: Five Fruitful Practices

Community UMC's worship messages are based on "Five Fruitful Practices of a Healthy Congregation" by Bishop Robert Schnase. The remaining sessions are:

- January 17, "Intentional Faith Development," Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:21-24
- January 24, "Risk-Taking Mission," 1 Corinthians 13:1-2; James 1:22
- January 31, "Extravagant Generosity," 2 Corinthians 8:2-4, 9:1-9; Luke 12:13-21, 21:1-4

Five Fruitful Practices Discussions

Small-group study sessions exploring the themes of each week's message are being held throughout January. Sessions are Sundays at 5:00 p.m., led by Rev. Melissa Hood, and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m., led by Rev. Mark Jacobs. The books and a related devotional guide are available in the church office.

Looking Ahead to Lent

Lenten Worship Theme: 24 Hours that Changed the World

During Lent, Community's messages will be based on Adam Hamilton's "24 Hours that Changed the World," an examination of the last day of Jesus' life from the Last Supper through the Crucifixion. Watch for more information about message topics and small group studies of Hamilton's book.



Lenten Bible Study

Community UMW and Wesley UMW will join together for a Lenten Bible study. Mari Schirmer will lead the discussion of "Food and Faith" which will be held in Wesley's Fellowship Hall. The dates and time are February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 9:00-11:00am. Please RSVP with Mari at (630)355-8532 or ehsremle@aol.com to reserve your place and book. The cost of the book is \$7.00.

Lenten Devotional Book

With your help, Community UMC will produce a book of Lenten devotionals. The devotionals will be available in the office and the church web site. Please send your favorite prayers, Scripture passages, meditations, or other contributions to the church office, or e-mail them to lent@communityunitedmethodist.org, by February 3.

Joys and Concerns

Our Congratulations

✠ On the birth of twins Wyatt Percival and Amelia Lynn to Chad and Stephanie Sutton on January 8. Lana Sutton is the proud grandmother.

Our Sympathy

- ✠ On the death of Mary Montgomery, a member of Community UMC, on November 27.
- ✠ On the death of Allen Fuller on December 4. Allen is the husband of Frances Fuller and a former member of Community UMC.
- ✠ On the death of Will Frederickson on December 9. Will is the husband of Ulrike Frederickson and the brother of Eldora Juha and Audrey Murr.
- ✠ On the death of Marvine Taggart, grandmother of Russell Frees, on December 30, 2009 in Ohio.

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.

Community News

Adult Lunch Bunch

The next Adult Lunch Bunch will be Tuesday, January 19 at 11:30 a.m. We will be dining at Crème de la Crumb, 2035 S. Washington in Naperville. All are welcome to join in the food, fellowship, and fun – invite a friend along! Please RSVP to the Brassfields at (630)961-3230 by the 18th.

Fat Tuesday

Lent approaches, and with it our annual Fat Tuesday party. We'll be having a Dixieland jazz band, traditional Shrove Tuesday pancakes, and other fun and fellowship! Save the evening of Tuesday, February 16. If you'd like to help with the arrangements, you might want to consider joining the new Fellowship and Event Planning team – see the article on page 3.

Aurora District Training for Church Leaders

"Leading Your Church Today," an Aurora District training event, will be held Saturday, January 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at New Lenox UMC. This event provides training for church leaders with sessions for Lay Leaders, Lay Members, Staff-Parish, Stewardship, and Youth Workers. See the poster in the front hall or contact Rev. Mark Jacobs for information.

December Blood Drive Thanks

We send a grateful *thank-you* to Joan Uebele who has been organizing blood drives at CUMC for thirty-five years. Our thanks as well to all those who, over the years, have supported this effort.

Most recently, on December 28, 46 of you came to give blood in Fellowship Hall, to say "Happy 35th Anniversary" to Joan, and to leave the gift of a pint of blood for our community via Heartland Blood Center.

Here are a few interesting facts from the past 35 years:

- Total blood drives is 65.
- The total number of draws at CUMC is 3204, or 400.5 gallons.
- The highest number of draws was 109 on June 8, 1987, CUMC's 150th anniversary year.



Ministry Reports

Community of Parents

The Community of Parents will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Beth Hagemeyer will lead a discussion on Christian children's literature. We'll talk about what is important to us in the Bibles and books we read with our children, and how it influences their faith journey. Bring your own favorite Children's Bible or other faith-filled story to join the collection. See you then! Please contact Tara Cotsonas at (630)226-5193 or tcotsonas@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Fellowship and Event Planning

Community UMC has a new team that will lead the planning of our fellowship events such as Fat Tuesday and the Rally Day celebration in the park – and also plan new events! Patti Hollingsworth is leading this committee. If you'd like to help, contact her or the church office.

Missions

Heifer Project

We did it again! Thanks to your support, Community UMC raised \$6,162, enough for another Heifer Ark. \$777.68 of that came from our children's Sunday School classes. We're particularly happy to report that the 4- and 5-year olds raised enough for *two* flocks of chicks, and the junior high earned enough for a cow with their cookie sales. Our 20-year total is now 37 arks, or over 1,100 animals. Visit www.heifer.org to see how these animals make a difference in the lives of families throughout the world.

Christmas Offering

Thank you for your generous support for our Christmas offering, which collected a total of \$8,904. This was given to our four designated partners: the global HIV/AIDS fund, the UMCOR Chatham Midwest Mission Distribution Center, the DuPage Community Clinic dental program, and our apportionment which keeps our connectional United Methodist system working for Christ.

Thanks from Our Partners in Mission

Every year the Missions Committee receives wonderful thank-you letters from the many mission partners we support with our gifts of time, material, and money. You can now read some of these letters on the church web site by visiting <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/missions/partners.html>. We will be updating this page regularly with new letters.

VIM Trip to Detroit

Dick Legg is organizing a work trip to Detroit, Michigan for April 7 through 11. More information will follow, but save the date now!

Staff-Parish

Farewell to Cindy Lytle

CUMC said “good-bye” to Cindy Lytle on her final Sunday as Director of Worship for On-Center, December 13th, 2009. A reception given by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee was held following 11:00 AM Worship at Zucker Hall. Members of the congregation gathered to wish her well and celebrate with cake and punch.



Pictured clock wise from upper left:

Cindy giving final directions to the worship team

Cindy at the keyboard

Children admiring the cake

Staff-Parish committee members completing the setup

Sunday morning worshippers

Cindy and the cake

United Methodist Women / Church Women United

Knit Unto Others

The UMW Knitting Circle meets in the parlor Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Knitters, crocheters and wannabes are invited – no need to call ahead – just stop by on a Monday night. Lessons are provided. The ladies have been making chemo hats, preemie hats, sweaters, blankets and prayer shawls. Recently they provided shawls to the families of Fort Hood massacre victims and mothers and wives of fallen soldiers. Knitters have been asked to make prayer shawls for a new family area at Hines VA hospital and (unfortunately) more shawls for fallen soldiers will be needed in the future. Lots to do so your help is needed. Special thanks to the Lankenau who found this catchy phrase while on vacation: “*Knit Unto Others.*”

Evening Outreach Circle

The Outreach Circle will meet January 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Kay Lawson, 5S464 Sherman Ave, Naperville. We will pick up our study of “Food and Faith” which we began in October. New members are always welcome. Give Kay a call at (630)420-0977 and let her know you are coming.

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.

CWU Annual Assembly

Feed My Starving Children will present the program for the Church Women United Annual Assembly, Friday, January 29 at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 1450 Green Trails Drive, Naperville. Registration is at 11:30, followed by a catered luncheon at 12:00. We are collecting sustaining membership offerings, which support the Naperville CWU. There will be installation of officers, Hall of Remembrance and distribution of yearbooks. All are welcome. To register, please send your check for \$10 made out to CWU to Mary O’Keefe, 6 S. Wright Street, Naperville, 60540 by January 25. For more information call Liz Bradley, (630)983-8737.

Trustees

If you notice anything at the church that needs attention/repair/maintenance, let the trustees know. You can mail trustees@communityunitedmethodist.org. Jim McCloud is keeping a Punch List of items that need fixing and their priority. Some of these will be handled by the trustees, and others might be done at the next **all-church work day**, Saturday April 24 from 8:30 to noon.

Youth

SHYFt Groups

This semester we are kicking off our Senior High YF (SHYFt) Groups. We will have two group meeting times, one on Sundays at 12:30 for lunch (except when there is Uth Band rehearsal, when we will meet after rehearsal) and another that meets on Tuesday nights from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Starbucks. We'll be having a small group series to guide our chat. Once a month, the groups will get together for a big group event.

We're doing this in place of the regular Sunday SHYFt meetings, because we understand you are all busy and this gives you the flexibility to be with other SHYFt students. If you've got any questions, contact me at the church or ngiannasi@communityunitedmethodist.org. See you soon!

Nick Giannasi

The Broader Community

Literacy DuPage

Literacy DuPage provides accessible and customized tutoring in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English to help adults achieve independence. Volunteer tutors are needed to share two hours a week. Training will be provided at the Nichols Library on Thursday mornings from January 28 to March 2. If this interests you, contact them at (630)416-6699 or info@literacydupage.org. You can visit their web site, www.literacydupage.org, for more information. You can also contact CUMC member Mary Carhart at (630)355-1846 about her experience as a volunteer tutor with this program.

Hospital Benefit

Emily Buffington, a Community UMC member and a Senior at Augustana College, is participating in a Dance Marathon. On January 30 from 11-7, students from Augustana will be on their feet supporting kids from The University of Iowa Children's Hospital. At Dance Marathon, participants stand for kids who can't. Funds raised have helped make the hospital a home away from home for these families. Please consider donating to this wonderful cause and supporting Emily's participation in this event. Any contribution will help, and all donations are tax deductible. To make an online donation, visit <http://www.helpmakemiracles.org/participant/emilybuffington>. For more information about Dance Marathon or how you can help, email emily-buffington@augustana.edu.

Calendar

Hospitality Table

January 17: The **Uth Band** will host at 20 N. Center. The band rehearses Sundays at 1:00 p.m. as scheduled. It plays for selected services at 20 N. Center, and is the worship band at OnCenter services several times a year (their next turn is Sunday, January 31). Contact Stephen Edwards to join or for more information. The **Caring Ministries** will host at 201 E. Franklin. These lay-run, lay-led ministries visit with seniors, take communion to the homebound, care for inactive members, and serve as Stephen Ministers. Contact Mary Jacobs for information.

January 24: 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 31: The **United Methodist Men** host at 20 N. Center. UM Men welcomes all men to join their programs of spiritual growth, support, and service. Visit <http://www.gbmg-umc.org/nicumm/> or contact Jim Rainwaters for more information. The **Library Committee** hosts at 201 E. Franklin. This committee cares for and improves our church library, located on the second floor and open to all. Contact Forrest Rice for information.

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
- 12:30 p.m. SHYFt Group lunch (page 5)
- 1:00 p.m. Uth Band Rehearsal (as scheduled)
- 5:00 p.m. JHYF
- 5:00 p.m. Small Group study of "Five Fruitful Practices" (page 2)
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. SHYFt Group at Starbucks (page 5)
- 8:00 p.m. Women's Ensemble Rehearsal (alternate Tuesdays)

Wednesdays

- 4:30 p.m. Hosanna Choir; Carillon Bells
- 4:30 p.m. Small Group study of "Five Fruitful Practices" (page 2)
- 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, January 17 to January 31**Sunday, January 17**

- 12:30 p.m. Community of Parents Potluck Lunch (page 1)
No Uth Band rehearsal today

Monday, January 18

- 7:00 p.m. College Outreach Team

Tuesday, January 19

- 7:00 p.m. Building Committee
- 7:30 p.m. UMW Evening Outreach Circle (page 4)

Wednesday, January 20

- 9:30 a.m. Senior Worship and Fellowship
- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry
- 7:30 p.m. UMW Book Circle (page 4)
- 7:30 p.m. Community Players Meeting

Sunday, January 24

- 11:00 a.m. Open Circle Open House

Tuesday, January 26

- 7:15 p.m. Staff Parish Relations
- 7:30 p.m. Community of Parents Meeting (page 3)

Wednesday, January 27

- 7:00 p.m. Mission Committee

Friday, January 29

- 11:30 a.m. Church Women United Annual Meeting (page 4)

Sunday, January 31

No Uth Band or YF groups today

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