

News Highlights

Fat Tuesday

Lent approaches, and with it our annual Fat Tuesday party, February 16 at 6:00 p.m. Sign up on the posters by the hospitality tables, or by calling the church office. We'll be having a Dixieland jazz band, traditional Shrove Tuesday pancakes, and other fun and fellowship! Please bring a pancake topping to share – we suggest any of syrup, jam, jelly, fresh fruit, pie fillings, cinnamon sugar, brown sugar, honey, caramel sauce, dulce de leche, chocolate chips, ice cream, or sprinkles. We are also suggesting a \$5 donation per person or \$20 per family (whichever works best for you).

Haiti Response

Community UMC is working through **UMCOR** to help the people of Haiti. To make a donation, make out your check to UMCOR and write "418325 Haiti Emergency" in the memo line. We are also collecting supplies for Health Kits. Please drop off supplies by Sunday, January 31. For a list of the supplies needed for Health Kits and other ways to help, visit <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/seasonal/haiti.html>.

The CUMC Missions Committee is sponsoring an **overnight work trip** to assemble health and layette kits at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL (just south of Springfield) on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 2 and 3. Volunteers will depart Naperville early Tuesday morning, work at Chatham that afternoon, stay overnight at the center, work from 8:30 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, and then depart for Naperville. If you are interested in this volunteer mission trip, call Ken Reed, member, Mission Committee, at (630)983-5517.

The **musical group IF** will perform at Daniel's Den on February 12 at 7:30 p.m., and all their proceeds will go to the UMCOR relief effort. Beth Buffington, Debbie Craig, Mary Elliott, and Amy Hollander will sing contemporary Christian favorites, accompanied by David Jenkins and Ed Green. Daniel's Den is at 115 E. South St. (Rt. 34), Plano, IL, and on the web at <http://www.daniels-den.org>.

Pastor's Note

Dear Friends,

I have lived a really blessed life. I grew up in a family where we had parents who modeled for us a personal connection to Christ. We were closely connected to a church ... and that church was closely connected to other churches in our denomination for the purpose of helping people through mission projects and sharing the story of Jesus' love. A lot has changed in the world since I was a child in my parents' home, but my life is still blessed by important connections. A personal connection with Christ is still relevant and important. A close connection with a church is still a part of my life, and my church is still closely connected with other churches in the denomination for mission and service welcoming others into a connection with Jesus Christ. We are United Methodists ... united in the person of Christ ... united for risk-taking mission and service in the world.

In response to the crisis in Haiti, we have collected in the last few weeks over \$7600. In addition we have collected lots of items (plus cash) for health kits that will go to help the folks in Haiti. But we don't do this alone. Our dollars and health kits will be combined with dollars and kits from many other UM churches. Together we will make a huge impact in loving the people of Haiti.

My life is blessed by being a part of this great United Methodist connection! I invite you to pray this prayer around your family meals: *Lord of Life, we thank you for the important connections in our lives, especially our connection with Jesus Christ. We thank you for our connection with other Christians through the United Methodist Church. Give strength and hope to our UM workers who are at work in Haiti as they bring help and hope to people with great needs. Let them feel our support. Reveal to them how we honor them for their faithful work in Christ's name. Through Christ we pray. Amen.*

Pastor Mark



Worship News

February Messages

The February 7 message will be "Chains of Love," based on 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2.

On February 14, Community UMC welcomes guest preachers Christian Coon and Trey Hall. Chris and Trey created the Urban Village Church in Chicago in July of 2009, and will be sharing their story at all four worship services with "Dig It Up." For a "sneak peek" of their ministry, visit <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>.

Lenten Worship Theme: 24 Hours that Changed the World

During Lent, Community's messages will be drawn from 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. Small group studies of Hamilton's book will also be held; see page 3.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Chapel Worship

Community UMC will observe Ash Wednesday with Wesley UMC and First Congregational UCC. Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on February 17 at First Congregational UCC.

Morning chapel worship services will be held each Wednesday in Lent starting February 24. The "A Time For..." messages will be based on Ecclesiastes 3. Services will be at 7:00 a.m. and last about one-half hour.

Joys and Concerns

Thank You for Your Prayers

Dick and I would like to thank the ministers and congregation for the many visits, cards and calls which you sent our way during Dick's recent surgery and treatment. Your prayers and support have been incredible.

Sincerely, Liz and Dick Bradley

Our Sympathy

- ✝ On the death of Ken Thompson on January 16. Ken is the brother of Joan Uebele and the brother-in-law of Clyde Uebele.
- ✝ On the death of John Nelson on January 16. John is the father of Chris Monzo and the father-in-law of Robert Monzo.
- ✝ On the death of Emily Strong on January 23. Emily is the mother of Carol Steffens, the mother-in-law of Mike Steffens, and the grandmother of Shelley Steffens.

Our Troops and their Families

We are pleased to announce that John Aitchison and Brad Woltman have returned from their latest tours of duty. We continue to pray for our troops and their families: Matthew Burke, Ryan Gray, Matthew McFee, and Vincent Simonetti.

Community News

Community Players Announces 2010 Season and Auditions

The Community Players will present "Bleacher Bums" in April 2010. Ed Green will direct this comedy about a bunch of Chicago Cubs fans watching a game in the bleachers at Wrigley Field. Auditions will be held on Sunday, February 14 at 2:00 p.m., and Monday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m., in room 202 (the stage) at Community UMC. Be prepared to do cold reads from the script. The show has parts for 9 adult men and 2 adult women.

The Community Players' fall show will be "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." This musical based on Charles Schultz's award-winning characters will be directed by Ollie Taylor. Watch for audition notices in September.

Both shows will be presented at Community UMC, using the chancel and/or choir loft if necessary (see the Trustees report in the September 30 E-Tidings).

Aurora District Lay Academy

Lay speakers and persons interested in becoming a lay speaker are invited to register for the Lay Academy. The \$25 fee provides all materials and supplies, held Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., February 21 through March 21. The sessions are Introduction to Lay Speaking, United Methodist Heritage, Go Preach, Leading Bible Study, and Leading Small Groups. Copies of the registration form are available in the church office, or contact Barbara Pufundt, (847)931-0710 ext. 11 or bpufundt@umcnic.org. Please register by February 5.

Ministry Reports

Administrative Board

The January 13 Administrative Board Meeting included reports from Nominations, Finance, Trustees, and other ministry teams, and approved the proposed 2010 budget submitted by Finance. The minutes of the meeting are on the church web site at <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/internal/AdBoard-2010-01.pdf>.

Building Committee

As stated in the Building Committee's annual report to the Congregation, the Committee has been working closely with the Board of Trustees to prepare a comprehensive evaluation of all the building repairs, renovations, and additions which are needed to have a vibrant worshipping community at our current location and to support the programs of that worshipping community. The Committee is also compiling information on the costs of securing property and building on a new location if the Congregation decides that our worshipping needs would be better served by such a move. Issues the Committee is working on include:

- 1) An estimate of the costs of renovations needed/desired to CUMC's current building. The Committee has a comprehensive list of those renovations. A major vote of thanks goes to the Trustees, particularly Ed Cotner, and Jim Nelson of the Building Committee for the time and effort they devoted to compiling this list. However, it appears that the cost estimates provided by the Aspen Group for the major renovation projects were greatly overstated. Revised estimates are being developed.
- 2) The cost of a building addition to provide a space meeting the needs of the contemporary worship service, the youth program, and the Congregation for a large gathering space. I believe that the latest plan submitted by the Aspen Group is more extensive than is needed to serve our purposes and that the cost estimate is probably overstated.
- 3) Acquiring the funding needed for the building renovations and an addition. This includes exploring the availability of commercial loans, which are difficult to obtain at this time. Also, the City of Naperville has grant and loan possibilities to complete energy efficient projects.
- 4) The cost of land and a new building if we decide to relocate. A commercial real estate agent has estimated that a 10 acre site in the Naperville area would cost about \$2.6 million. Site improvements, as well as the building itself, would be additional costs.
- 5) The amount we could expect to receive from the sale of our current property. This, of course, would depend to a great extent on whether a purchaser would be interested in using the building as well as the land.
- 6) The status of the Park Bank property and its continued availability for parking on Sunday mornings. That property is currently owned by the FDIC, who will be selling it. US Bank will have the first right to buy the property at the FDIC sale price.

Dale Zimmerman, Chair

Christian Education

Assistant Teachers Needed

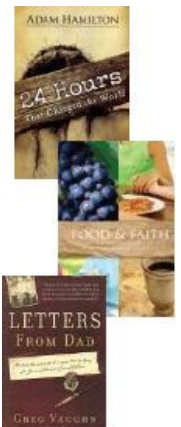
Exciting things are happening in CUMC's children's Sunday School. Come be a part of these transformative ministries for children! Assistant teachers are needed in all 9:30 a.m. classrooms for the spring semester (through May). Assistant teachers help the lead teacher in the classroom, but there is no lesson planning required. If you love working with children, contact Beth Elders to reserve your place for one or more Sundays.

Lenten Worship Studies

Join a small-group study of Adam Hamilton's "**24 Hours that Changed the World**" and enrich your appreciation of our Lenten messages. Groups will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (led by Beth Elders), Sundays at 5:00 p.m. (led by Melissa Hood), and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. (led by Mark Jacobs). Contact Beth Elders, belders@communityunitedmethodist.org, to sign up.

Community and Wesley United Methodist Women will join 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 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.

Men of Community, if today was your last day... what would your wife and children hold in their hands tomorrow that would let them know that they were the treasures of your life? Join us for a Lenten study of "**Letters from Dad**" to learn to write and say those things that you've always wanted to say but didn't know how. Contact Jim Rainwaters at (630)724-1088 or George Groves at (630)717-9483 for more information and to sign up.



C³ (Community College Connection)

All college students are invited to the next C³ Sunday lunch on February 7 after worship services. There will be fun, fellowship, and plenty of home-cooked food. Invite a friend! Community UMC members can support this ministry by signing up outside worship to host or provide food.

Missions

VIM Trip to Detroit

Join a mission group on a trip to Detroit from April 7-11, sponsored by Christ UMC in Rockford. This is your chance to make a difference in the lives of low-income residents. Judy Allen, Betsy Roche, Is Dittrich, and Dick Legg are signed up. To add your name to the list, contact Dick Legg at (630)420-2738 or Richard116@aol.com for details. Registration must be complete by March 1.

Heifer Update

Picture this –

- Around the world, there will be seven families with a flock of chicks.
- Ten families with a group of beehives.
- Three will receive their own pig!
- Seven families in the Andes will have llamas and seven others in Mexico will have pigs.
- Three cows will be delivered and will soon have calves.
- One family in four different countries will own a water buffalo, rabbits, sheep and trees.

Our church, by contributing \$8,844.40 in banks and checks to Heifer Project in 2009, will drastically change the lives of 40 families. WOW!

Nancy Abernethy, Hunger Commission

PS – Banks are always welcome and a Heifer card makes a lovely birthday or anniversary present. Just let me know and I'll take care of it!

Senior Outreach

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.

Trustees

Craft Room Improvements

Studio Workshop Group would like to express our thanks to the Trustees for the improvements to the Studio room, particularly Jim McCloud for his many hours of labor and fine craftsmanship. In December, during our regular Thursday 9:30 a.m. meeting, mold was discovered in the Studio room. The trustees were available to meet with us the following week and help us come up with a plan that created a great working space with added storage shelves, cabinets and improved lighting. We appreciate their speed and efficiency in putting the room back together. Thank you from the "craft ladies." Funding for the craft room renovations was provided by the gifts made to the Community UMC Foundation in memory of Al Hollingsworth.



United Methodist Women

Evening Outreach Circle

The Circle will meet February 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Michelle Barton, 30 W 625 Fairway Dr., Naperville. We will finish our discussion of "Food and Faith" with a Passover Seder celebration. Give Michelle a call to let her know you're coming, (630)548-9338.

Knitting Circle

Please join the Community Knitting Circle at a snack party on Monday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. We're celebrating the completion of our 300th prayer shawl. Actually, we've completed 301 in the four years since we started. So bring a treat and join us on the 15th.

Mary Markwell and Lynda Krazinski

Youth

Deep Freeze a Howling Success

Twenty-three Junior High Youth, plus Nick Giannasi, Debbie Craig, Del Hollingsworth, and Mary Wu, went to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin for the "Deep Freeze" winter retreat, January 15 through 17. They listened to Judy Howard Peterson, Campus Pastor at North Park University, as she challenged the youth to become pilgrims on their journey with Christ (and not just tourists), they rocked out to the energetic and inspirational tunes of *The Least of These*, and they had fun in the sun and the snow. The Junior High youth are grateful to God and CUMC for helping make this journey possible.



SHYFt Winter Retreat

Hey, seniors! See how much fun the JHYF had at their winter retreat? *Yours* is February 26 to 28. We are attending Phantom Ranch Camp in Mukwonago, Wisconsin. There is a ton of stuff to do on the retreat including paintball, tubing, tobogganing, skiing, broomball and polar bear dive. We will leave the 26th at 5:00 p.m. and return Sunday at noon. It only costs \$79 to go, and anyone in high school is welcome to attend. Download the permission slip from <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/youth.html> and return it by **February 7**. I hope you all will come!

Nick Giannasi



Dodgeball!

JHYF and SHYFt will have a dodgeball tournament on February 28 at the YMCA. You can get a registration form for your team from Nick Giannasi. Teams must have six to eight players (including at least two girls) and a manager, so start recruiting now!

Summer Youth Work Trip

This summer, we will be working with the Lakota Indian Tribe at Rosebud, SD from **July 10 to 17**. Youth who are entering High School or currently in High School are eligible to attend the trip. If you are interested in attending the worktrip here's what you have to do:

- 1) Download the questionnaire from <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/youth.html>, fill it out, and return it to Nick Giannasi.
- 2) Schedule an interview with the worktrip team by calling Nick at (630)770-5997 or e-mailing him at ngiannasi@communityunitedmethodist.org.
- 3) Have a parent attend the **Worktrip Meeting on February 7**, right after church in the Youth Room (303).

Calendar

Hospitality Table

February 7: The **Open Circle Sunday School Class** will host at both sites. Open Circle meets Sundays in room 307, and is truly open, welcoming all. Visit <http://www.opencircle.us> for their class schedule, mission projects, and other activities.

February 14: The **Community Players** host at 20 N. Center. The Players have presented 43 shows over their 29-year history, donating the profits to various church projects. See page 2 for more. **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.

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
- 1:00 p.m. Uth Band Rehearsal (as scheduled)
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. SHYFt Group at Starbucks (Chicago and Washington)
- 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 31 to February 16**Sunday, January 31**

- 12:00 p.m. Health Kit Packing (page 1)
- 5:00 p.m. Small Group Study of "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations"
No Uth Band or YF groups today

Tuesday, February 2

- 7:00 p.m. OnCenter Planning Meeting
Chatham Work Trip departs (page 1)
Election Polling Place in Community UMC Parlor

Wednesday, February 3

- 4:30 p.m. Small Group Study of "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations"
- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministries

Sunday, February 7

- 12:00 p.m. College Student Lunch (page 4)
- 12:00 p.m. SHYFt Summer Work Trip Parent Meeting (page 5)

Monday, February 8

- 7:00 p.m. College Outreach

Wednesday, February 10

- 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
- 8:15 p.m. Council on Ministries

Thursday, February 11

- 11:30 a.m. Homemakers Group
- 12:00 p.m. Deadline for E-Tidings

Friday, February 12

- 7:30 p.m. IF at Daniel's Den (page 1)

Sunday, February 14

- 12:00 p.m. IGNITE (Acolyte and Youth Usher Ministry)
- 2:00 p.m. Community Players Auditions (page 2)

Monday, February 15

- 7:00 p.m. Community Players Auditions
- 7:00 p.m. Knitting Circle Party (page 4)

Tuesday, February 16

- 6:00 p.m. Fat Tuesday (page 1)

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