
News Highlights

Beth Elders Approved for Ordination

On March 7 the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry approved Beth Elders for ordination as a Deacon and full membership in the United Methodist Church. After a lengthy process of study and examination Beth has completed the entire UM church ordination process. She will be ordained at Annual Conference on June 15.

Good Friday Worship

On Good Friday, April 2, we will remember and experience the meaning of the death of Jesus on the cross. Our Good Friday worship will be at **12 noon** on April 2 here at Community UMC. This service is a joint worship sponsored by Wesley UMC, First Congregational, and CUMC. To experience this day helps us to love Christ more and to more deeply appreciate what He has done for us through the cross. Come as you are at noon on April 2 and be moved by the love of Christ for us. (See the Worship News section on page 2 for other Holy Week services and times.)

Pastor's Note

Our journeys of faith are long and winding, with God guiding us along our way into a closer relationship with one another and with God. How we respond to God's call in our lives is what makes the difference.

How are you discerning and then responding to God's voice calling you this Lenten season?

Twelve years ago, I was volunteering at my local United Methodist Church as a children's Sunday school teacher, children's choir director, young adult Sunday school teacher, choir and band member, and lay reader. The more I volunteered in these and other areas of ministry, the more fulfilled I became and the more I felt God calling me to use the gifts I had been given in new and more extensive ways. I just didn't know what that looked like.

After almost 3 years of discerning – of talking with my pastors, family, friends, and others (and even sometimes plugging my ears to that call and running away in a fashion that even Jonah would be proud of!) – I began the formal ordination process in The United Methodist Church. I didn't know what lay ahead of me, but I knew that God would be there to guide, comfort, and encourage me along the way.

During the past 8 ½ years in the candidacy process, I have grown closer in my relationship with God through Christ and clearer in my call to ministry. On March 7, I interviewed with the Northern Illinois Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and was approved for full ordination as a Deacon. Thank you to everyone for your prayers, e-mails/notes, and hugs of support!

Lent is a time for discernment, a time for listening for God's call in each of our lives. How is God calling you to use the gifts you've been given in humble and heartfelt service to God and with others? Respond to that call. Take a leap of faith, knowing that God is there to catch you if you fall and give you wings to fly.

For more information on the orders of ministry and the ordination process in The United Methodist Church (or to explore your calling to ordained ministry), visit

http://www.gbhem.org/site/c.lSKSL3POLvF/b.5048519/k.EDBA/Ordained_Ministry_in_The_United_Methodist_Church.htm.



Peace,
Beth Elders

Worship News

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.

- March 21, Torture and Humiliation of the King: Mark 15:15-23 and Isaiah 50:4-8a
- March 28, Palm Sunday: Mark 11:1-11 and Psalm 118:19-26
- April 4, Easter Sunday: Mark 16:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-10a

Small-group studies using a book of daily devotions based on "24 Hours" are being held at Community. Each week we will read and discuss the devotions relating to the sermon topic. Three sessions are offered each week, on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., Sunday afternoons at 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 p.m.

Chapel Worship

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. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be shared. Services will be at 7:00 a.m. and last about one-half hour.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 28: Services will be at 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and Zucker Hall. *Liturgy of the Palms: Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56.*

Maundy Thursday, April 1: A service commemorating the events of the Last Supper will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at Community UMC. *Lectionary: Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35.*

Good Friday, April 2: A joint worship service with Wesley UMC and First Congregational UCC will be held at noon at Community UMC. *Lectionary: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42.*

Holy Saturday, April 3: Worship will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel. *Lectionary: Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Exodus 14:10-31, Isaiah 55:1-11, Psalm 42, Romans 6:3-11, Psalm 114, Luke 24:1-12.*

Easter Sunday, April 4: A Sunrise Service will be held at 6:00 a.m., and the United Methodist Men will host a breakfast afterward. Sunday worship will continue with the usual schedule of 8:30 worship in the Sanctuary and 11:00 services in the Sanctuary and Zucker Hall. *Lectionary: Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, John 20:1-18.*

Joys and Concerns

Our Sympathy

- ✠ On the death of Minnie Schimpf on February 23. Minnie is the aunt of Dr. Joan E. Martin.
- ✠ On the death of Edith Benton on February 26. Edith is the mother of Marsha Taylor, the mother-in-law of Ollie Taylor, and the grandmother of Tom Taylor.
- ✠ On the death of Judith Peters on March 11. Judith is the sister of Jan Barrett.
- ✠ On the death of Marian Olsen on March 13. Marion is the mother of Judy Allen, the mother-in-law of Jim Allen, and the grandmother of Amanda and Emily Allen.

Our Troops and their Families

We continue to pray for our troops and their families: Matthew Burke, Ryan Gray, Nicholas Lopez, Matthew McFee, and Vincent Simonetti.

Community Events

Seed Drive

The Hunger Commission's seed drive continues through March 28. Watch for sales on packets of flower and vegetable seeds and drop them in the baskets in the halls and classrooms. Your gifts will be sent to seniors at the Chicago Housing Authority and Marcy-Newberry and will provide healthy fresh food and lovely flowers all summer long. If you don't have time to shop, let the Hunger Commission do it for you – make out your check to CUMC and write "Seed Drive" in the memo line.

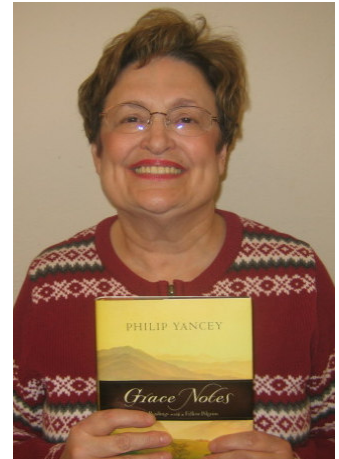
Stephen Ministry Honors Carol O'Neill

In the fall of 1994, five members of CUMC trained to serve as Stephen Ministers. They were commissioned in January of 1995. Carol O'Neill was a member of this first group. Carol has served continuously and faithfully since her commissioning and was recently honored by her current peer group of Stephen Ministers for that service. During these past 15 years, Carol has served as Stephen Minister to eleven individuals, providing the "distinctively Christian caregiving" for which she was trained. In addition, she is a loyal participant in the twice-monthly supervision meetings in which she serves as a group facilitator. Carol carries the caregiving and ministry of Stephen Ministry across CUMC through her cards and calls to those who are ill or who are suffering losses.

In addition, Carol was instrumental in starting CUMC's Caring Ministry, which provides meal services following memorial and funeral services. She has continued as a coordinator for these luncheons, calls members for menu items and can frequently be seen working in the church kitchen.

In grateful recognition of Carol's years of faithful ministry and service, her fellow Stephen Ministers presented her with a book of devotions signed by all and a "This is Your Life in Stephen Ministry" prepared by Mary Jacobs. All in the group honor Carol as a role model and hope for many more years of service with her in Stephen Ministry.

CUMC currently has eleven active Stephen Ministers and four Stephen Leaders. If you or someone you know would benefit from the presence of a Stephen Minister, contact one of the pastors or Mary Jacobs in the church office.



Yoga Lessons

Learn yoga at Community UMC on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes will be held on March 17, 24, and 31. Each session is \$10. For more information or to register contact Katie Tompkins at (630)935-1762 or katie@lotustouchtherapy.com.

Ministry Reports

Christian Education

United Vacation Bible School

VBS 2010 will be going to Hero Headquarters to learn about some of the Bible's unnamed heroes. UVBS will be held June 21-24, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. each day. Registration for members of the participating churches is now open. Adult and older youth volunteers are also needed to help make UVBS a success. Visit the church web site, <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org>, for news and forms.



Spring Movie Series

This year's theme is "Images of Christ in the Movies." Each Saturday we will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a light supper, then view and discuss the film starting at 6:00 p.m. The next selections are:

- March 20: "The Mission," hosted by Ed and June Green, 550 Cimarron Drive West in Aurora.
- March 27: "Babe: Pig in the City," hosted by Gary and Laura Denklau, 2127 Riverlea Circle in Naperville.

The series will take a break on April 3 for Easter weekend, then resume April 10. Visit the news page on the church web site for more information.

Scheduling Change for 2's and 3's

Due to low attendance, the 11:00 a.m. Sunday 2- and 3-year-old class will only be held on the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sundays). In all other weeks, children age 2 and 3 are invited to attend the nursery, or may worship with their families and attend Children's Chapel.

Community of Parents

The Community of Parents will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Mark Jacobs and Melissa Hood will be sharing their own stories of being a parent with us. Come and join us as we get to know our new pastors a little better. All are welcome. Please contact Tara Cotsonas at (630)226-5193 or tcotsonas@yahoo.com with any questions.

Trustees

Dear Recycling Stewards...

Did you know that institutions and businesses in Naperville have to make their own arrangements for commercial garbage and recycling pickup? As of March 1, the Trustees have negotiated a new three-year garbage contract that will save CUMC over \$400 a year. Like at home, commercial recycling is Single-Sort, meaning recycled items can be mixed together without sorting. However, recycled items need to be without food residue. Recycling rules are similar to our old garbage contract but different than your home recycling so let's have a quick review.

YES, at church we should recycle newspapers, inserts, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, envelopes, paperback books, phone books, cardboard, clean pizza boxes, office and Sunday school papers, even colored paper, boxboard (cereal, cake, and cracker boxes), brown paper bags, aluminum cans and clean foil, empty tin and steel aerosol cans, glass jars and bottles, plastic milk, water, juice jugs, yogurt and butter tubs, ketchup containers, detergent and cleaning supply containers.

NO, do not recycle the following items: plastic bags, food waste, any food-tainted items, used paper plates, paper towels or paper napkins, styrofoam, motor oil bottles, hazardous chemical containers, plastic toys or sporting goods, electronics or batteries, compact discs or DVD's, foam egg cartons, ice cream containers, and definitely no garbage, yard waste or garden tools.

Please read the signs on the recycling containers and encourage others to recycle. Thanks from the Board of Trustees.

United Methodist Women

The **Evening Outreach Circle** will meet March 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the home of JoAnn Roessler, 1212 Clyde Dr., Naperville. We will begin our study of *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible*. Participants are asked to bring an article, from newspaper or internet, pertaining to Sudan. Give JoAnn a call, (630)355-0748, if you can participate.

The **Book Circle** will meet on Wednesday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *Moloka'i* by Alan Brennert. Priscilla Baker will lead the discussion. The group will meet at the home of Marty Schwab, 1200 Tall Oaks Court, Naperville. Please call Marty at (630)369-9544 if you plan to attend. New readers are always welcome.

Worship and Altar

Communion servers are needed for the 11:00 Sanctuary service. If you are interested in occasionally helping to serve the sacrament, please contact Pat Becker at patgbec@aol.com.

Can you arrange flowers? Would you like to learn? Help is needed in the summer months to create the garden flower altar bouquets. Contact Mary Kay Doody at (630)357-1866 to help.

Youth



YF Shower

Community's youth threw a surprise shower on March 7 for Nick and Melissa Giannasi, who are expecting their first child (a girl) in May. A clever ruse involving a staged fight was used to draw Nick and Melissa to the parlor for the party and gifts. Thanks to all those who put this together!

In the Community

For more information about these events visit <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/news/news.html>.

- CUMC's own Stephen Edwards debuts as Artistic Director of Windy City Performing Arts at their concert, "It Might As Well Be Spring." March 20, Hover-Leppen Theatre, Chicago.
- Guitarist Phil Keaggy will appear at a benefit for Rebuilding Together Aurora, an organization which helps provide housing for low-income families. March 20, East Aurora High School auditorium.
- An adoption benefit concert will feature solo and chamber ensembles from Northern Illinois University and North Central College faculty. March 28, Community UMC Sanctuary.
- Samaritan Interfaith offers an eight-week "Journey of the Spirit" led by Gail Meyer and based on Anthony De Mello's *Walking on Water*. Tuesdays, March 30 to May 18, Samaritan Interfaith Center in Naperville.
- "Creation Care 2010" is a seminar on reducing environmental footprints, based on the "Stewardship of God's Creation" resolution passed at the 2009 annual conference. April 17, First UMC of Downers Grove.
- Philip Gulley will hold a book-signing and question-and-answer session for his latest work, *If the Church Were Christian*. April 23, First UMC of Arlington Heights.

Calendar

Hospitality Table

March 21: Adult Christian Education will host at 20 N. Center. Come learn about plans for new small group studies and devotions. **IGNITE**, the ministry for children who serve as acolytes and OnCenter ushers, will host at 201 E. Franklin.

March 28: Studio Workshop will host at 20 N. Center. Studio meets every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and makes crafts for sale at the annual United Methodist Women Harvest of the Hands craft show. **Caring Ministries** will host at 201 E. Franklin.

Every Week At Community

Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Adult, Youth, and Children's Sunday School Classes; Confirmation Class
- 9:30 a.m. "24 Hours that Changed the World" Discussion
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Services at 20 N. Center and 201 E. Franklin
- 12:30 p.m. SHYFt Group lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Community Players Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. JHYF
- 5:00 p.m. "24 Hours that Changed the World" Discussion
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Community Players Rehearsal

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

- 7:00 a.m. Chapel Services
- 4:30 p.m. Hosanna Choir; Carillon Bells
- 5:00 p.m. "24 Hours that Changed the World" Discussion
- 5:30 p.m. Tower Bells
- 7:00 p.m. Community Players Rehearsal

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, March 15 to March 31

Monday, March 15

7:00 p.m. College Outreach

Tuesday, March 16

6:30 p.m. Building Committee

7:30 p.m. UMW Evening Outreach Circle (page 4)

Wednesday, March 17

9:30 a.m. Senior Worship and Fellowship Service

7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministries

7:30 p.m. UMW Book Circle (page 4)

Thursday, March 18

9:00 a.m. UMW Lenten Bible Study at Wesley UMC – Final Meeting and Passover Seder

7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee

Saturday, March 20

6:00 p.m. Spring Film Series – “The Mission” hosted by the Greens (page 3)

Monday, March 22

7:30 p.m. Children and Family Ministry

Tuesday, March 23

7:00 p.m. CUMC Jobs Club

7:30 p.m. Community of Parents (page 3)

Wednesday, March 24

7:00 p.m. Mission Committee

7:00 p.m. UMW Lenten Program

Saturday, March 27

6:00 p.m. Spring Film Series – “Babe: Pig in the City” hosted by the Denklous (page 3)

Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday)

3:00 p.m. Adoption Benefit Concert (page 5)

Monday, March 29

12:00 p.m. Deadline for E-Tidings

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