

## News Highlights

### Focus Groups and Church Conference

Focus groups to discuss the material presented at the congregational meetings are being held on the following dates: June 1 at 7:00 p.m.; June 2 at 1:30 p.m.; and June 5 at 10:00 a.m. All members are encouraged to participate in one of these meetings. You can sign up by calling the church office. Childcare is available but **must** be arranged one week in advance; please call the office for childcare.

An all-church conference will be held June 17 at 7 p.m. where we will vote and decide the future of Community UMC. Rev. Diana Facemyer, District Superintendent, will preside.

### Blood Drive, June 2

The next Heartland blood drive at Community UMC will be Wednesday, June 2. Donors must be in good health and pass a brief medical screening. To sign up to donate, call Joan Uebele at (630)983-1857. Donors will get a "quart for a pint" – a coupon good for a free quart of Oberweis ice cream.

### Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 6

At services on Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6, Community UMC will honor all graduates of high school, college, graduate school, and seminary. Please send a picture (digital, if you can) and a brief bio to the office. All information must be received no later than Wednesday, June 2. Drop off your bio and picture in the office, or e-mail to [info@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:info@communityunitedmethodist.org).

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## Pastor's Note

*"Without a vision the people perish" ~Proverbs 29:18*

The words struck my heart as I stood alone in that sanctuary on a hot airless Monday in July 2003. Two weeks before, I had moved from the county seat town that had been home for two years and had only just begun to serve a diverse congregation of Christians on the far south side of Chicago when the phone rang. It was the district superintendent. The band of 20 people struggling to keep their congregation going in the next suburb over was being merged with the one I served – now. Those determined people who could no longer keep up were offered my leadership. This building and five acres was now my responsibility to manage.

The smell of decay was overwhelming in that sanctuary. Piles of hymnals, broken bits and pieces of chairs and pianos, newsletters and bulletins, all the stuff of long-abandoned worship and classes were tucked in the corners. A dirty puddle of water had gathered in the center of the main aisle. The stained glass windows, images of resurrection and God's spirit, cast prisms of light on the pews, and the piles, and the puddle, and all the while, there I stood, looking at the faded and tattered banner looming over the pulpit, "Without a vision the people perish" ~Proverbs 29:18, and I cried.

Then I prayed and then the congregation and I began to work. The property would need to be repaired. Many wealthy developers came to us asking to build houses. But the community had houses. That community needed a congregation with vision and faith. God was calling for people willing to work hard, sacrifice, and serve the needs of that crime-worn city. With God's help a congregation came to serve, to gather, and to grow in love for God and neighbor. It is still a church, praise be to God.

Of the 20, only two stayed in ministry through the merger to catch the new vision placed before them. Because of their leadership existing ministries were revitalized, new ministries were created, existing leadership experienced renewal and new leaders rose up.

This weekend we will gather together as a people of faith to ponder the wonder of God's ever evolving and transforming vision for our lives and to celebrate God's amazing power to make all things new. I am looking forward to seeing you, your family, and your friends in worship.

Your sister in Christ,  
Melissa

## Worship News

### Sermon Series

Our sermon series "Road Trip" continues through June.

- ✠ June 6, "Vacation! Renewal Trip" – Acts 4:23-31, Luke 19:10, Ezekiel 36:26-27
- ✠ June 13, "What's in Your Baggage" – Acts 5:1-16
- ✠ June 20, "Expect Detours" – Acts 9:1-6, 17-20
- ✠ June 27, "Traveling Together" – Acts 15:1-2, 12-19

### Summer Schedule

Starting June 6, Community UMC will be on its summer schedule. There will be no 9:30 a.m. children's Sunday School, nor will there be Children's Chapel during the 11:00 services. Childcare will be available in the nursery during services for children through age 3. Classes resume on Rally Day, September 12.

Community UMC will be holding Sundays in the Park again this July. 8:30 a.m. worship will be held in Central Park just south of the church each Sunday in July.

## Joys and Concerns

### Our Sympathies

- ✠ To Bill Barker, on the death of his sister, Mildred Mary Barker Leach, in Hobart, Indiana.

### Our Congratulations

- ✠ To Melissa and Nick Giannasi, on the birth of their daughter Olivia Jane, on May 15.

### Our Troops and their Families

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

## Community Events

### Celebration of Ordination

To all of those who have made a difference in my journey of faith (and continue to do so!) – you're invited to come celebrate my ordination as a Deacon in The United Methodist Church on June 15th at 7:30 p.m.!

The worship service will take place in the convention center at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles (4051 East Main Street St. Charles, IL.)

I would be incredibly honored to have you present for this important step in my journey. (No tickets or RSVPs are required – everyone is welcome to attend!)

Thank you for the many ways that you have supported me over the years. I count myself blessed to have you each in my life.

Beth Elders



### Northern Illinois Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church is June 13 through 16 in St. Charles, Illinois. Community UMC's pastoral staff will be attending, but will be "on-call" for pastoral needs; please call the church office if you need to reach them. Our lay delegates will also be attending and voting on the issues brought before the conference. A report on the conference will be in a future e-Tidings.

### Blood Pressure Checks

The Parish Nurse ministry team will offer monthly blood pressure checks on the second Sunday of each month, starting June 13. RNs on the Parish Nurse team will be available in the Chapel from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. to measure your blood pressure. The results will be recorded on a card which you will keep. Please do not smoke or use any caffeine for 30 minutes prior to the testing.

### Dine Away Hunger

Eat out on June 16 and participating restaurants will donate 10% of their sales to the People's Resource Center food pantry. Central DuPage Hospital will also match all monies raised. For a list of participating restaurants, visit the PRC website at [www.peoplesrc.org](http://www.peoplesrc.org).

## Ministry Reports

### Children's Ministries

#### Be a Hero for United Vacation Bible School

UVBS is in *desperate* need of adult and older youth volunteers! Do you love children? Are you free for one or more afternoons from June 21-24 (1:00-4:00)? Help give our children a positive experience at this summer's VBS as a volunteer in one of the following areas:

- Junior Counselor Leader: Junior Counselors are our rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This adult volunteer position helps lead the small group activities and discussions and assists the youth with volunteer positions throughout VBS.
- Junior Counselor Assistants: These volunteers assist the Junior Counselor leader with our rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Elementary Counselors: These volunteers serve as "shepherds"; leading small groups of elementary-age children between the activity centers, sitting with them during open and closing worship services, and leading a 10-minute prepared reflection time each afternoon! It's an easy and fun way to get to know a great group of children and make a difference in their lives!

Vacation Bible School can't be possible without your help. Please volunteer today. For more information, or to volunteer to lend a hand, please contact Beth Elders ([belders@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:belders@communityunitedmethodist.org) or (630)355-1483.

### College Outreach

#### Picnic Lunch, June 6

All college students are invited to a picnic lunch on Sunday, June 6 after the 11:00 services, on the lawn south of the church (rain location: Fellowship Hall). As a thank-you to all those who have supported this outreach ministry, the Community College Connection invites all those who have contributed food during the past year, as well as all of our College Sponsors, to come to the picnic.

The team hopes these generous contributors will join in the fun and let the students personally thank them!



### Community of Parents

#### June Activities

The Community of Parents has three outings planned for June. All are welcome to join us.

- Visit the **Morton Arboretum** on Wednesday, June 2. Meet at the entrance to the Children's Garden at 10 a.m.
- The CoPs are having a **Ladies' Night Out** on Thursday, June 10 at Le Chocolat in Naperville at 7:30 p.m.
- Join us for a **picnic** on Sunday, June 13. Bring your lunch and a blanket to Central Park following the 11:00 services. After lunch we can play ladderball, bean bag toss, and other lawn games while the children play at the park.

Please contact Tara Cotsonas at (630)226-5193 or [tcotsonas@yahoo.com](mailto:tcotsonas@yahoo.com) with any questions or to RSVP for any of these events.

### Hearing Committee

**Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."**

The first meeting of the Trustees Ad-Hoc Hearing Committee was held on May 12, 2010. The group began its work by forming two subcommittees. We are fortunate to have Adam Andersen, Jeff Cowan, Ken Cox, Sean Hagemeyer and Graham Wills, who will be assessing the status of the sound system in use at CUMC and making recommendations based on their findings.

The second subcommittee has developed a questionnaire for the congregation to complete and return so that we can get a better understanding of our congregation's concerns related to being able to hear in the sanctuary and make recommendations to the Trustees to improve the ability of all our members to participate in services to the maximum extent. These questionnaires will be included in the church bulletin on May 29 and 30 and again on June 5 and 6. Nancy Whittington and Greg Hubert along with other committee members have done a good job in getting our questionnaire ready for distribution. We are encouraging all of our members to complete and return the questionnaire by June 10 when we will be meeting again.

An e-mail list, [hearing@communityunitedmethodist.org](mailto:hearing@communityunitedmethodist.org), has been created to allow members to contact the committee with questions and comments.

## Hunger

### Have You Heard? We're Having a Plant Sale!

For those recently returning from non-English-speaking countries or prone to lengthy-duration out-of-body experiences, the upcoming PassAlong Perennial Plant Sale – 3PS – may come as fresh news. For all others, our hope is that, by now, 3PS is well known to you and locked in on your calendars for Saturday, June 5, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This year a number of new varieties have been added and the plants look better than ever, thanks to great spring growing weather and substantial TLC from a large number of volunteers.

If you can help with the relocation of plants from the CUMC nursery – that's the grassy area between our church and the vacant parsonage – to the Fischer Parking Lot, we'd love to see you on Friday, June 4, around 9:30 a.m. to help for an hour or two. Then come back the following day with friends and family in tow for our sale to help feed the hungry while beautifying your yard. As a car ad heard regularly on WGN radio says, "You will **not** be disappointed!"

Final thought – plant sale gift certificates make a great present for that favorite teacher, family member or anyone special you'd like to thank in a creative way. They are available in any denomination you'd like from Nancy Abernethy, nbabernethy@gmail.com or (630)420-2170.

## Missions

### Trinity UMC Work Day

Our sister church is Trinity UMC in Joliet. Last year we agreed to paint the exterior of their activities building, but winter weather caused a postponement. June 4 and 5 we will be painting their church. We are in need of a paint sprayer and a power washer and volunteers to help. Contact Dick Legg, (630)420-2738 or Richard116@aol.com.

## Stephen Ministry

The PBS "Religion and Ethics" news show recently aired an eight-minute feature about Stephen Ministry. You can watch the video online on the PBS website; visit [www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/tag/stephen-ministry](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/tag/stephen-ministry), and click on the April 9, 2010 "Stephen Ministry" feature.

This is a great way to learn more about this program, its founding and the kind of training given to Stephen Ministers. All of the thirteen Stephen Ministers here at CUMC have gone through this 50-hour training program designed to teach the skills necessary to be a Christian Caregiver who provides emotional and spiritual care. Stephen Ministers are trained to provide this care with total confidentiality, with nonjudgmental listening skills and with compassion. They are Christ-centered in the caring relationship.

CUMC Stephen Ministers are ready to assist those suffering from the loss of a loved one, divorce or separation, loneliness, unemployment or job crisis, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, infertility, miscarriage, adoption or any other life crisis. If you or someone you know could benefit from the one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister who listens, cares, prays, supports and encourages, please contact Mary Jacobs at the church office, (630)355-1483.

## Stewardship

### The Choices We Make

I'm a bit of a language nut, fascinated by the words people choose as tools for communication with others. Read something several years back that suggested – heck, flat out *said* – that the "word diet" you feed upon is every bit as important to your brain and emotional well-being as the food going into your mouth for physical well-being. I believe that. Stay with me here!

One of the several challenges for us as Christians and members of Community UMC is to live our lives dynamically rather than in a static manner. Two meaningful *and* effective terms here. Equate **dynamic** to being in motion and **static** to remaining in one place. What happens when you are in motion? Well, creative overload can take place. Think of both the physical and mental/emotional growth that comes from stretching a bit beyond that thought possible. If you are static for any period of time, you'll in effect become dormant. And if you remain dormant for too long, well... Just ask anyone who has broken a major bone or gone through joint replacement surgery. The long road back is just that, often a lengthy and challenging experience. How much better it is to be active and vibrant in our daily lives, keeping both mind and body tuned and productive!

What does all this add up to? The challenge to us as stewards is to be actively involved and productive – of service to God, ourselves and those around us. If we channel our efforts towards pulling individually and collectively in the directions God would have us move, the result is living a well-adjusted and happy life, growing in ways only possible to those of faith, blessed by the Grace of God. So choose your words and how you spend your time carefully, as if your life depended upon the choices made. In many ways, it does!

## Trustees

The Trustees would like to borrow an adjustable stairway ladder with a paint shelf in June to do some painting around the church. If you have an adjustable ladder and could lend it out to the church trustees, please contact Lynda Krazinski at [krazinski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:krazinski@sbcglobal.net) or (630)778-0956.

## Youth Ministries

### Rent-A-Kid Fundraiser

During May, you can sign up to have a team of 3-4 students and 1-2 adults come to work for two hours at your house. You can have them work any day (it doesn't have to be in May, sign 'em to shovel snow if you want). \$150 per team. Look for the sign-up in the hall between services or call Nick at (630)770-5997 to set up a time. This is a fundraiser by the youth and adults who are going on this summer's work trip to South Dakota from July 10 to 17 to work with Tree of Life Ministries and the Lakota Nation.

If you'd like a reference for this service, contact Bob and Mary Ann Guenzler, who hired a team (shown at right) to wash their deck, clean their outdoor furniture, plant flowerboxes, and weed flowerbeds. Eddie Green, David Green, and Andrew Hood were the youth members, and Ken Cox the adult representative.



### Work Trip Training

Youth and adults going on the summer work trip are invited to meet in the youth room on Wednesday, June 2 at 3:00 p.m. We'll practice some light construction jobs similar to those we'll be doing in South Dakota. Call Nick Giannasi at (630)770-5997 for information.

### Confirmation Meeting

An informational meeting for next year's confirmands (youth who are entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade in fall 2010) and their parents will be held Sunday, June 6 at 12:30 p.m. in the youth room. Lunch will be served, so please RSVP to Nick Giannasi, (630)770-5997, by June 4.

## Calendar

### Hospitality Table Hosts

**June 6 and 13: Youth Fellowship** meets every Sunday during the school year, and has special events all year round. Contact Nick Giannasi to find out more about summer plans.

### Every Week At Community

#### Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Services at 20 N. Center and 201 E. Franklin

#### Mondays

- 5:15 p.m. Covenant Groups
- 7:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesdays

- 9:15 a.m. Women's Book Study

#### Wednesdays

- 12:00 p.m. Eclipsing Empire Small Group Study

#### Thursdays

- 9:30 a.m. UMW Studio Workshop
- 6:30 p.m. OnCenter Rehearsal

#### Saturdays

- 5:00 p.m. Worship Service

## Day by Day Calendar, May 31 to June 15

### Monday, May 31

*Memorial Day – Church office closed, and church building locked*

### Tuesday, June 1

- 7:00 p.m. “Letters from Dad” Men’s Study
- 7:00 p.m. Focus Group (page 1)
- 7:00 p.m. OnCenter Planning Meeting

### Wednesday, June 2

- 10:00 a.m. Community of Parents trip to Morton Arboretum (page 3)
- 3:00 p.m. Blood Drive (page 1)
- 3:00 p.m. Work Trip Training (page 5)

### Friday, June 4

- Work Day at Trinity UMC, Joliet (page 4)
- 9:30 a.m. Set-up for 3PS (page 4)

### Saturday, June 5

- Work Day at Trinity UMC, Joliet (page 4)
- 8:00 a.m. PassAlong Perennial Plant Sale (page 4)
- 10:00 a.m. Focus Group (page 1)

### Sunday, June 6 (Second Sunday after Pentecost)

- 12:00 p.m. College Student Lunch (page 3)
- 12:30 p.m. Parent Confirmation Meeting (page 5)

### Tuesday, June 8

- 10:30 a.m. Reminiscence Service

### Wednesday, June 9

- 6:30 p.m. Hunger Committee; Hearing Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Council on Ministries

### Thursday, June 10

- 7:00 p.m. Jobs Club
- 7:30 p.m. Community of Parents Ladies Night (page 3)

### Sunday, June 13 (Third Sunday after Pentecost)

- 12:00 p.m. Community of Parents Picnic (page 3)
- 1:00 p.m. Northern Illinois Annual Conference begins

### Tuesday, June 15

- 7:30 p.m. NIC Ordination Service (page 2)

### Wednesday, June 16

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

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