

News Highlights

Sundays in the Park

Every Sunday in July, the 8:30 worship service will be in Central Park just south of the church. Practice some radical hospitality by inviting a friend to join us in this beautiful outdoor setting for worship. Hospitality will be provided by the adult Sunday School classes at the gazebo: Fidelis on July 4, Open Circle on July 11, Sojourners on July 18, and Kairos on July 25.

Greeters and ushers will be available for those needing assistance in getting their chairs, strollers, and so forth to the worship area. We'll also be providing some benches for those who don't want to navigate the grass, and reserving some parking spots (watch for orange cones) for those needing them. If you have any other specific requests, please contact Marianna in the church office, (630)355-1483.



Work Trip Commissioning

All are invited to attend the commissioning and send-off service for the youth work trip, to be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 10. The youth and adults will depart at 2:00 p.m. for Rosebud, South Dakota where they will work with Tree of Life Ministries and the Lakota Nation. They will return on July 17. Please keep them in your prayers.

2010 NIC Annual Conference

The 171st Northern Illinois Annual Conference gathering took place June 13 through 16 with the theme, "Bold Disciples – Abundant Fruit." Community UMC was represented by clergy Mark Jacobs, Melissa Hood and Beth Elders, and lay members Ollie Taylor, George Groves, Dottie Van Marter, Mary Markwell, Carl Gilmore and David Hollander. They were our eyes, ears and (perhaps most importantly) voices, as United Methodists across the Northern Illinois area gathered to renew our connection, worship together, transact conference business, celebrate some milestones, and engage in earnest discussions about the future of our conference.

Several observances and celebrations were held, including a Youth Rally; an uplifting of our relationship with the Seoul South Conference of the Korean Methodist Church; a remembrance of clergy, spouses, and lay delegates who had died in the past year; celebration of clergy and staff retirements; and the ordination of new clergy, including our own Beth Elders. We celebrated appointed clergy on Wednesday, including the reappointment of Mark, Melissa and Beth to Community UMC.

The main "business" of each Annual Conference is to review, discuss, vote on legislative proposals. There was a strong spirit of inclusion in much of the approved legislation, specifically regarding how to move the church's focus outward in service and ministry. The Harvest 2020 Initiative was particularly lifted up, and we heard from congregations that are a part of this initiative, including Pastor Chris Coon of Urban Village Church in Chicago and former Community Associate Pastor Jamie Geiger, whose Libertyville UMC partners with the new Word of Life congregation. Again and again, we heard witness of how we must go to the places where the people are, echoing John Wesley: "I look on all the world as my parish, ... in whatever part of it I am"

Rev. Gil Rendle's presentations were an inspiring and challenging call. He called on us to make "deep change," and admonished us to not come back thinking that we had answers, but to be better able to ask good questions. He reminded us that the work we are about is not changing other people, but being reformed ourselves for the work of the church. He highlighted the tension between the Moses model of **leadership**, which asks "Are we doing the right things?" and Aaron's process of **management** that wants to know, "Are we doing things right?"

This was a truly inspiring event. Your Conference team is charged to bring its insights to the congregation, and has met once already to share impressions and brainstorm. Please feel free to contact any of the team members with your own questions to continue the discussion. Let us all continue our "Traveling Together," in love and fellowship, as we "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

A more complete version of this report is at <http://www.communityunitedmethodist.org/news/nic-report.html>.

Worship News

Sermon Series

Our sermon series “Where the Rubber Hits the Road” will extend our “Road Trip” series. Now that we’ve seen how the church moves in the world, let’s explore what that means using the Epistle of James.

- ✠ July 4, “Wise in Faith” – James 1:2-8, 12-15
- ✠ July 11, “Taming the Tongue” – James 1:22-27
- ✠ July 18, “A Glimpse Through God’s Lenses” – James 2:1-7
- ✠ July 25, “Living the Way” – James 2:14-18

Joys and Concerns

Our Sympathies

- ✠ To Wayne Cowlshaw and all the family and friends of **Mary Lou Cowlshaw**, who died on June 23. Services were held on Saturday, June 26.

Our Congratulations

- ✠ On the marriage of **Jack Dabrowski and Karen Uhring** on Saturday, June 26. Jack is the son of Jack and Barb Dabrowski.

Our Troops and their Families

We continue to pray for our troops and their families: **Matthew Burke, David Cobbell, Nicholas Lopez, and Vincent Simonetti**. We apologize for an error in the last e-Tidings; **Ryan Gray**, the son of Chuck and *Diane* Gray, is returning from his overseas duty.

Deacon’s Note

With my recent full ordination as a Deacon in The United Methodist Church, I have received several questions about Deacons – what is a Deacon, how are they different from Elders, etc. So, I thought I’d take this opportunity to write a brief description of the Orders of Ministry in the UMC and specifically about what a Deacon is.

Through our baptisms, all Christians are called and set apart for ministry. “Within the church community, there are persons whose gifts, evidence of God’s grace, and promise of future usefulness are affirmed by the community, and who respond to God’s call by offering themselves in leadership as ordained ministers.”¹ Ordination is a gift from God to the church. It is through ordination that the church affirms and helps to continue the ministry of individuals by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In The United Methodist Church, there are two distinct and equal orders of ministry – Elders and Deacons. At the 1996 UMC General Conference, the Order of Deacon was created (and in so doing, the Order of Elder was redefined). At this time the previous two-step order of ministry, in which a person was ordained a deacon as a preparatory step to becoming a full Elder, was eliminated. (Instead it provided for a 2 or 3-year provisional/residency period, marked by Commissioning and culminating in full ordination.)

So, what exactly IS a Deacon? How is the Order of Deacon distinct from the Order of Elder?

A United Methodist Deacon is called to a lifetime of specialized servant ministry of connecting the Church and the world. “It is Deacons, in both person and function, whose distinctive ministry is to embody, articulate, and lead the whole people of God in its servant ministry.”² We are called and set apart for the ministry of love, justice, and service; connecting the church with the most needy, neglected, and marginalized among the children of God. In so doing, Deacons are called to build bridges between the church and the world and then to help guide individuals on their journeys of faith between these two places (helping those in the church see and respond to the needs of those in the world, and communicating the ever-evolving church to those in the world).

Deacons serve in a variety of specialized ministries. In the local church, we serve as Christian educators, music ministers, youth directors, pastoral care coordinators, directors of discipleship, missions, and much more. In each of these capacities, our call is to help equip those within the church to go into the world in relevant and authentic mission and service. Additionally, within the local church, our call is to be a voice for the voiceless; communicating to the church the needs of those whose voices may not be heard. Deacons also serve in a large variety of capacities within the world. We serve as social workers, HIV/AIDS clinic counselors, hospital and hospice chaplains, missionaries, teachers, seminary and college professors, community organizers, and many other ways and places. In the world, Deacons are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, to communicate God’s love to all of God’s children and to relate the needs of the world to the church.



Deacons are fully clergy in the denomination, equal partners with Elders, in the church's mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."³ We are not "Jr. Elders" or "Elders in training". This is our final ordination and how we are called to live out our calls to ministry. There are, however, a few distinctions between Deacons and Elders.

In The United Methodist Church, Deacons are called to *word and service*. Elders are called to *word, service, sacrament, and order*.⁴ It is within these two callings that you see the distinction between the orders. While Deacons serve as specialized ministers (as I have described above), Elders serve more as generalists in their ministry areas. Elders are the pastors-in-charge of local congregations, where they are responsible for administering the sacraments, ordering the life of the Church for service in mission and ministry, and proclaiming the Word of God.⁵

While Elders have sacramental authority to administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, a Deacon does not. The call of the Deacon is to guide and lead people as they *live out* the sacraments in their lives, to walk beside people on their journeys of faith, not to administer the sacraments themselves.

Both Deacons and Elders are under appointment by the Bishop and are full members of the Annual Conference (not the local church). However, Elders are itinerate ministers; sent by the Bishop to their ministry sites. Deacons find and secure their own appointments and then bring them to the Bishop for approval.

The stoles worn in worship by Deacons and Elders are also distinctive. The stole of the Elder goes over the head and down both shoulders, symbolic of the yoke of their office and ministry. The stole of the Deacon is worn diagonally from the left shoulder and affixed on at the right hip. This is symbolic of the towel worn by Jesus as he washed his disciples' feet (the portion of the stole that hangs down on the right hip is meant to represent the servant ministry of footwashing). As such, the symbol of the Deacon is the pitcher and basin.

I am incredibly blessed to be a part of the Order of Deacon in The United Methodist Church and in the Northern Illinois Conference. In the 14 years since its creation, the Order of Deacon is the fastest growing of the two orders of ministry, and has a younger average age than the order of Elder (according to recent research presented by the UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry). Deacons and Elders alike are engaged in exciting, out-of-the-box ministries in the church and in the world, and are helping to change the world with the radical and inclusive love of Christ.

For more information on the Orders of Ministry in The United Methodist Church, or to discuss and discern your own call to ministry, please see www.isgodcallingyou.org, www.explorecalling.org, www.gbhem.org or give me a call!

Beth Elders

Notes:

¹ The 2008 United Methodist Book of Discipline, ¶301.2.

² IBID, ¶328.

³ IBID, ¶120.

⁴ IBID, ¶329 & ¶332.

⁵ IBID, ¶332.

Community News

Community Swingers

On Tuesday, June 29, the Community Swingers ladies softball team played a terrific game against Compass Church and won 18-11. Join the fun at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday nights. If you want to play, contact Becky Klein-Collins. Games will continue through July 20th at the Calvary Church fields on Rt. 59. Come and cheer for the CUMC team in the periwinkle shirts. It's great fun!

Katherine Manor

A pianist is needed to accompany a small sing-along at Katherine Manor at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. once a month. Call Lois Flood at (630)420-1548 or Agnes Schaller at (630)355-0817 for information.

Ministry Reports

Altar Committee

If you have any vases from altar flower arrangements, now is the time to return them to the church. Leave them in the kitchen, and we will use them for our summer garden flower arrangements. Thank you. In related news, all dates are now full for the 2010 altar flower calendar!

Building Committee

Small-group discussions of the building proposals will be held, if there is sufficient interest. Sign-up sheets are available at the usher tables in the Sanctuary and at OnCenter, or you can call the church office. Copies of the materials handed out at the June 17 meeting are available in the church office.

C³ College Outreach

College Students are invited to join the Community UMC's College Connection to receive notecards, birthday cards, and an occasional package as well as the prayers of the committee and a sponsor from the congregation.

If you are interested, please leave contact information in the church office, with the student name, address at school, birthday, and allergies (for packages).

Congregants are invited to sponsor a CUMC college student through the College Outreach Team sponsor program. The purpose of the program is to build a relationship with the student while they are away and help them to stay connected with our congregation. Students are paired with a sponsor from the church. Sponsors pray for these students and follow up on their progress. They drop notes in the mail or shoot an email, write a birthday card, and help cover the cost of the packages that the college outreach team puts together. At the end of the year, there is a celebratory lunch in early June to meet with the student in person and join in fellowship together. Throughout the year, sponsors are invited to attend the package-building sessions and include a hand-written note in the package. If you are interested in helping out as a sponsor, please fill out a form in the office.

Thanks for your support of our students.

Community of Parents

Blackberry Farm Outing

The "CoPs" are going to Blackberry Farm in Aurora on Tuesday, July 6. Meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance. Bring a sack lunch. For more information and directions go to <http://www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org/?q=node/20>. Contact Tara Cotsonas at tcotsonas@yahoo.com or at (630)226-5193 with any questions.

Riverwalk Day

We'll be visiting the Naperville Riverwalk on Friday, July 16 to go on the paddle boats and then to the park to play. Meet at the paddle boats (south side of the park, just east of the carillon) at 1:30 p.m. Contact Tara Cotsonas at tcotsonas@yahoo.com or at (630)226-5193 with any questions.

PADS Donation Drive

Community of Parents is doing a donation drive for PADS this summer. You can bring in the following items until the end of August: twin blankets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner (small hotel/travel size), hair gel and spray, small combs and brushes, hair scrunchies, disposable razors, shaving cream, and fingernail clippers. You can put these items in the collection boxes outside the sanctuary or outside the office. Thank you.

Hunger Commission

We are glad to report that, after a rather sluggish start with the rainy weather on June 5, slow but steady sales of plants have raised our income to \$9,290 as of June 28. We have cleared \$5,260, raising our 15-year total in proceeds for hunger causes to \$112,448. Nice number! Any additional sales going forward will add to the bottom line. Thanks so much to each of you who washed and stacked pots, moved soil, planted babies, watered, then helped on June 4-5 (and since) with the PassAlong Perennial Plant Sale. You are all treasures!

Nancy and Bill Abernethy

Youth

JHYF Creation Appreciation Day

Junior High students are invited to a Creation Appreciation Day on Wednesday, July 14. We'll meet at the church at 5:00 p.m., then head to a local forest preserve to enjoy God's creation (and smores). Parents and other adults, some help will be needed with carpooling. Please contact Dani Clark at dclark@communityunitedmethodist.org for more information, to join the outing, or to volunteer to help.

Uth Band

Youth, do you play an instrument or sing? The Uth Band will be resuming rehearsals on July 28. Summer practices will be at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. If you have any friends who play, invite them! Contact Stephen Edwards (sedwards@communityunitedmethodist.org) for information.

Vacation Bible School



For four days, over 85 children and 40 youth and adult volunteers came together for this year's United Vacation Bible School. Our theme of this year's ministry was "HERO Headquarters – Where Kids Join Forces With God". During their time together, children learned stories of some unnamed heroes from the Bible and discovered how they can each be a hero with God's power. Through each day's Bible story and "mission" (*Heroes do the unexpected, heroes step out in faith, heroes save the day, and heroes stand for truth*), children grew in their faith, their understanding of God's Word, and in their relationship with one another. And they had **FUN!**

The children also served as heroes for children around the world as they collected \$442.84 for Feed My Starving Children, a not-for-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. (To learn more about Feed My Starving Children, including how to volunteer at their Aurora site and how to make a donation, visit <http://www.fmssc.org>.)

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this year's ministry possible! You are indeed heroes.

Check out the UVBS website to see a video of worship and a slideshow of photos: <http://tinyurl.com/yjl3xlc>.



Calendar

July 4 Holiday

The church office and building will be closed on Monday, July 5 for Independence Day.

E-Tidings

E-Tidings will now be published on the 1st and 15th of each month, instead of the 15th and last day of each month. The deadline for the July 15 e-Tidings will be Thursday, July 8 (*sorry about the early deadline, but Your Beloved Editor is going on the youth work trip*).

Hospitality Table Hosts

The hospitality table will be closed in July. Hospitality at Sundays in the Park will be provided by the adult Sunday School classes.

Every Week At Community

Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service in Central Park
- 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. UMW Knitting Circle

Tuesdays

- 6:30 p.m. Community Swingers Women's Softball – Calvary Church on Rt. 59

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, July 1 to July 15

Friday, July 2

- 9:00 a.m. Church Library inventory

Sunday, July 4 (Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)

Monday, July 5

Church building and office closed

Tuesday, July 6

- 10:00 a.m. Community of Parents outing to Blackberry Farm (page 4)

Wednesday, July 7

- 7:30 a.m. CUMC Foundation Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry

Thursday, July 8

- 12:00 p.m. *Deadline for e-Tidings*
- 7:00 p.m. Jobs Club
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee

Friday, July 9

- 9:00 a.m. Church Library inventory

Saturday, July 10

- 1:00 p.m. Youth Work Trip send-off service (page 1)
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Work Trip departs

Sunday, July 11 (Seventh Sunday after Pentecost)

Tuesday, July 13

- 10:30 a.m. Reminiscence Service
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Wednesday, July 14

- 5:00 p.m. JHYF Creation Appreciation (page 4)
- 6:00 p.m. Hunger Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Hearing Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Administrative Board

Friday, July 16

- 1:30 p.m. Community of Parents Riverwalk Day (page 4)

Saturday, July 17

Youth Work Trip returns

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