

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 Sojourners Sunday School class on July 18 and by the Kairos class 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.



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.

Evangelism Note

Welcome to the first article in an ongoing *Tidings* series on evangelism and you. We first invite you to consider this excerpt from the Guidelines Series, *Evangelism...Sharing the Good News* by Kwasi Kena, General Board of Discipleship (2008):

"No ministry of the church is more important than reaching people with the good news of Jesus Christ. Without evangelism, the church will cease to exist. A common truism notes that the church is always one generation away from extinction.

"The aim of the ministry of evangelism is, in short, to relate people to God so that they will begin an initial relationship with Jesus Christ. Evangelism does not end with a person's decision to begin this initial relationship, however. Effective evangelism must lead new Christians into a process of ongoing discipleship and spiritual formation. Evangelism without discipleship often results in *church members* who quickly become inactive.

"Evangelism is derived from the word *evangel*. In the early church, three Greek words described the *evangel*: εὐαγγελίζεσθαι (*euaggelizesthai*), μαρτυρεῖν (*marturein*), and κηρῦσσειν (*kerussein*). Translated these words mean to: (a) tell good news, (b) bear witness, and (c) proclaim.

"Evangelism is, at its heart, sharing faith with others, particularly with those who are unchurched or disconnected, and inviting them to follow Jesus Christ as Christian disciples. Effective congregations develop a disciple-making system that welcomes and invites, equips, and send disciples forth in ministry. Evangelism is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit."

Catch...Attracting and Connecting Visitors by Debi Williams with Adam Hamilton (2009) provides us with the following from Kent Millard, Senior Pastor, St. Luke's United Methodist Church:

"Jesus practices the same principle when he called the brothers Peter and Andrew to become his first followers. Peter and Andrew were fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. They would get into their boat each day, go out to the deep part of the lake, throw out their nets, and hopefully pull in a catch of fish.

"Peter and Andrew did not sit in their boat near the shore and wait for the fish to come and jump into their boat. They knew that they had to go out to the deep water in order to catch the fish and bring them into their boat. They had to reach out to catch the fish; the fish wouldn't automatically come to them. They had to Go Fish!

"In a similar way, congregations need to go out into their neighborhoods and communities in loving and serving ways if they want to invite more persons to become followers of Jesus who make a positive difference in the world. Congregational leaders need to learn how to Go Fish in their communities.

“Just as we do not expect fish to come and simply jump into a boat because it is there, we cannot expect that somehow people will simply come and jump into our congregations because we are there.

“Our goal is that congregations will become vital centers of loving service for the spiritual and personal needs of the people of their communities so that the world will be transformed into a compassionate, just, inclusive, and Christ-like community.”

Our mission is clear... “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

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 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

We are praying with Judy and Bob Smith after the death of Judy’s father, Albert Troll, on July 6.

Youth Work Trip

We are keeping the youth and adults on the summer work trip in our prayers. They are in Mission, South Dakota to work with the Lakota Nation and Tree of Life Ministries, and will return on Saturday, July 17.

Our Troops and their Families

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

Community Events

Lunch Bunch

The Adult Lunch Bunch is going to the Mediterranean Grill, 1163 Ogden Ave. in Naperville, on Tuesday, July 20 at 11:30 a.m. Invite a friend and come and enjoy good food and fellowship. Please RSVP by July 19 to Gertie Brown, (630)305-9848.

Community Swingers

Your last chance to root for the Swingers is this Tuesday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chair to the fields behind Calvary Church on Rt. 59.

Church Photo Directory

A new Community UMC photo/phone directory will be prepared this fall. LifeTouch Studios will again be our photographers. Two or more members of the congregation are needed to facilitate this process. To find out more, please contact the church office. A meeting with the LifeTouch representative will be held on August 5.

Ministry Reports

Building Committee

Small-group discussions of the building proposals will be held this summer. 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 and congregants are invited to join the Community UMC's College Connection. Each student will be paired with a sponsoring member of the congregation, who will send notecards, birthday cards, and an occasional package, to build a relationship with the student while they are away and help them to stay connected with our congregation. To sign up a student, please leave the student name, address at school, birthday, and allergies (for packages) in the office. 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. (*See the July 1 e-Tidings for more information.*)

Community of Parents

Riverwalk Day

The Community of Parents will visit 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.

Municipal Band Concert

The "CoPs" will attend the July 29 Naperville Municipal Band concert in Central Park. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the playground, for the kids to play before the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs. 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.

Hearing Committee

A technician from Sound Planning, installers of our current Sanctuary sound system, inspected the system on July 8. Several problems were identified, including two broken tweeters in under-balcony speakers, which will be repaired. In good news, our wireless microphone sets are in compliance with recent changes in FCC regulations. We will keep you updated on progress.

Library

Recently the Library Committee completed an inventory of our books, the first comprehensive inventory since the winter-spring 2009 series of leaks in the roof above the library. Many books were checked out before the leaks, and some may still be in your homes. Please check your shelves and return any of the following that may be in your possession.

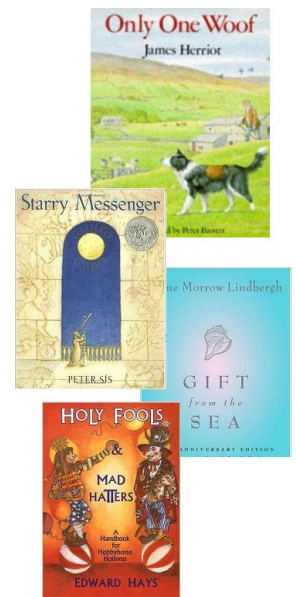
The good news is that the library has been cleaned, the collection sorted, and we are ready for business! Thank you for your patience and consideration.

Library books missing from the collection:

- *Only One Woof* by James Herriot, a children's picture book
- *Farfallina and Marcel* by Holly Keller, a children's picture book
- *Gift from the Sea* by Anne Morrow Lindbergh
- *The Message Bible* by Eugene Peterson
- *Atlas of the Bible* by John Rogerson
- *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *Holy Fools and Mad Hatters* by Edward Hays
- *The Complete Youth Ministry Handbook* by J. D. Stone
- *Will Our Children Have Faith?* by John Westerhoff
- *Developing Your Child's Spiritual Growth* by Judy Smith
- *The United Methodist Book of Worship*
- *Book of Discipline of the UMC*, 2004 edition
- *Marching through Immanuel's Ground* by Lorraine Pierce
- *Starry Messenger* by Peter Sis (picture book about Galileo)
- *John Wesley*, a biography published by UMC Historical Society

A list of books missing for the last two years will be published in an upcoming edition.

Forrest Rice



Music

Ringers Needed

Community UMC's three bell choirs are recruiting for this fall. If you know your left hand from your right and can count, you can ring bells! Each choir rehearses once a week, and plays once a month at one of the Sanctuary services. Contact Dottie Van Marter at (630)961-1189 for more information.

Stewardship

Out of Left Field!

Ok, it's July. Time to start thinking about church finances, right? Probably not what you expected to read but suspect I now have your attention. With that accomplished, let's move ahead.

Each year, beginning at varying points in time, the Stewardship Committee at CUMC has wrestled with how best to speak about the thousand pound gorilla in the room of most churches, financial support for various programs. This year, we aren't going to do that per se. With a bit of tweaking in the roles played by Finance and Stewardship, primary responsibility for fundraising will be handled by Dean Craig and his committee. That group will focus upon program and operational needs and their associated costs, sharing that information with the congregation. Barb Dabrowski and I, with our group, will continue the role we began earlier this year, facilitating a broader understanding of God's ownership and our responsibility to creatively care for all that is.

The concept involved here is basic and quite relevant to our daily lives. *Our* challenge as stewards is to identify and embrace the roles available to each of us. To me, the best part is that we have a great deal of freedom in choosing just how to become involved as a regular part of how we structure our activities. An opportunity exists to match our unique talents and gifts to needs either identified for us or that we discover ourselves. The single common denominator for stewards is some level of financial support by all members, with the goal being a tithe/10% or more. Before you get all excited and tell someone that Bill Abernethy said you have to tithe, let me explain.

Clearly, not everyone is in the same financial situation. We all have personal obligations that affect our individual/family purse strings. However, whatever we have comes from God; title, if you will, remains in *His* hands. It only makes sense that we meaningfully share our financial gifts with our Maker through our church. For some, that may be a few dollars a month. For others, the multiplier effect adds three or more places to the left of the decimal. And, if you "pay" God first on a weekly/monthly basis, the amount contributed is off the table at the outset and not something to be struggled with when it comes time to pay bills. Nancy and I use a system of automatic withdrawal that works well for us as well as the church. I recommend your consideration of this approach.

I'll have more thoughts to share next month; in the interim, please think and pray about the concepts I have mentioned.

Bill Abernethy, Stewardship Co-Chair

Youth

Meet Dani Clark

Dani is a North Central College senior majoring in Religious Studies and Studio Art. Through the NCC internship program, she is working with Nick Giannasi as a youth intern through next spring, in furtherance of her plans to attend seminary. She's also a percussionist, and has been active in the OnCenter band. She also played the djembe for Vacation Bible School this year. Say "Hi" to Dani and introduce yourself if you run into her in the hall!



Calendar

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 (*last day, July 20!*)

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 16

1:30 p.m. Community of Parents Riverwalk Day (page 3)

Saturday, July 17

8:30 a.m. Trustee Work Day
Youth Work Trip returns

Sunday, July 18 (Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)

Wednesday, July 21

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

Thursday, July 22

7:00 p.m. Jobs Club
7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee

Sunday, July 25 (Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)

12:30 p.m. College Work Trip Meeting
7:00 p.m. SHYFt Group Meet-To-Eat

Wednesday, July 28

11:00 a.m. Uth Band First Meeting (page 1)

Thursday, July 29

12:00 p.m. Deadline for E-Tidings
6:30 p.m. Community of Parents Municipal Band Concert (page 3)
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

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