
Back To School!

Rally Day is September 12

Sunday School programs for all ages at 9:30 a.m., and Children's Chapel at 11:00 a.m., resume on Rally Day, September 12. This special e-Tidings section has all our news on Christian Education programs for children and adults, including Sunday, weekday, and evening small groups and studies.



You're Invited to Brunch...

And to come find out about Adult Education opportunities at CUMC!

On **Sunday, September 5th from 9:30-10:30 a.m.**, come munch on yummy breakfast foods as you find out more information about adult Sunday school classes and various weekday/evening offerings (Bible study classes, women's/men's groups, theological exploration groups, and more.) at Community United Methodist Church!

Representatives from each adult Sunday school class will be present to answer your questions and give you more information about their format and class offerings. Also, there will be information available about CUMC's numerous fall evening/weekday adult education offerings, including "Uppity Women of the Bible - Esther", "Amos - Prophet of Justice", and *This We Believe - The Core of Wesleyan Faith & Practice* (to name but a few!).

Childcare is available - please contact me to reserve a place for your child.

Come on over and see the exciting things happening in adult education at Community UMC!

Rev. Beth Elders, Minister of Christian Education

(belders@communityunitedmethodist.org 630/355-1483)



Children's Chapel Needs You!

C'mon, admit it: when you see the kids enthusiastically marching off to Children's Chapel on Sunday mornings, you sometimes wish you could go, too. It might be fun to sing a song, play a game or do some craft project and in the process learn the same message that one of the Pastors is delivering in worship.

Well, guess what? You *can* go, too. As a matter of fact, the Children and Family Ministries Team *needs* you!

We're looking for adults to lead or help out with Children's Chapel services beginning Sept. 12. Curriculum is already written for lead teachers; you just need to be willing to spend a little time preparing. Teacher's helpers need only be on hand to help organize kids for activities, pass out supplies or do general crowd control work. You can join your family for the beginning and end of service in the sanctuary and will spend about 20 minutes working with the youngsters.

And the rewards are great: You gain a deeper understanding of the message by bringing it down to a child's level and sharing it. You get to have a good time with some of the livelier and most interesting members of our church family. And you can feel like you're "paying forward" other adults who volunteered to teach you all those years ago.

You don't need to be a parent of a current Children's Chapel attendee to volunteer. We welcome anyone -- from grandparents to newlyweds to college students to single adults -- who just wants to figure out a way to put faith into action.

Please give it thoughtful, prayerful consideration. And contact Beth Elders (belders@communityunitedmethodist.org) to let us know how you can help!

(P.S. – if you'd rather volunteer during the Sunday school hour, we can find a spot for you there, too)

9:30 Sunday School:



Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Location: CUMC Children's Sunday School Classrooms

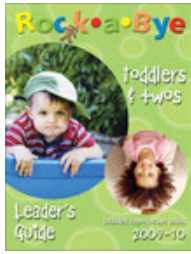
Format: Traditional Sunday School Model

Classes Available: 4 yrs/pre-kindergarten/Kindergarten (Room #205),
1st/2nd grade (Room #206); 3rd-5th grade (Room #306)

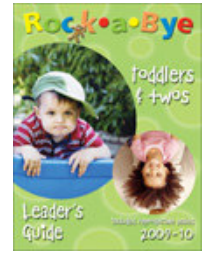
Volunteer Model: 1 Lead Teacher and 1 Assistant Teacher in each class

More Info: *Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock." (Matthew 7:24-25)"*

Rock Solid helps children build a strong faith foundation so that when the rains and storms of life assail them (and they will at some time or another), their house of faith will not fall away. It will stand strong and give them strength and shelter. At each age level, the children will be invited to a faith experience. It is during this time that they can come to a better understanding of God and what God calls them to do and be. They come to know Jesus as the Son of God and take his messages to heart. They seek where the Bible speaks to them today. Lessons will be intentionally written around this faith experience. Activities, crafts, stories, and games will contribute to this faith experience. At the end of the time together, the children will have had a chance to meet God and to open themselves for a life-changing transformation. All of this will be done in a variety of ways at the different age levels.



9:30 2 & 3 Year Old Class



Time: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Location: 2's & 3's room (Room #207)

Format: Toddler Sunday School Model, play-centered with fun, engaging, and educational "circle time" activities.

Volunteer Model: 1 Lead Teacher and 1 Assistant Teacher each Sunday

More Info.: *Toddlers are full of energy! They also have a natural curiosity about the world around them and love to see, hear, touch, and experience new things. Toddlers & Twos helps leaders provide an attractive and safe space where children can hear about God, Jesus, and the Bible, and experience prayer and simple Bible stories in a developmentally-appropriate way.*



11:00 Children's Chapel

Time: During the 11:00 Sanctuary worship service, immediately following Children's Time

Location: Room 204

Format: Hands-On Activities and Interactive Discussions that allow children to further explore the message of the day's Scripture reading.

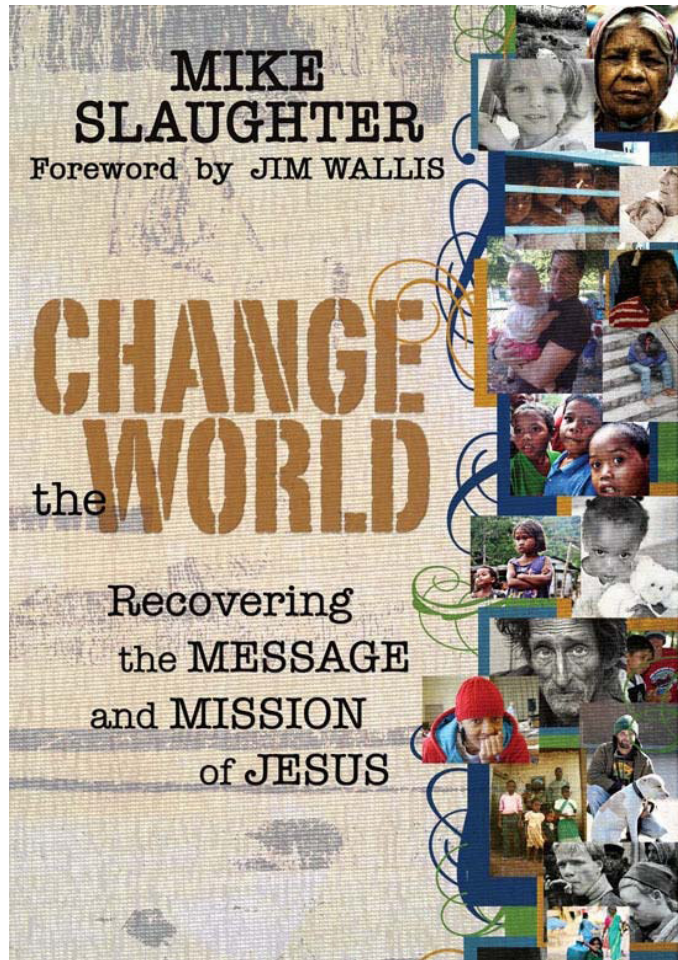
Volunteer Model: 1 Worship Leader and 1 Assistant

Grades/Ages Available: 4 years old through 3rd grade

(children ages 2 and 3 years old will be in the nursery, children 4th grade and above are invited to participate in worship leadership as acolytes, grushers, musicians, etc.)

Schedule: Immediately following the Children's Time message, children will move to a classroom to further explore the message of the day in an age-appropriate way. As the adults hear the message proclaimed in the sermon, children will hear the message proclaimed in songs, games, discussions, and other learning opportunities. Children will then return to worship with their families before the close of the worship service, giving them an opportunity to learn, grow, and experience God through an intergenerational worship environment (learning the songs and important components of worship with their families).

In order to allow children to participate in worship with their parents, as well as learn about and receive Communion, there will be no Children's Chapel on the 1st Sunday of each month.



**BE A PART OF THE CHURCH-WIDE CONVERSATIONS
THIS FALL – BUY YOUR COPY OF “CHANGE THE
WORLD” TODAY!**

Beginning September 19th, all worship services and Sunday school classes will be studying this powerful book by Michael Slaughter as we explore how Community UMC can *Change the World* with the love of Christ.

Books are \$15 each.

Pick up your copy in the church office (weekdays only) or outside the Sanctuary (Sunday mornings only).

Adult Small Group Studies

(Contact Beth Elders for info. on any of the adult small group offerings...)

Uppity Women of the Bible: Esther

Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30

(Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, Nov. 30, Dec. 14 - *alternate nights of women's ensemble rehearsals!*)

Led by Joy Sobczak

Calling women of all ages! Are you ready to:

- *Deepen your relationship with God?*
- *Strengthen your spiritual walk?*
- *Develop friendships with other women?*
- *Experience growth through a small group?*
- *Explore the biblical story of Esther and its connection to your walk of faith?*

Enter into an exotic and fanciful Persian kingdom complete with a dim-witted, king, a defiant queen, an egotistical lieutenant and a loyal uncle. With lavish banquets, extreme beauty treatments and dangerous liaisons at every turn, can the beautiful and courageous Esther avert disaster for her people? All this occurs in a Biblical book where God is never mentioned. This complex story ranges from slapstick farce to Shakesperian tragedy, yet it speaks volumes to women in the 21st Century.

So, grab your Purim gragger and your hamantaschen – if you don't know what those are, you'll find out in session two – and join in this fascinating story of power, corruption, violence, courage, and faith.

Amos: Prophet of Justice

Wednesdays Noon-1:30 p.m.

(Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 3)

Led by Al Streyffler

Join this group as they look at the small but powerfully prophetic book Amos, who is known as the Prophet of Justice. Sometimes United Methodists are listed amongst the "Justice Churches." Is that description warranted?

Each participant will be urged to go to the hardware store to purchase a plumb bob.

Tuesday Morning Women's Book Group

Tuesday mornings 9:00-10:30

(childcare provided upon request)

This year, the Tuesday morning women's book study will be reading and discussing the bestselling books:

- *"The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho*
- *"The Postmistress" by Sarah Blake*
- *"Mudbound" by Hillary Jordan*
- *"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee*
- *"Little Bee" by Christ Cleave*
- *"The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein*
- *"Half the Sky" by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn*
- *"Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home" by Rhonda Janzen*

Come join the conversation! Everyone is welcome in this multi-generational, supportive, and fun-filled group!

Women's Book Study – “The Alchemist”

Tuesday mornings 9:00-10:30

(Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 28)

Based upon the bestselling book “The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho

(Led by Beth Elders)

Meet Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who one night dreams of a distant treasure in the Egyptian pyramids. And so he's off: leaving Spain to literally follow his dream.

Along the way he meets many spiritual messengers, who come in unassuming forms such as a camel driver and a well-read Englishman. In one of the Englishman's books, Santiago first learns about the alchemists--men who believed that if a metal were heated for many years, it would free itself of all its individual properties, and what was left would be the "Soul of the World." Of course he does eventually meet an alchemist, and the ensuing student-teacher relationship clarifies much of the boy's misguided agenda, while also emboldening him to stay true to his dreams. "My heart is afraid that it will have to suffer," the boy confides to the alchemist one night as they look up at a moonless night.

"Tell your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself," the alchemist replies. "And that no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its dreams, because every second of the search is a second's encounter with God and with eternity."

Women's Book Study – “The Postmistress”

Tuesday mornings 9:00-10:30

(Oct. 5, Oct. 12, Oct. 19, Oct. 26)

Based upon the book “The Postmistress” by Sarah Blake

(Led by Beth Elders)

Weaving together the stories of three very different women loosely tied to each other, debut novelist Blake takes readers back and forth between small town America and war-torn Europe in 1940. Single, 40-year-old postmistress Iris James and young newlywed Emma Trask are both new arrivals to Franklin, Mass., on Cape Cod. While Iris and Emma go about their daily lives, they follow American reporter Frankie Bard on the radio as she delivers powerful and personal accounts from the London Blitz and elsewhere in Europe. While Trask waits for the return of her husband—a volunteer doctor stationed in England—James comes across a letter with valuable information that she chooses to hide. Blake captures two different worlds—a naïve nation in denial and, across the ocean, a continent wracked with terror—with a deft sense of character and plot, and a perfect willingness to take on big, complex questions, such as the merits of truth and truth-telling in wartime. “The Postmistress” is a story of women's lives, of life, death and love during WWII, and by end, a story about the art of storytelling itself.

This We Believe: The Core of Wesleyan Faith and Practice

Based upon the book by the same title written by Bishop William H. Willimon

Wednesday afternoons 5:30-6:30 p.m.

October 6th – November 17th

(Led by Beth Elders, Melissa Hood, and Mark Jacobs)

For John Wesley, the Bible is the joyfully consistent testimony of God's never-ending grace and ever-seeking love. Likewise, studying the Bible is more than merely knowing what Scripture says; it is also about living every day as a child of God.

Beginning with the Core Terms, this class systematically lays out key Wesleyan tenets of faith so that you will have a fresh way to hear God's voice, share in God's grace, and become more like Jesus Christ.

Session titles include:

- *We Believe in One God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*
- *We Believe in Jesus Christ and His Reign*
- *We Believe in the Work of the Holy Spirit*
- *We Believe in the Guidance of Scripture*
- *We Believe in Salvation for Sinners*
- *We Believe in Christian Work and Witness*