



South Elgin Community United Methodist Church

Newsletter

October-November 2017



South Elgin Community United Methodist Church (CUMC)

400 W. Spring St.
South Elgin, IL 60177
847-931-0563
847-931-5476 Fax
cumcsouthelgin@
sbcglobal.net

www.cumcsouthelgin.com

Facebook:

Southelginunitedmethodistchurch

Worship: 9 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

Pastor:

Jan Comerford

Cell: 815-236-3904

Secretary: Maggie Braddock

M W F, 9 a.m. - noon

Food Pantry:

1st and 3rd Wednesday

9:30 a.m.-noon

1st Wednesday, 4:30-6:30 p.m.



Trunk-or-Treat

Trunk-or-Treat this year will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29.

Children of all ages are invited!

A bin for candy donations will be in the Narthex, and a clipboard will be going around church to sign up to volunteer. Questions? Get ahold of Penny or Cindy Bauer.

(More on page 4.)



Turkey Dinner

The Turkey Dinner this year will be a fundraiser for disaster relief and have eat-in meals from 4-7 p.m. Thurs. Nov 9 (carry-outs available 3:30-6:30).

The menu is turkey (of course!), dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, green bean casserole, scalloped corn, dessert and beverages.

Cost is \$8 adults, \$5 kids 10 and under.

Call ahead to order take-out: 630-564-1332.

From the Pastor...

The Church Family

At our recent anniversary celebration we lived out the meaning of that phrase. The Church Family is the single most used description of ourselves we have. We are always talking about ourselves as The Church Family. Now my use of capitals in that phrase is intentional to help convey a more complex meaning that I have experienced ...

Family is a term that describes a lot of wonderful things about our lives as a congregation. We have a rich shared history covering generations. We have raised children together, we have buried loved ones together. We have played together and worked together and worshiped together.

We have the same loving care for our oldest and our youngest members. We celebrate birthdays and graduations. We live through all the events of a family.

We also have the same tolerance for each other that extended family has for each other. If we are wiggly little ones or cantankerous older ones we are loved, and understood.

But there is a shadow side to that self description. And it is our completely unintended message when we use that phrase in our publicity, even if it is just in a letter, brochure or sign. You see very few strangers feel comfortable wandering into a family gathering...no one ever has when my family has gotten together. The word family carries rich and warm meanings but also has a boundary around it.

Families are joined through years of shared experience or through a very intentional act of commitment. Neither of which are casual.

While strangers have never entered my family gatherings casually they have been invited to be included. A new friend my mother made when she relocated to a care facility in Bloomington was a woman who had no local family. Her children were gone and her one grandson lived far enough away that his visits were rare. So we invited Florence to join us for Thanksgiving a couple of years. Over the years as my two sisters have shared more and more of their lives (same church, same choir, same employers, same schools, same hairdressers, same ...well you get the idea...) they have invited other women to become their "sister"....those invitations have sometimes been more fleeting relationships but you get the idea.

While I am not suggesting that we stop calling ourselves The Church Family, I am suggesting we need to be more aware of the unintended impact of those words. If we truly want newcomers to join our church family we MUST do some inviting. We are many many many things as a congregation, but inviting is not one of them!

In the next few months there will be several events ripe for extending invitations. From Trunk or Treat, the Turkey Dinner to Christmas Eve Worship, consider NOW who you are going to invite to these events. Don't make the assumption that others already have plans made. Last Christmas I invited some friends who always go to Iowa to visit family, but the weather prevented that....so I invited them to worship with us...and they LOVED it. No surprise at all! It's not too early to consider who you might invite!

Invite! Invite! And Invite again!

--Pastor Jan

Meet a Member



Fern Bauer

Born & raised: I was born in North Dakota then moved to South Dakota at

the age of nine. Moved to Illinois in 1965.

How long at CUMC: 1972 to 1975 and returned in 1992.

Hobbies: Word Search Puzzles, Watching older programs on TV, Reading

Church participation: At Community UMC: Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School, Preparation of Children's Crafts. Prior Church: Sunday School Teacher, Rummage Sales

Favorite verse: Psalm 23 - A comforting scripture in time of need.

My Christian Life: I was baptized as a baby in a Lutheran church. My parents started taking me to church on a regular basis about two years before I was confirmed. However, my sisters, brother and I grew up in a very strong Christian-based home environment prior to that. As an adolescent, I began to have a relationship with God, have faith in him, and know that no matter what troubles come into my life, He is always with me.

From the Worship Team

On October 1, we will begin our final sermon series of this church year. It will run through November 26. The following week will be the first week of Advent, which is the beginning of the new church year.

“Outside My Own Little World” is based on Phillipians 2:3...*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.*

It seems the world these days teeters between those who seek to protect "their own" and those who dare to declare that all are worthy of compassion and care. Years ago, Matthew West wrote a song called "My Own Little World." It resonates perhaps even more today than when he wrote it as an anthem of encouragement to get out of ourselves and our "own little world."

In this series, we will remember why we are a Body together - being the hands and feet of Christ in a frightened and hurting world. We will focus not just on maintaining "the church," but why it is that the church exists at all. We will reaffirm our personal purpose in this world and who we are together.

Charge Conference - What is it and why should I be there???

Charge Conference is the "annual meeting" of Community UMC. It is the connecting link between us and the general Church - just like the Annual Conference I attend in June is the connecting link between the Northern Illinois Conference of the UMC and the General (Worldwide) Conference of the UMC. The primary responsibility in this annual meeting is to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of CUMC.

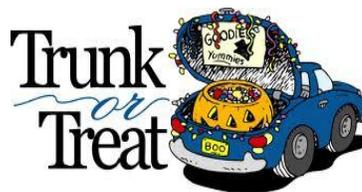
Every member of CUMC is invited to attend Charge Conference because **every member** has a voice and vote in the mission and ministry of CUMC. So.....please mark your calendars for **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17**. Come meet our District Superintendent, hear and help tell about all the exciting things that are happening here, be a voice in what our future looks like.

--Sue Thelen

Update On Stuff We Collect

The latest collection of pop tabs totaled 9,122 tabs (which equates to 7.2 pounds).
The latest collection of batteries weighed 11.5 pounds (208 pounds collected thus far).

**8TH ANNUAL
TRUNK-OR-TREAT
October 29th
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**



COME ONE, COME ALL and spend the afternoon right here at Community UMC for our annual Trunk-Or-Treat "community" event. There's a variety of activities to participate in:

Distribute candy from the trunk of your car.

Assist with games.

Serve food.

Help with set-up and take down. This year's event will be easier because we won't have to set up tables (other than for food) or chairs because we have the pavilion picnic tables!

Watch for the clipboard to sign up to participate and for the bin for candy donations.

Disaster Relief

Envelopes to make donations for disaster relief were available in the bulletin Sept. 24. Extras can be found at church on the table in the narthex.

OR, go to umcor.org/donate and send money that way. Our church can get credit on the site if you scroll down and look for the information to identify your church from the provided list.

You may also donate by phone by calling 1-800-544-FREE.

Please pray for those whose lives have been impacted by all these terrible weather events, and for the Early Response Teams, disaster coordinators and the many volunteers who are working tirelessly to provide relief.

John and Kitty Hahn were in church recently, and reported:

“From 9/1 – 9/8 we shipped to Texas: 34,610 pounds of UMCOR Cleaning (Bucket) Kits – 2,160 Kits, 5,625 pounds worth of 30-gallon totes, 11,236 pounds of Personal Dignity Kits and UMCOR Hygiene Kits (7,237 kits in all). We also sent 164 pounds of Children’s School Kit and 396 pounds of fabric for making School Bags.

“This week we sent another 2,016 Buckets (33,040 pounds) and 2,010 Health Kits (1,645 pounds) to UMCOR Sager-Brown in Louisiana for disbursement where needed.”

Pastor Jan indicated we may have a drive to make some more kits for UMCOR in the future.

The first envelope collection, she explained, was for domestic relief. An international relief envelope will be coming as well.

United!

Apportionment collections for these programs will be in October and November:



Because You Give . . .



**Clergy And Their Spouses
Have A Blessed Retirement**

Because of your giving through our United! campaign, your gifts insure that the clergy who have supported and worked for you for so many years, giving spiritual leadership and pastoral care, can be secure in their retirement, that they and their spouses will be able to live comfortably, without financial worry, and be able to have access to quality health care.



Because You Give . . .



People Are Fed

Nearly 50 million people go to bed hungry each night in the United States—the majority of them children. United! helps to make food pantries, Hunger Task Forces, soup kitchens, and global feeding programs possible. As a people who follow Christ, we are committed to feeding the hungry.

Our apportionments at work!

Please make checks payable to CUMC.

Our apportionments at work!

Please make checks payable to CUMC.

Worship Team Fall Retreat

Your Worship Team will be heading out October 3 & 4 for their fall retreat. This year we will be "retreating" at New Morning Retreat Center in Hampshire. This center is run by two ordained ministers who decided they wanted to be able to use their combined experiences in the church and hospital setting to offer to others "time for rest, to enjoy God's creation, to take care of our bodies through healthy food [yes - they are going to cook for us!!!] and exercise, opportunities for conversation and reflection in a safe place, and a place of quiet."

During our retreat we will be choosing the worship series for much of the upcoming church year: the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and hopefully Eastertide. We really have our work cut out for us with these expectations, so hopefully the Spirit will be with us in full force!! We're looking forward to bringing our congregants another year of meaningful worship.

Leadership Team

At the most recent meeting of this group, we discussed the Open House and the upcoming (at that time) Homecoming

We had an update on the Pavilion construction from Bert about putting the roof on the existing pad.

Jan gave an update on Sunday School, which begins Oct. 1.

We decided on dates for Turkey dinner and Trunk or Treat

Bob and Terri gave financial updates.

Wade gave us a report on the painting and carpet cleaning at the Parsonage in anticipation of tours for the 125 celebration.

Connie reported on the success of the gift card program at the Open House and its impact on our apportionment payments. She also reported from the Tent Committee that we had the highest number of tent rentals this year than we have ever had. Congrats guys!

The next meeting is 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 14. All are invited.

Food Pantry News

On Wednesday, Oct. 4, the Food Pantry will launch its **first evening session**, from 4:30-6:30. Clients will have an opportunity to shop either in the morning or the evening that day.

We are hoping to reach people who cannot come to the morning session by offering this late afternoon/evening time. Some may not have availability for people to bring them during the day, and some may be working. It is a well known fact that many people who are working at minimum wage or low paying jobs still fall below the poverty line and have trouble meeting their daily needs.

I'm anticipating that we will start with a low number of clients as it will take a little bit of time for word to spread that we are also open in the evenings. We will see how the response is and re-evaluate continuing this additional time after the New Year.

If anyone would like to volunteer at this session let us know. Maggie Braddock will be helping us at the check-in table, the rest of the volunteers have been recruited from the Summer Food Program.

Also, during the next few months we will be collecting for **turkey dinner boxes** for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Boxes will be \$25 each.

Current needs for the Food Pantry continue to be condiments such as salad dressings, and baking items for the upcoming holidays, such as sugars (granulated, confectioner's, brown), flour, baking powder, baking soda, etc. ---Shirley Remes

Confirmation News

Confirmation will be beginning this fall and is available to people from 6th through 12th grade. We meet on a weeknight and have pizza every time. Classes begin at 5 p.m.

Contact Pastor Jan if you are interested in joining the class.

Keep praying for:

Prayers for safekeeping for all the hurricane victims in Texas, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and across the Carribean.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for a full staff for Sunday School.

Prayers for Pastor Mary as she continues treatment

Prayers for David as he struggles with mental illness. David is the son of Connie Schweitzer's friend Dee

Prayers for Debbie Cox's Uncle George as he undergoes treatment for lung cancer.

Continued prayers of healing for Steve Kelly's Mother, Fran, with congestive heart failure.

Prayers for Steve Kelly as he recovers from another back procedure

Prayers for Terri Kelly Mother Lelah as she continues to recover.

Prayers for Kim DeVlieger as she continues to work at quitting smoking

Prayers for Kim's fiance, Richard, as he continues treatment for cancer

Prayers for Kim's son who lives in Tennessee, he is suffering with the development of severe pain.

Continued prayers of healing for Jo Anne Hufford, and strength for her family

Prayers for grace and safekeeping as Ted Balk's dementia worsens. Ted is Garrick's father.

Prayers for Buck Hodge, as he is being treated for Parkinson's

Prayers for all those struggling with chronic pain, and for their families.

Jane & Brian Mooberry, Mary Alice Behling, Andy Monak, Tootie Vandervate, Pat Fohrman, Ruth Koehler, Mary Roberts, Pat Gardner, Eloyse Anderson, Janet Werner, Laura Keating, Ed and Phyllis Wittlief, Linda Nordvedt, Karel Schaffter, Joanne Simmons, Lola Leman, Amy Murray, Mary Wise, Fern Bauer, Phyllis Bueche, Mariam Krogh, Paul Kobb, Jane Sanborn

Remembering 125

The 125 Committee has decided there is just too much information on the wonderful recent events we had for the 125th Anniversary to pack into the Oct/Nov newsletter, so we are going to prepare a special Commemorative 125 Newsletter that will come out within the next few weeks.

We are also preparing a Commemorative DVD that will have videos of both the Open House and the Homecoming, so those of you who missed either will be able to have a glimpse of the events, and for those that want a keepsake and another look. Order forms will be available for the DVD. Cost: \$8.

We are also making a scrapbook for the History Archives. This will be very fun to pore through, as all the old scrapbooks have been at our recent events.

Memorial Envelopes were passed out at the Homecoming Service. If you wanted to make a donation in honor of the 125th Anniversary, envelopes will remain on the table in the narthex for a few weeks.

Emmaus Reunion Group

Dates are. 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Calendar

Every month events:

Food Pantry, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 9:30 to noon; 1st Wednesday 4:30-6:30.

(Volunteers also work 1st and 3rd Mondays, come on down!) Fellowship Hall.

Women's Fellowship: Second Fridays, 6-10 p.m. or drop-in anytime, Conference Room.

October

4,18 Food Pantry

12 Emmaus Reunion, 6:30-8:30

20 Women's Fellowship, 6 p.m.

26 Emmaus Reunion, 6:30-8:30

29 Trunk-or-Treat. 2-4 p.m.

November

1,15 Food Pantry

5 All Saints Sunday

9 Turkey Dinner, 4-7 p.m.

9 Emmaus Reunion, 6:30-8:30

14 Leadership Team, 7 p.m.

17 Women's Fellowship, 6 p.m.

23 Thanksgiving

December

3 First Sunday of Advent

The CUMC newsletter is delivered The first weeks of August, October, December, February, April and June. Items are due by the last week of the previous month to the editor, Shirley Remes, sremes@comcast.net, 847-697-4796