



United Church of Rogers Park
United Methodist Church

Messenger

February/March 2010

1545 W. Morse Ave. Chicago, IL 60626
773/761-2500 www.ucrogerspark.org

What does God require of us? But to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. —Micah 6:8

From the
Heart of
the Pastor

A couple of weeks ago, I picked up a copy of Jim Wallis' new book, *Recovering Values On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street: A Moral Compass for the New Economy*. Jim Wallis, best selling author of *God's Politics* and editor-in-chief of *Sojourners* magazine, takes on the moral vacuum in our society. Surely you've experienced the elevated anger, rudeness, greed, and selfishness that has led to our economic impoverishment and divide! Well, Wallis speaks of needed "conversion" as a plan for moral recovery. And we who claim to follow Christ should stand up to the powers and selfish choices that lead us away from God into the idolatry of self-sufficiency and separation from God and neighbor (sin). In fact, "conversion" is not just a Christian thing but conversion or "change" is taking place in our varied faith communities around our globe.

For Christians, this conversion or change is rooted in Jesus the Christ and our calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This call to discipleship isn't rooted in our successes, but in our failures. In other words, when we think we can go no further...when we think we've failed, God gives us strength not to give up. A moment of failure can be a turning point or learning point in our lives! In Luke 5:1-11, the "fishermen" disciples had just come to shore after a night's attempt at catching their livelihood for the day. Jesus was teaching from the shore when he got onto one of the boats and instructed the men to take the boat out again into the deep waters. The fishermen had returned from a night of failure! Jesus calls us just as we are, to a life of discipleship; to follow and to fish.

Jesus claims presence and gives instructions to his disciples and to us: *Go back to where you gave up...only this time, TAKE ME WITH YOU....try again....re-cast your nets and go deep!* After first separating himself from Jesus because of his sin, Peter finally recognizes that Jesus loves him and receives him just as he is - for with God's loving, transforming grace, any change is possible. Peter's "leap-of-faith" action creates a ripple effect of **change** and..."Voila!"- "There it is!" ...an unexpected, amazing, abundant catch – fisher of people – How can we NOT share a life-changing experience?

That's the challenge for us today: to go beyond our comfort zones and **put out into the deep water of Christian discipleship**. That's where the fish are and where growth happens and change occurs. When we explore the deep water of faith, we leave our comfort zone. Jesus says, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people" Our faith is contagious when we let it root deep within us. Ask yourself, "Has being a Christian made any difference in my life?" If so, then you're going to want to share this reality with other people. Quite simply, witness...evangelism is grounded in the realization that my life has been changed for the better and I believe that this is a relationship that can help others.

We "go deep" when we get involved in our small groups, our mission projects, our community opportunities. However we choose to be involved in relationship, the important thing is to venture out, beyond our comfort zone. We don't achieve the abundant life that Christ desires for us by playing it safe. No, if we're going to experience growth in Christian faith and understanding, we have to venture out and take some chances.

Take a chance; risk; claim Christ's transformative power for moral and ethical change. "We can create a new moral compass for the new economy. It's up to us" (Wallis, pp. 214-5). "Change begins when people start making different choices. Change grows when people make different choices together....they change systems....they channel anger into energy and convert helplessness into hope. Change never starts until some of us start believing that change is possible and then bet our lives on it. But usually the believing comes from doing – from beginning to make the different choices personally, in our families, congregations, communities, and nation. ...Choices do make change. (pp. 228-229) **Change is preceded by commitments, new practices and new disciplines –on our parts.**

Let us claim who we are and who we follow. Let us "be the change" that we want to see. May we accept God's challenged to follow Jesus into the "deep waters" guided by God's inspiration. As for Jim Wallis - Powerful book! Read it and let's talk! Grace and Peace,

Pastor Catiana

LENTEN SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES - Sanctuary **NOON & 7 P.M.**

We begin the period called Lent with **Ash Wednesday** on **Wednesday, February 17th**.
Lent is a time when we stop and contemplate the life, mission and coming death/
resurrection of Jesus. It is a time of soul searching and repentance.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service, February 17,
12 noon and 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary...with imposition of ashes and communion.

Every Tuesday evening beginning on February 23rd, 7 p.m.
come join the Social Action Team for a movie & discussion in the gallery, 2nd floor

Every Wednesday, 10 am during Lent, join the Lenten Study Group in the library

Lenten Worship

Sunday, February 21 – First Sunday in Lent

A Journey to Hope: Wilderness Companions – Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, February 28 - Second Sunday in Lent

A Journey to Hope: Encountering the Promise – Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 7 – Third Sunday in Lent

A Journey to Hope: Priceless Grace – Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

A Journey to Hope: Embracing Love – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday, March 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

A Journey to Hope: Making Room for the Future – John 12:1-8

Sunday, March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday

Luke 19:28-40 (Palms)

Psalm 118:1,2, 19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14- 23:56

Holy Week

April 1 Holy Thursday/April 2 Good Friday/April 4 Easter Sunday

Should you wish to support the ministry of United Church of Rogers Park
by online donations through Vanco, visit our blog site at:

<http://ucrogerspark.blogspot.com/>

Lenten Study Opportunities

Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 AM

Blue Room

Teacher: Vince McGlothlin-Eller

Topic: *Times and Seasons With God*

Come seek to sharpen your awareness of God's presence in the ordinary rhythms of life and the unexpected seasons of joy or grief that punctuate our lives.

Tuesday evenings 7:00 PM

Gallery

Social Action Video Study

We invite you to come and watch clips from thought provoking films and enter into a time of discussion and discernment where God may be calling us to action in our community.

Wednesday evenings 7:00 P.M.

Blue Room

Teacher: Deacon Wes

Topic: *It's Hard to Make a Difference When You Can't Find Your Keys*

Come learn the spiritual discipline of creating new and lasting habits that free up time to truly enjoy life.

ONGOING STUDIES

Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 AM

Library

Seasons of the Spirit:

Topic: Adult Bible study

Wednesday mornings 10 AM-noon

Library

Pastor McKay

Lenten Study

Word
from the-
Deacon

John Wesley once said "Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn." If anything I have brought enthusiasm to United Church of Rogers Park and we have had people from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and local neighbors come and watch us burn with this enthusiasm.

We now have the opportunity to turn the enthusiasm into a self sustaining ministry that will not only solidify the after school and summer camp ministry, but will also fill the void the Methodist Youth Services will leave when they move in June because of their need to consolidate their living quarters.

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Jesus, There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people? John 6:8-9

Jesus answered his question by having all of the people sit down and blessed the five loaves and two fish and distributed enough food for all who were there. Not only was there enough but there were leftovers. From this scripture is where we get the name for our new outreach ministry that will kick off in July.

The basic idea of **Andrew's Answer** is to be able to use our old parsonage (the white house at 6925 N. Ashland), which has already been converted into dorms, as an outreach ministry house where youth and college age groups will come and learn about social justice while providing extra hands to our current ministry. The income generated from the ministry groups will be enough for us to be able to continue our after-school program during the school year as well as provide a summer camp that is free to the community.

We are also in conversation with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary around having students live in the house in an intentional community.

There are great possibilities and I believe that we will be able serve our church members and our neighborhood better by creating this new ministry.

Please be in prayer for us as we work to turn enthusiasm into a viable and self sustaining ministry of United Church of Rogers Park!

In Christ

Deacon Wes

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

CHURCH COUNCIL will take place in Blue Room at 12:30 p.m. following worship next Sunday (Feb. 21).

SUNDAY, FEB. 28: “What’s Happening at UCRP?” New, brief, recurring touchstone meeting right after worship: Come hear *and* tell what’s going onrelating minutes from church council, trustees & others.

CARPOOL! “The Gospel According to Grace” featuring Kenyan pastor and speaker Rev. Grace Imathiu at First UMC Downers Grove. SATURDAY, March 6, 10 AM-2:30 P.M. Call the church office 773-761-2500 for more information.

SUNDAY, March 7, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. *Worship Alive!* workshop with Debra & Ron Reinstra, “Watch Your Figures: Naming Sin, Salvation, and the Kingdom Imaginatively and Biblically.” United Church members and friends can attend for free in exchange for helping with hospitality and registration. Sign up on clipboard on information table or contact Mark (773-728-8274).

GENTLE YOGA FOR ADULTS: Six Sundays from 1 to 2 PM: March 7, March 21, April 4, April 18, May 2, and May 16. Call teacher Gina Carpenter for more information: 773.895.6124.

FREE TAE KWON-DO CLASSES are taking place now on Tuesday nights 7-8:30 P.M. Self-defense, peacemaking, good exercise, and more! Taught by Tim Peebles of Living Water Church at the Living Water meetinghouse (Pratt & Ashland). For more information please call Tim at 773-273-5401.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH..... SPRING, PANCAKES & DELICIOUS BAKED GOODS!



For the 5th year, the UCRP Community Feast will be hosting this fundraising event to not only help support its free, weekly dinner program for our neighbors in need, but also provide a chance for our church family and neighbors to come out of winter hibernation and enjoy a morning together around a HUGE breakfast of fruit or plain pancakes, sausages, and beverages. And then find some wonderful baked goods from our many talented bakers to take home to enjoy! Mark your calendars now!

NEW: Chicago Friends School! Parents Meet & Greet. Saturday, March 20, 2:30-4:30 P.M.. WHERE: Evanston Friends Meeting House (1010 Greenleaf, Evanston). Street parking available. 2 blocks south of Dempster, 2 blocks east of Ridge. RSVP to Mary Pikul 773-442-2371 or mary@chicagofriendsschool.org. Hope to see you there!

LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES

A lay speaker is a member of the congregation who has completed required courses and has been approved by a district or annual conference committee to conduct worship services, preach and lead study sessions as requested by the pastor or district superintendent.

Lay speaking ministry has existed in the United Methodist Church since 1959, but its origins date back to the very beginnings of the church. The office of *exhorter*, was recognized in the 1784 Book of Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The office known as lay speaker was first recognized in the 1948 Book of Discipline.

Lay speaking is a comprehensive developmental program for laity that helps people identify their calls to ministry and develop skills in caring, leading and communicating ministries. It is often the turning point for lay people who are seeking to offer significant service to both church and community.

Training sessions are held throughout the conference. If you feel called to serve your church in a more formal leadership position, we hope you'll join the 600+ Lay Speakers in our conference.

The 2010 session of Lay Academy will be held on two Saturdays, March 6 and March 13, 2010 at First United Methodist Church, Park Ridge, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme is, “Leading in the United Methodist Way.” CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (773-761-2500) if you are interested!

The Epiphany Community Counseling Center is now open.

Thanks to the hard work of many folks, office space has been cleaned out, freshly painted, and is available for use. The office can be found on the **second floor of United Church** just a few doors down from Pastor Catiana and Deacon Wes' offices.

The mission of the Counseling Center is to provide affordable, professional counseling services for United Church members as well as folks from the surrounding neighborhood. Pastoral counseling provides psychologically sound therapy that weaves in the religious and spiritual dimension and is appropriate for people who are struggling with such life issues as grief, depression, anxiety, self esteem, and relationships. We will be offering sessions for both individuals and groups and can also assist with making referrals to more specialized services as needed.

The Center is staffed by Joan Schuitema, who holds a master's degree in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola's Institute for Pastoral Studies. **We are also blessed to have Michelle Stephens**, our seminarian from Garrett who is working on a master's degree in pastoral care, to work with us in this ministry during the spring semester.

If you would like to explore whether pastoral counseling services could be of help for you at this stage of your life's journey, **please call the church at (773) 761-2500 and ask for extension 11** where you can leave a message for Joan who will contact you to set up an initial appointment. Also, today after the service Michelle will be available at a table in the back of the church to allow you to write down your contact information and answer any questions you may have.

WEEK OFFEBRUARY 14-21			
Sunday	Adult Bible Study	9:30-10:45 AM	Library
	Worship and Celebration	11 AM	Sanctuary
	Worship Alive!	2-5 PM	Sanctuary
	Community Feast	5 PM	Overdier Hall
	Service of Prayer, Scripture and Song	6 PM	Overdier Parlor
Monday	Sullivan Tae Kwon-do Club	2:45-3:45 PM	Overdier Hall
Tuesday	Ibeji Senior Arts	11 AM-2 PM	Ibeji Room (undercroft)
	<i>Children's after school program</i>	<i>3-6 PM</i>	<i>2nd floor</i>
Wednes- day	Small group	10 AM-noon	Library
	<i>Children's after school program</i>	<i>3-6 PM</i>	<i>2nd floor</i>
	Sullivan Tae Kwon-do Club	4:45-5:45 PM	Overdier Hall
	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES	NOON and 7 PM	SANCTUARY
Thursday	Ibeji Senior Arts	11 AM-2 PM	Ibeji Room (undercroft)
	<i>Children's after school program</i>	<i>3-6 PM</i>	<i>2nd floor</i>
	Choir rehearsal	7:30 PM	Library
Saturday	WINTER FARMERS' MARKET	9 AM-3 PM	Overdier Hall
	Ibeji Senior Arts	10 AM-1 PM	Ibeji Room (undercroft)
	N.A. meeting (OPEN)	1-3 PM	Library

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Funding & Giving: Overview

Methodism's founder John Wesley said, "I look upon all the world as my parish." Wesley reminded us that we are called to step out of our little corner of the world to spread the good news, transform hopelessness into hope and help God's children wherever they may be.

*"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."* -- Matthew 25:35-36, NRSV

While it would be wonderful if we could reach out personally to everyone who needs our help, we know that is impossible. So we gather regularly with our congregation and put money into the offering plate, and through a carefully crafted system of United Methodist mission and ministry our gifts stretch around the world. Your contributions to your local church not only benefit your local congregation, but also have regional, national and international impact through our connectional giving system. Most of the money you give is used to support the ministries of your local church. A small portion funds regional ministries.

Finally, a portion of your giving goes to the general church to support programs on a national and international level, which have been agreed upon by lay and clergy delegates of General Conference. We share the cost of these ministries, with each local church being responsible for contributing a fair portion or "apportionment." The power of our collective giving enables us to spread the love of Jesus Christ, educate clergy, encourage cooperation with other faith communions, fund General Conference, nurture historically Black colleges and Africa University, and support bishops.

We can go beyond these primary gifts to the church and contribute to additional ministries through the Advance and churchwide Special Sundays with offerings. The Advance for Christ and His Church offers individuals and groups an opportunity to contribute to specific programs, missionaries and ministries of their choice. Six times a year, Special Sundays focus churchwide attention on specific ministries of the church such as promoting peace and justice and providing scholarships and student loans. We live in a global village, and the world is our parish. When we give generously, our gifts do wonderful, life-changing things in the name of Jesus Christ.

Learn more about the ways we give: www.umc.org

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Four Areas of Focus

These Four Areas of Focus express the vision and yearnings of the people of The United Methodist Church. Over the next quadrennium, the church will seek to focus the work of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world around these areas of ministry:

- ◆ Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.
- ◆ Creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations.
- ◆ Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
- ◆ Engaging in ministry with the poor.

UMCOR: 70 Years of Hope



For 70 years the people of The United Methodist Church have put the spirit of Micah 6:8 into action through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).



UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief)

Mission

Founded in 1940, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. Our mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering - whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster, with open hearts and minds to all people. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR works through programs that address hunger, poverty, sustainable agriculture, international and domestic emergencies, refugee and immigrant concerns, global health issues, and transitional development.

UMCOR Response to Haiti needs YOU....

United Methodists have had a long-standing relationship with Haiti through the Methodist Church of Haiti. The strong ties between the Methodist Church of Haiti and The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) helped in facilitating the opening of the UMCOR Haiti field office in 2005.

100 percent of Advance gifts made will go to support relief and development efforts due to emergencies in Haiti. A specific number for Haiti Disaster Response is on the UMCOR website.

(www.umcor-ngo.org). Use the Haiti Disaster Response #418325.

Or you can drop your check in the offering plate. (memo line: "Haiti Relief").

Please continue your prayers for all our friends and loved ones in Haiti.

God, as known to us in Jesus Christ, welcomes all.

We welcome people of any race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, social or economic status, employment status, or life situation; including people with physical or mental illness or disability.

We practice loving acceptance of each person and respectful discussion of our differences.



Affiliated to the [Reconciling Ministries Network](http://www.reconcilingministries.org)



www.oikoumene.org
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



www.nccusa.org
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



www.ilconfchurches.org
ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

HARVEST 2020 CORE VALUES

- We believe the Gospel changes everything
- We develop outward-facing communities
- We practice social healing
- We give thanks for God's abundance
- We foster and grow the United Methodist Movement

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS



The People of the United Methodist Church

Ministry Team and Staff
Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Catiana McKay
Deacon: Wes Dorr
Pastoral Counseling: Joan Schuitema
Minister of Music: Mark Bowman
Childcare Worker: Stephanie Olson
Lay Leader: Rachel Jacobs
Church Administrator: Kate Setzer Kamphausen
New to You Thrift Shop Manager: Margaret Derry
Administrative Support:
Bernice Allison & Phillip Robinson



**United Church of Rogers Park
United Methodist Church**

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

1545 W. Morse Ave.
Chicago, IL 60626
www.ucrogerspark.org
773/761-2500

A church for all God's people...
In the heart of the neighborhood
for 100 years!

**RETHINK
CHURCH**

Messenger