

“Reaching Out to All God’s Children”

April 2010

Resurrecting Democracy in Illinois

I love the story of Easter. It tells me that God can astound us by bringing life to things that are or appear to be dead. My Easter wish this year, the year of a new census in the United States, is that true democracy might begin a rebirth in Illinois. Illinois has a well deserved reputation around the nation for having a culture of corruption in its political system. The examples are legion but let me refer only to the most recent and obvious. George Ryan was the Republican Governor of Illinois from 1999 to 2003. He retired from politics amidst great scandal and accusations of corruption. In 2006 he was sent to prison. Voter dissatisfaction helped elect Democratic Governor Rod Blagojevich. While George Ryan was on trial, convicted and sent to prison on federal corruption charges, Governor Blagojevich raised the corruption level of Illinois government to an unprecedented level. Now he too awaits trial on charges of federal corruption.

As citizens of a democratic society we all have a responsibility to demand better. The situation in Illinois clearly goes beyond partisan politics. It is safe to say that whoever we elect, Republican, Democrat or Independent the culture of corruption is so entrenched and widespread that even the well intentioned elected official will fall under its influence. While the problem is immense and there are many things that need to be changed, there is one concrete problem we can address right now.

Every ten years when the new census is taken new legislative districts are drawn. Illinois has a unique and peculiar system of map making that has led to a name being drawn out of a hat in three of the past four decades to determine who draws the map. Twice the Democrats and once the Republicans drew the map without any constraint or outside involvement. Consequently, the maps are drawn to serve the “chosen” party. Each party has gerrymandered the legislative districts to insure the election of a majority for their party. The people who are not served are the voters. Incumbents from either party are reelected 98% of the time. When elected officials are virtually guaranteed reelection they do not have to be responsive to the citizens. This system is one way the culture of corruption is supported in Illinois.

Fortunately the citizens of Illinois can alter this system. There is a broad effort to place an amendment on the November ballot to create a fair map after the current census is completed. To place this amendment on the ballot there needs to be 300,000 signatures of support. Lake County United is leading an effort of churches, synagogues and mosques to gather signatures. Christ United Methodist Church is a part of this effort. I encourage you to sign a petition and even more I encourage you to take a petition to gather ten signatures of registered voters. More information is available at the church or you can call me at the office, 847-945-3040.

Democracy is the best form of government in the world when the public is engaged and involved. This Easter season I encourage our community to be a part of bringing new life to the democratic process in Illinois.

Together in ministry,

Pastor Brian Roots



Two By Two

At our house right now, we're more familiar with 2x4s than with 2x2s, as we're nearing the final stages of completing a home addition. But in Noah's day, he gathered the animals two by two, having built an amazing ark in response to God's call. With the glitches we've experienced in our own construction project, I'm even more impressed with Noah's abilities and wish he were available as a General Contractor!

Here at CUMC, we're in the process of putting together our own ark as we raise funds for Heifer International. The campaign began with the wildly successful Hug a Book, our third annual celebration of books and

reading. This year we were able to raise over \$1,100, which means we're more than 20% of the way to the \$5,000 ark. This month, we will have a special Sunday offering for Heifer International, and, again, all the money you donate on that day will go towards our ark. We have two more events planned before the end of the year, and in December, we hope to give the gift of an ark to 15 needy families around the world.

Heifer International is an organization whose mission is to work with communities to end

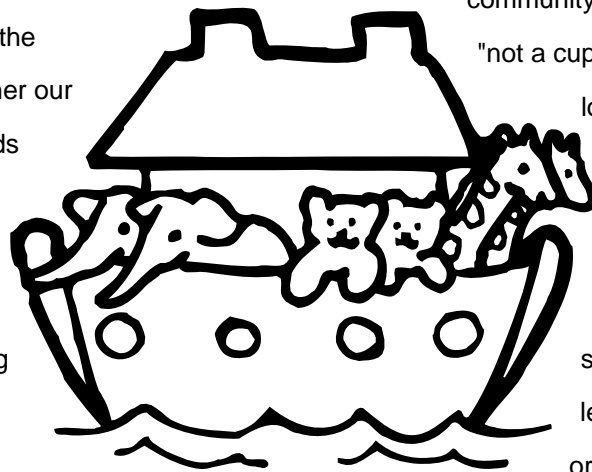
hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. The Gift Ark provides 15 pairs of animals to families around the world who have been trained in how to care for and utilize the animals they are about to receive. These animals provide a sustainable source of income for the families and then, as is the Heifer way, each family promises to pass along the gift by giving the offspring of their own animals to other needy families in the

community. Heifer's philosophy of "not a cup, but a cow" emphasizes long-term development, not short-term relief.

Every day, we all "build" something. Some of us do so literally, while others build legacies or children's minds or healthy bodies or just our

own good reputations. Whatever your day job, consider taking on the extra job of building an ark. We can do it --- two by two -- throughout the rest of the year. We hope you'll support our efforts in April and then again over the summer and in December. We hope you'll support us with your prayers as well. This is an ambitious construction project, but we know we've got the right tools!

—Kary Henry, for the Social Ministries Committee



Service Opportunities this Spring

PADS

Our last PADS Sunday is **April 4**, so we want to say how much we appreciate your support this year. When we begin again in the Fall, we will again offer the voluntary option (a little more formalized) of a monthly commitment to bring the same item for PADS lunches each month. Questions, comments or suggestions - call or e-mail Jerry or Sue Howard: 847-573-8963, or showard1014@yahoo.com.

Become an English Language Tutor!

Christ UMC is partnering with Family Services to provide **tutoring for Spanish speakers in our communities**. Spanish speakers are a growing percentage of the Highwood/ Highland Park area. They provide our communities with valuable services, yet there are few ways for them to connect with their English-speaking neighbors. In addition to improving their functional language skills, individual English classes provide a way for **students and teachers to make a personal connection** and create opportunities for friendship and mentoring across cultures.

Tutoring sessions will be held in the home of the student and include four hours of direct instruction per week (two two-hour meetings), with one to three students per group. Meeting times will be determined by volunteer and student schedules.

Tutors need to be fluent in English, but don't need to know Spanish. Tutor training will be provided for all volunteers in late April or early May, and textbooks are provided for all students and teachers. If you would like to share teaching responsibilities you may part partner with another tutor. For questions or to receive a brochure contact: Ruth Kauffmann at 847-532-2757 or rakauffmann@gmail.com.



Bingo Ministry!

Join us for an intergenerational opportunity to play Bingo with the nursing home residents of Winchester House in Libertyville. **Our next date to help is Sunday, April 11 ("Springo Bingo") 3:30-5:00 p.m.** Contribute homemade treats: soft brownies, cookies (no nuts or caramel), or sweet breads, or come help the residents with their Bingo cards, and socialize with them during games. Contact **Sue and Jerry Howard** for more information: 847-573-8963 (home) or 847-420-5240 (Sue cell) or by e-mail: showard1014@yahoo.com.

Three Guys and A Truck



What do hunger and **Sunday, June 6** have in common? The ninth annual "3 Guys and a Truck" food drive event at Deerfield High School from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Yes, there are still lots of hungry folks in our area and God wants us to feed them. So, go to church, enjoy our fabulous choir and then bring a bag of food, or whatever you can spare, out to the high school. Afterwards you can walk a few laps, time permitting, which also earns money for our pantry. We are our brothers' keeper. More info to follow.

Family Ministries News

Justin Spurlock

An Intrusive Presence

The season of Lent is intrusive. Rather than standing idly by and allowing us to shape our spiritual journey in ways that we want and choose, Lent asks (and sometimes demands) that our lives shift, change, and mold in new ways. Lent is a time when we are asked to give up something or commit to something new.



Just as Lent is intrusive, so are our children. Imagine for a moment the tugging at your pants by a small child while you are in a conversation. The stress of working on household chores and a child spills a drink. The awakened moment when your sleep is disrupted with a "I'm scared." Our children call us out of our routine and into relationship. They call us out of planning and into prayer. They move us away from tasks and back to the time-at-hand. As we approach the Season of Easter, thank God for the intrusion of children in our lives as the way Lent prepared us for this main event: Resurrection!

Praying in Color

Reading about in the [Voice](#), learning about it during a Children's Sermon, youth practicing regularly during FiL, and children gaining new experiences of it—yes, Praying in Color is in full swing here at CUMC. At CUMC, we are continually experimenting with "best practices" of incorporating faith into everyday family life. Our latest lab is called *Praying in Color* taken from a book by Sybil Macbeth. It is an innovative and creative way to pray if you are 3, 13, 43, or 93. You can do it in as little as one minute a day, at work, around the dinner table, before bed, whenever. Most importantly, it will forever transform the way you pray. No words are necessary; no artistic skill is necessary—only a desire and a longing for the presence of God. Here are the steps:



Step 1. Draw a shape.

Step 2. Put the name of a person for whom you are praying inside the shape.

Step 3. Add lines, squiggles, and dots.

Step 4. Add color.

Step 5. Think of each stroke of the pen and each daub of color as a moment of prayer.

continued next page

Family Ministries News, continued...

30 Hour Famine

Our Middle School and High School students are working to put together a Famine. During the 30 Hours, students will fast from the typical foods of life in order to live a simpler existence and concentrate on the tasks of service, prayer, and getting the word out about hunger in the world. They will be engaging in service projects in the community and in Chicago as well as collaborating with some current programs here at CUMC. Please watch for more information about the Famine!



Room Renovation

Have you heard about the upcoming room clean-up and paint-up? Our very own **Brad Randall** is working on becoming an Eagle Scout and has generously decided on CUMC for his project. Using the CAVE and the Movie classroom, he will be putting on fresh layers of paint (different colors of course!), organizing, cleaning, building some storage areas for us in each, and generally providing an update to both rooms. As he begins to work on the project, he will be asking for small donations of items, funds, and time for the project. Please consider how you might contribute as you see information in the future.

Meetings, Meals, and Me

One of the many privileges of serving as your Family Life Ministries Coordinator is the time I get to



spend with individuals and families getting to know them, providing guidance about the spiritual life and development, and giving encouragement to parents as they face the struggles of raising children. I would love to sit with you or your child one-on-one or with your whole family over cup of coffee, cone of ice-cream, or a meal in your home or at a restaurant. Not only does it help me to get to know you better, but it provides an important conduit for all us to partner together in your family's spiritual journey.

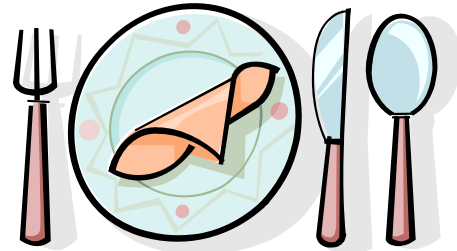
Many Thanks to Our March Volunteers

Much appreciation and thanks to the following for their service and gifts in teaching and shepherding this past month: **Barry Bradford, Kathryn Floren, Rebecca Sauser, Dana Litwin, Megan Romano, Aileen Hsu, Mindy Bradford, Christine Peschier, John Peschier, Cheryl Mitchell, Grace Mitchell, Lorraine Reategui, Gregg Spencer, Peg Plambeck, Kristin Lerner, Susan Canale, Kate Henry, Ali Mitchell, Sarah Litwin, Kristen Miller, Doreen Clough, Lisa Burns, and Kary Henry.**

Slow Food Sunday

We will kick off Pastor Brian's next sermon series on healthy living on **Sunday April 11** with a celebration called, "Slow Food Sunday." After worship we will enjoy the friendship and fellowship of Christ UMC with a shared meal in Fellowship Hall.

In worship we will focus on the important role that food plays in both our physical and spiritual life. What we eat, how we eat, and with whom we eat all have a huge impact on our physical, emotional and spiritual health.



After worship we will join together for a traditional pot luck. We encourage individuals and families to bring their favorite home cooked meal. We will promote healthy eating, so as you choose your dish please keep healthy eating in mind (but don't forget that desserts can be a part of a healthy diet ☺).

A part of healthy living is taking care of the earth, so we will not be using paper products. If you are able, please bring your own table setting. We will have table service available for everyone, but bringing your own will reduce the dishes we have to wash.

April Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kevin Bartok | 15 Mary Bruss |
| Nancy Johnson | 16 Carly Romano |
| 4 Kristen Lerner | 17 Nicolas Canale |
| Colin Noel | Kristen Kaplan |
| Kenny Whsiler | 18 Pat Lundquist |
| 5 Rosie Alexander | 19 Allan Fink |
| 7 Greg Spencer | 19 Judy Nelson |
| 8 Patty Kuehmann | 24 Meghan Johnson |
| 9 Mark Stern | Justin Spurlock |
| 10 Lauren Boyd | 25 Nicole Batinovic |
| 11 Tom Canale | Jack Noll |
| Cole Kuehmann | 26 Ken Johnson |
| 14 Matthew Lerner | 27 Lisa Trevor |
| | Susan Heiser |

Wedding Anniversaries

- Steve and Holly Crandall
 Peter and Jane Hanes
 Greg and Susan Heiser
 Charlie and Patty Kuehmann
 Herb and Vivian Landon
 Jack and Mary Meyers
 Charles and Grace Whisler



For CUMC Contributors

In the past, we advised you that it was possible to contribute to the church through your Bank's "Bill-Pay" system. This can be done at home on your computer for regular or occasional/special giving.



As a reminder, we now also have available EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) through Vanco Services, a tested and trusted company that our Methodist Conference approves and recom-

mends. This allows you to also use your computer at home to authorize regular or special giving directly from your Checking or Saving account.

If you don't use computers, we have an Authorization Form in the Church Office that when completed will allow the Financial Secretary to initiate your withdrawals as you desire.

So you now have two separate ways to save you from writing those checks each time and be able to support our church. If you think this could work for you, go to our church website: "christumcdeerfield.org" and click on the "Donate" button.

Questions? Call the Church Office or Barry Davidson, Financial Secretary.

Welcoming Ministries

Thank you to everyone who has taken a turn this year hosting our after-worship coffee fellowship:

January: **Marian Johnson, Plambeck Family, Jerry & Sue Howard**, and the **Women's Bible Study** for the wonderful brunch following our congregational meeting.

February: **Lindsay-Kelly Family, Urice Family, Social Ministries Committee**, and **Sandy Ridgway** and her hard workers for the Pancake Breakfast on Mardi Gras Sunday.

March: **Plath Family, Whisler Family, Hanes Family**, and members of the **Family Team**.

Dates are available during April, May and June. Will you sign up to take a turn? Coordinator Darlene Blum will give you all the details! Call her at 847-236-0737.

VOICE Deadline

Please keep in mind that the deadline for submissions to the monthly newsletter is always the 15th of the month. If you have an article or information for the May issue of The Voice, please submit it to Kristen Scott by **April 15**.

Submit by e-mail:
kscott@christumcdeerfield.org

or fax: 847-945-3138

or drop it in Kristen's mailbox across from the church office.

How does our garden grow?

With your help, of course! The Gardening Team is seeking people interested in maintaining the church grounds this spring and summer. It's fun and rewarding! We will decide on our work dates once we have our team together. Please call Pat Lundquist: 847-945-2352.



The Reading Circle



CUMC's book lovers will gather **Thursday, April 8** at 9:30

a.m. for discussion of "Myth of You and Me" by Leah Stewart. The novel is "a celebration and portrait of a friendship of two best friends, searingly honest, beautiful, and full of fragile urgency."

Nancy Orsini will be our host at 1056 Ridge Road, Highland Park. Please call her to tell her you are coming: 847-831-3464.

Young at Heart Dinner

We will be gathering for an evening of fellowship and good food on **Tuesday, April 20**, at 5:30 pm. Please join us at the Italian Kitchen, 648 Deerfield Road ... only one block West of the church.

For a preview of their menu, check out: www.deerfielditaliankitchen.com.

For extra dinner savings, there is usually a 10% off coupon available in your mail ... or go to this website: <http://nsuburbs.suddenvalues.com/> and click on the Italian Kitchen logo, then go to their "OFFERS" page ... which is usually updated each month.

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Bill Lundquist at 847-945-2352 or WJLundquist@hotmail.com.

Hope to see you all there!



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Current occupant or

Holy Week Events

April 1: Maundy Thursday Community Meal and Communion Service, 6:30 p.m.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall for a simple meal and conversation about the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples. Families with and without children are encouraged to attend. The meal and communion service will take one hour. A nominal fee for the meal will be collected.

April 2: Good Friday Service 7:30 p.m.

The choir will lead a service of music and readings. This somber yet moving service is a valuable opportunity to honor the sacrifice Jesus made. Come and allow the love and sacrificial gift Jesus offers to enter deeply within you.

April 4: Easter Sunday Celebration 10:00 a.m.

Easter is the highest of all the Holy Days of the church year. Come and celebrate the event that changes everything, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection blesses us with assurance of life after death as we experience the abundant life Jesus offers us today.