

An Appreciation Potluck for Reverend Dr. James Chuck

Please come to a potluck dinner honoring Rev. Chuck for his many years of sharing God's message with our congregation.

The dinner will be held at the home of Peggy & Larry Woon on Sunday, February 28th, beginning at 4pm.

Please RSVP and let Peggy know what dish you'd like to bring.

Please contact Steve or Charlie if you'd like to share or to participate in the short program preceding dinner.

We are all so grateful that Reverend Chuck graced us with his stories, anecdotes, and insights despite being retired. Look for a card to sign in the social hall this Sunday, and come on the 28th to wish him well!



THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

February 7, 2010
Epiphany 6

"Fisher Waits Expectantly"

Richard Fong
Certified Lay Speaker
Text: Luke 5: 1 - 11

Usher/Greeter: Donna and Steve
Prayer: Charlie
Scripture:
Music: Aeri and Emily
Acolyte: Wendy
SoundTechs: Jenny and Janene
Hospitality: Peter and Jasmine
Altar Flowers:



Happy Chinese New Year!!

Status Report on Nursery School

Pastor Peter Lau

A written report on the status of the Nursery School was submitted to BOAT on Sunday, January 17, 2010 by the new Nursery School Committee Chair, Steve Chan. BOAT affirmed its action taken at the previous meeting, November 1, 2009, to create a task force to explore the alternative uses of the church facilities during the week. BOAT members learned that we are no longer under a one-year time restraint to re-activate the license for the Nursery School, we may keep the Nursery School on Inactive Status for a few years. An ad hoc Futures Task Force will be convened, chaired by Leo Lin, and will bring recommendations to BOAT; more information will be provided by BOAT Secretary. BOAT also determined that the Nursery School Committee will continue its work pending the decision made by the Task Force. Please keep the work of the Futures Task Force and the future of the Nursery School



Worship with Us Next Week: February 14, 2010

Transfiguration Sunday

Preacher: Pastor Emily

Focus Scripture: Luke 9: 28 - 36

Usher/Greeter: Frances and Charlie

Prayer: Burt

Scriptures: Peggy

SoundTech: Abby

Acolyte: Jason

Hospitality: Chinese New Year Pot Luck



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Practicing Lent Together

I love the season of Lent. It's an odd thing to say, I admit, and an even odder season to love. But there is something special about the 40 days that will soon be upon us. Perhaps it is the quietness of the season or the invitation to reflect even to repent, I'm not sure. But before you chalk the oddity up to nerdy pastoral leanings, I hope that you will "try it on" - whether for the first time or for the umpteenth time - and see if the season holds unexpected possibilities for you too.

As you might know, Lent was a serious, intense time in the early church. This was the time that new converts prepared for their baptism on Easter through intentional study, prayer and fasting. The rest of the community joined in as a way to support the newbies but also to recall and remember their own baptisms. Today, Lent is marked by the call to self-examination, to reflect on the ways we have turned away from God and others, and by intentional commitments and practices that lead us back. Most commonly, these practices are in the areas of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Here at CCUMC, we set two intentions for this season of Lent. First, that it would be *a time to create and empower spiritual friendships within the community*. We hope that this might be a time for us to do more than say hello and rub shoulders with one another but to create time to share stories, insights, struggles and joys. And second, that it would be *a time to deepen our individual and communal practices of prayer*. So...how might we do that and what will Lent look like? Here's a few things to note:

We will begin together on Ash Wednesday (the 17th) with a simple service at 7:30 p.m.

Our worship order each Sunday will be pared down to bring focus to our prayer time. We will be singing simple and repetitive songs that invite a spirit of contemplation. There will be short (or shorter) messages and an expanded time for prayer.

Our hospitality time will center around tea and coffee only.

We will share in a soup lunch together each Sunday while listening to readings about prayer ...just like the monks!

Small groups will be formed to get to know one another and to pray together following lunch.

And before you wonder if we're talking about an all day affair, please note that all of this (excluding Ash Wednesday) will take place between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. each Sunday.

I urge each of you to consider participating in all the ways you can - to come to the special services, to sign up for S.O.U.P. and to "try on" the new worship order. If you have questions or would like to know more, please connect with any of the Lenten planners: Jane, Aeri, Hoang-Anh, Becky and myself. **May you find the season of Lent to be as transformative and grace-filled as I have come to know it.**

Peace & Grace,
Pastor Emily

Pledge Sunday Report *By Pastor Peter*

To date, a total of 40 pledge cards were received; 25 cards from CM side and 15 from EM side. There were 5 new pledge cards, 3 from CM side and 2 from EM side.

From our record, 8 persons who pledged last year did not return their pledge cards this year, 4 from CM side and 4 from EM side. However, we saw an increase of 3 pledges over last year, 40 vs. 37. "Pledging is a way to prayerfully, thoughtfully and intentionally to commit to financially supporting the mission and ministry of CCUMC."

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have pledged.



Upcoming News and Notes ~

- **Individual financial records for 2009 were distributed last week. Please see Laura if you haven't received yours.**
- **Today, Feb 7th, 1:00pm: Haiti Health Kit Party!** Stay after hospitality time, and give the gift of your time in helping to put together needed supplies for the Haitian people affected by the earthquake.
- **Lunar New Year Pot Luck** will be on **February 14th**. The Chinese and English congregation will welcome in the Lunar New Year together! Pot Luck Assignments are as follows:
A - H Salad K - L Dessert M - Z Entrée (Meat Dish)
Please direct any questions to Peggy or Helena
- **Knitting group** will meet Sunday, **February 28th** after service
- **The season of Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th**. Please mark your calendars now and plan to enter the season intentionally and together. We will gather for service at 7:30 p.m. We will also be marking the season with a simplified worship order, a special luncheon program as well as an invitation to be a part of a prayer group. You can learn more at the information stand on the refreshment table. All are invited!
- **Coming in April:** Benefit dinner for the **Kumi Boarding School**. Please see Becky if you'd like to help with the plans.