

# The Flame



May, 2016

Christ United Methodist Church

## Oh, Lord, I Want to Be in That Number

*Dixieland jazz orchestra to play during May 15 services at Alpine Center*

by Mark McGowan

O, clap your hands, all ye people! The jubilant sounds of New Orleans are coming Sunday, May 15, to all three services at the Alpine Center.

Members of A Wing and A Prayer Dixieland Jazz Orchestra – the group includes Rockford Symphony Orchestra principal trumpet Mark Baldin on cornet – will lead the CUMC congregation in a hand-clapping, foot-tapping, sing-along, whoop-it-up celebration of Pentecost.

John D. Smith, the group's leader and trombonist, encourages worshippers to wear N'awlins beads and/or red – and to arrive early for a lively and swinging prelude. He's also hoping members of the Our Master's Center will make the trip north for the 8 or 11 a.m. service.

"The human spirit is renewed," said Smith, a retired band director and music educator from DeKalb Community Unit School District 428 and member of DeKalb's First United Methodist Church. "We have fun, we put smiles on faces and we renew ourselves."

Smith is the president of JD Music Pros, which books professional musical entertainment for all occasions, as well as its nonprofit arm, Just Make It Happen, Inc. His popular Shanigans Big Band has released three recordings. The latest: "It's Saturday Night! Let's Dance" released in July, 2015 at NIU.

Mark Baldin launched A Wing and A Prayer nearly a quarter-century ago; since then, the band has played everywhere from Mississippi River boat cruises to Creole-flavored funerals.

Band members first took their Dixieland tunes into a church sanctuary five years ago after Smith discussed ways to combine the joys of playing jazz and living the

Christian life. That conversation encouraged him to develop a New Orleans-style worship service that blends jazz, gospel and songs from the hymnal.

Smith communicated with Pastor Jane Eesley, who he knows from her time in DeKalb, and CUMC Worship Arts Director Jody Warren to pick the May 15 music.

They considered melodic and textual content in their selections and, Smith said, created a

program that will successfully deliver "what Pentecost is all about."

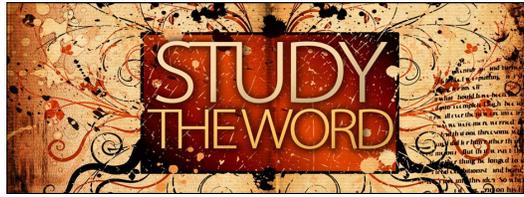
*"Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.*

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." – Acts 2*

CUMC worshippers will hear finger-snapping takes on "Amazing Grace," "Blessed Assurance," "Can The Circle



Front Row: John Skillman, clarinet; John D. Smith, trombone; Joe Pasteris, drums; Denny Vaupel, piano/vocals  
Back Row: Roger Hintzsche, banjo; Mark Baldin, cornet; Rick Peterson, tuba



## Adult Study: Faith and Politics

## Summer Book Study

**Facilitator:** Jeff Kearney  
**Start Date:** Wednesday, May 11th  
**Time:** 6:00 to 7:30 PM  
**Frequency:** Weekly, for 5 weeks  
**Location:** Alpine Dining Room

**Description:** Once more, Americans are bracing themselves for a year of polarized politics in which candidates sling mud at their opponents. Complex moral and political issues are addressed in thirty-second sound bytes offering polarizing solutions. Rev. Adam Hamilton, well-known pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leewood, KS and frequently published author, recently preached five sermons to help Christians think about how their faith can guide their political decisions this election season. A video recording of Hamilton’s respective sermon will be shown, and then group discussion will follow.

Hamilton tackles the following topics:

- 1.) Preaching politics, keeping faith
- 2.) Immigrants and the Bible
- 3.) A Christian response to Islamic extremism
- 4.) Christianity and healthcare; and
- 5.) A middle way on gun control?

**No RSVP is required, and there is no book to purchase.**

**Book:** How to Be Here: A Guide to Creating a Life Worth Living

**Cost:** \$16.00

**Teachers:** Pastors take turns teaching each week

**Start Date:** Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 6:00 to 7:15 PM

**Frequency:** Weekly, for 9 weeks  
 (Will not meet on July 6<sup>th</sup>)

**Location:** Alpine Dining Room

**Description:** Rob Bell, the popular pastor and New York Times bestselling author of Love Wins and What We Talk About When We Talk About God shows us how to pursue and realize our dreams, live in the moment, and joyfully do the things that make us come alive. Each of us was created for something great—we just need to figure out what it is and find the courage to do it. Whether it’s writing the next great American novel, starting a business, or joining a band, Rob Bell wants to help us make those dreams become reality. Our path is ours and ours alone to pursue, he reminds us, and in doing so, we derive great joy because we are living our passions. How to Be Here lays out concrete steps we can use to define and follow our dreams, interweaving engaging stories, lessons from biblical figures, insights gleaned from Rob’s personal experience, and practical advice. Rob gives you the support and insight you need to silence your critics, move from idea to action, take the first step, find joy in the work, persevere through hard times, and surrender to the outcome.

### ***(Dixieland Jazz Orchestra continued from Page 1)***

Be Unbroken,” “Every Time I Feel the Spirit,” “I’ll Fly Away,” “Just A Closer Walk with Thee” and more.

These songs, he said, are like the United Methodist Church itself: open to all and to every level of belief.

“We’re going to have fun throughout the service and see how we can touch the people,” Smith said. “This is music that will strike at your heart and reach out to your soul.”

Joining Smith and Baldin in the trip to the Alpine Center are Roger Hintzsche (banjo), Rick Peterson (tuba),

Joe Pasteris (drums), John Skillman (clarinet) and Denny Vaupel (piano).

Feel free to chat with the players afterward, Smith said. They’re used to it.

“People say to us, ‘Hey, you coming back next week?’ This will be one of those kinds of experiences,” he said. “We see people who you didn’t think would come to church coming to church.”