

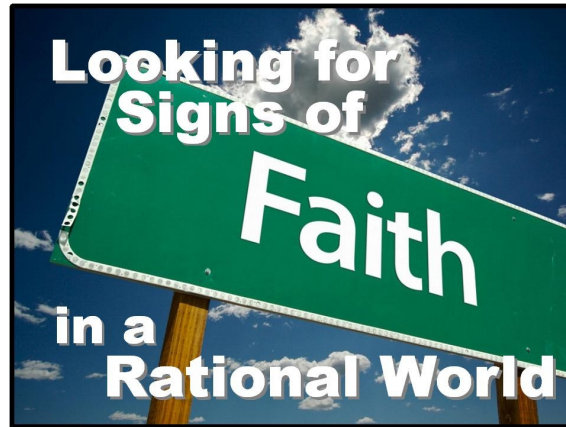
COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
A JUST PEACE, PROGRESSIVE, LGBTQ OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

# COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 10

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2010

Coming up at CUCC...



## Signs of Faith in a Rational World: Exploring Your Questions

Ever feel like you have so many questions about God that you're too overwhelmed to simply believe? You're not alone, especially here at Community UCC. We are a thinking people - people who aren't satisfied with easy answers and cheap grace. That's what inspired our current sermon series. Our worship themes and Pastor Leah's sermons will focus on questions submitted by the congregation.

- October 3rd - *World Communion Sunday* - The Problem of Free Will and Suffering: "If God loves us, why do we suffer?"
- October 10th - Stewardship Sunday
- October 17th - Eileen Gebbie preaching
- October 24th - Discernment for Non-Mystics: "How do I know when God is speaking to me?"
- October 31st - *All Saints Sunday* - What's Next: "I don't feel like I need to know about the afterlife... But what's our concept of that? And, if there is one, I need to believe in a system of justice that goes along with it."
- November 7th - Son of God: "About the 'divinity' of Jesus... Was Jesus 'God'?"
- November 14th - Death and Resurrection: "Jesus' 'resurrection': Optional? Important? Essential?"

**The deadline for the next Communigram is October 21st at Noon.**

## Letters from Leah

Dear Community,

On Sunday, September 26, I announced some sad news to the congregation. My mother now has hospice care. We are grieving as a family, and yet, we are also somewhat relieved. Recently, the benefits of the chemotherapy were far outweighed by the side effects. Even though it is a signifier that her time on earth is short, the palliative care and additional support hospice offers is a welcomed relief.

When Pastor's lives are strained, if they are unable to communicate with their congregation what their needs are, then unfortunately, that strain transfers to the congregation. Knowing this, I want to continue to be as transparent as possible, letting you know how I am and what my needs are. I have been in regular conversation with the Personnel Committee (Nancy Cattell, Jenn Robbenolt, Tom Ward) and Moderator Michelle Franke about scheduling and time off. With their guidance, I've coordinated the schedule below. We all know, of course, that this schedule will change, but we will deal with that when it comes. We will also communicate with you when it changes. It's important that you know when I am available and when I am not so I can tend to my family.

It also so happens that several times during October, church obligations have been scheduled on my normal days off (Friday and Saturday). This happens often to pastors – the nature of ministry is that it's fluid. Pastors are on call 24 hours a day and often keep odd office hours so that we can be available when our parishioner's schedules allow. So, it's not uncommon for me to find time during the week to have my "weekend" when church responsibilities or emergencies require me to work on my set days off. Below, you will find what I plan to have as my October schedule. There are two vacation days I'm taking in October. The rest of the days denoted as "off" are just my regular Sabbath days each week which, in some cases, have been shifted due to church obligations.

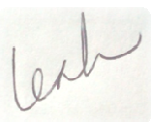
October 1-5 – on  
October 6-7 – off  
October 8-14 – on  
October 15-18 – off  
October 19-21 – on  
October 22-23 – off  
October 24-26 – on  
October 27-28 – off  
October 29-31 – on

Since I will most likely be in Indiana on my days off, you should know that Rev. Deborah Owens (217-714-1210) and Rev. Laurie Hill (217-521-7747) continue to be willing to share on call duties for pastoral emergencies. I will let you know in the bulletin who is on call while I am away. The on call person's number will also be on my voice mail at church. Know that I always carry my cell phone with me and, therefore, am always available by phone or email (217-552-3129 or [leah@community-ucc.org](mailto:leah@community-ucc.org)). If you need me, please let me know. I don't want to hear, "Well, I needed to talk to Leah, but I didn't want to bother her..." You, Community UCC, are never a bother. You are my church.

If at any time you have questions about my schedule, please do not hesitate to contact me. Likewise, if you have concerns, please feel free to contact myself, Personnel Chair Nancy Cattell, Moderator Michelle Franke or Pastoral Relations Chair Gabriel Solis.

Your kind words have meant the world to me and my family during this difficult time. On behalf of my parents, David and Chloe, thanks.

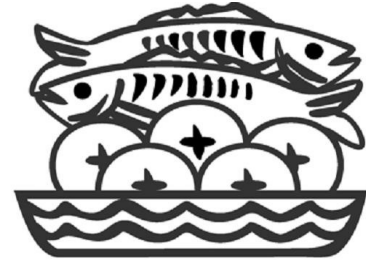
Blessings,



## THE COMMUNITY UCC 2011 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: SHARED ABUNDANCE

began in late September with a letter to friends and members describing the miracle of the loaves and fishes and its relevance for us today. As a community of faith we believe in this miracle because we believe in the miracle of God's work among us and of the inspiration of Jesus' ministry. We invite you all to be a part of this ministry by participating in the Stewardship of our beloved church. Become a fisher of souls.

If you didn't receive a stewardship letter, please let our Office Manager, Dana, know by emailing [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org) or calling the church office at 217-344-5091. As hard as we try to maintain current addresses with everyone, sometimes someone slips through the net.



***Shared Abundance:***  
*The 2011 Stewardship Campaign at  
Community United Church of Christ*

If you have questions about this year's campaign please contact Michelle Franke, Vicky Robertson, or Pastor Leah Robberts-Mosser. The fish will be arriving on October 10<sup>th</sup>!

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### "Scenes from Seminary" by Eileen Gebbie

([egebbie@ctsichicago.edu](mailto:egebbie@ctsichicago.edu), 217/714-5629)

Back to school!

I have Liberation Theology with the Rev. Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite, object of Glenn Beck's scorn. In Constructing a Concept of God with Dr. Laurel Schneider we have explored the notions of collective memory and collective amnesia as represented by the Bible and extra-Biblical sources. Dr. Seung Ai Yang is leading us, with great humor and depth, through the four representations of Jesus in Interpreting the Gospels. The Rev. John Thomas, former General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, has structured The Practice of Christian Ministry around minister as pontiff (as in bridge), prophet, poet, and promise.

True to my experience of Chicago Theological Seminary, I am expected to learn the material presented but, more importantly, integrate it with my own experience of the holy, social power, and human need. That is not to say I am developing a self-centered ministerial identity but one in which I genuinely practice what I preach. As a result, when I inevitably fumble I will be prepared to respond to criticism and willing to grow.

I also had the opportunity this week to help construct a sukkah (a temporary geodesic dome) for Sukkot. In the Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva's words, Sukkot is "a celebration of the harvest, of history, of God's providential love, of the earth and its gifts." I hope each of you have a glimmer of that love and abundance today.

## MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

### Moving Forward, Making Transitions

Summer is officially over and we are well into fall. Fall changes are vibrant in our church life too- church school is underway, campus ministry students are back in full swing with classes, the Mission Team has great plans in progress for our next two Lenten projects, CLB is preparing 2011 budgets, a new member class is being planned, and well you name it changes and growth are all around us! Really where did the time go? \*sigh\*

I find that I really enjoy the natural progression of seasons. Now, I'm not looking forward to freezing cold weather, but I do like being able move forward. Make transitions. Watch some things end and other things begin. I like that life doesn't remain exactly the same all the time.

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

*~Seneca (Roman philosopher, mid-1st century AD)*

Fall is a welcome reprieve from the hot and humid days of summer that beat us down. I know it is fall when leaves change their colors and become majestic crowns. It is the time of year where nature rejoices one last time before going into hibernation for the winter. I know it is fall when I need socks or slippers on my feet. I know it is fall when it's dark out long before I've been able to rustle up dinner for my family. The days are shorter and shadows longer.

Change is an ever-evolving part of life that we cannot always control, like the changing of the seasons. Fall brings quiet and slowing and reminds us to be prepared. Let's embrace fall and the changes it brings with curious open hearts and minds. For following the fall is winter and then a new rebirth with spring.

So fall is a time to sit by the camp fire, feast on chocolate, gram crackers and marshmallows and snuggle up under a blanket. Fall is a time to be thankful for all things, including the moments of joy and times of adversity. Fall, like every season is a time to live, and rejoice for your moments in this world; for our moments together; for the changes we want to see and be!

Blessings,  
Michelle Franke

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### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

During worship on Sunday, October 31st, we will be remembering CUCC members who have past away over the past year.



Organized? Love music? If you've answered "yes" to these questions, then you're the person Bob Smith is looking for! Bob needs someone to assist him in coordinating the details for the cantata on December 12. Please contact Dana in the office or Bob Smith right away if you can help.

**SAVE THE DATES... more details to come later...**  
*from the Community Building Team....*



**Eileen Gebbie will be preaching on October 17. It's always a joy to have her back. Mark your calendars and don't miss it!**

## ALL CHURCH HALLOWEEN PARTY



Friday, October 29th

6:30 p.m. - CUCC Fellowship Hall

6:30 - 7:00 pm - Pumpkin decorating, face painting,  
 monster treats & kooky punch

7:00 - 7:30 pm - Costume parade

7:30 - 8:00 pm - Spook-tacular games, bag  
 decorating

**8:00 "Trunk or Treating"**

(FYI - This is trick or treating out of people's car trunks in our parking lot).

We will have a sign-up sheet for people to indicate what item they will give out - so that we get a variety items (small candy bars, fruit, individual bags of pretzels, stickers, pencils, etc.) You are also encouraged to decorate your car trunks for the occasion! Watch for sign-up sheets on the credenza in the back of the church. Questions? See Peg Wade or Sarah Isaacs.

## COMMUNITY THANK YOU BREAKFAST

Friday, November 5th 7:00 -9:00 A.M. in the Parlor

Leah came up with a great idea and the Community Building Team liked it and ran with it.... We will be hosting a continental breakfast to thank the people with whom we do business (parking lot renters, 510 Daniel renters, leadership of groups that rent from us, Espresso Royale employees, etc.)

If anyone would like to help with this event, we would appreciate the help (set up, serve, be a greeter, clean-up), please contact Peg Wade.

## FAMILY FUN SKATE DAY

Sunday, November 14, 2-4 pm

Bring the family and enjoy an afternoon of skating with fellow CUCCers!

More information to follow.

## SAVE THE DATES, SAVE THE DATES, SAVE THE DATES...

Jean Nanney's ordination has tentatively been set for November 28, first Sunday in Advent. It's the Sunday after Thanksgiving at 3:00 at The Windsor. Let's support Jean's ministry and have a large showing from CUCC!



## ADVENTure Night & Dump Soup Supper

Sunday, December 5 - 3:00 p.m.

Christmas crafts, soup supper & tree lighting - something for everyone!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Thanks to the Christian Education Committee for hosting a fantastic Rally Day! There was an energy in the room after worship down in Fellowship Hall. What a great start to our Sunday School year.

The Personnel Committee received insightful feedback from the Christian Ed Committee about the current Director of Christian Education job description. They have made some adjustments and will be starting a search soon. Additionally, they are putting together a small search team, including a member of the Christian Ed Committee, Patricia Brady. The Justice League also wants to be represented. We are still figuring out who that person will be. We are hoping to hire a new staff person for youth and family ministries as soon as possible. However, typically, filling such positions in churches takes time. Please be patient. Thanks for being supportive.

In the meantime, you can be helpful by volunteering when you are able to do so. We have a new Sunday School structure and new curriculum. We haven't worked out all the bugs by far. So, thank you for giving us helpful feedback. In this interim time, Pastor Leah is working with the Christian Education Committee. For information on how to be involved, see her or Sarah Isaacs, CE Chair.

## POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVING

This is a course for people caring (or who anticipate caring) for family members or anyone interested in improving self-care skills.

Topics include: Identifying and reducing personal stress; communicating feelings, needs and concerns; learning from our emotions; mastering caregiver decisions

Location of classes: Family Service, 405 S. State St., Champaign, IL 61820

Date: October 1 - November 5      Time: 1:30 - 4:00 pm

Class meets every Friday for 6 weeks

Classes are free. For more information, call Roxanna at 352-5100

## BLIND PIG PUB DISCUSSION GROUP

The Blind Pig Pub Discussion Group is moving to Crane Alley, 115 West Main Street in Urbana , starting Monday, September 20th. 7:15pm in the upstairs loft. We will be discussing the questions for the sermon series "Signs of Faith in a Rational World". There will be a sign up sheet in the parlor.

## Women's Book Group Invites You To Join Us!

Almost every Saturday morning at Espresso Royale on Neil Street, a group of wonderful and wacky women meets for coffee, tea, and conversation. Most of us are associated with CUCC; some of us are not. We talk about a wide variety of things - books we've read and loved or hated, current events in the world and in our lives, things we care about, and things that are just for fun. We all try to read our main book of the month, and on the 4th Saturday of the month, we generally have a somewhat more structured discussion about the book. You are always welcome to join us, either as a regular, or just once in a while! For more information or to be put on the Women's Book Group mailing list, call or e-mail Jeanne Ward ( 344-1619, [jeawa@comcast.net](mailto:jeawa@comcast.net) ). Our upcoming booklist for the next several months follows:

October - *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (young adult book)

November - *The 13th Tale* by Diane Setterfield

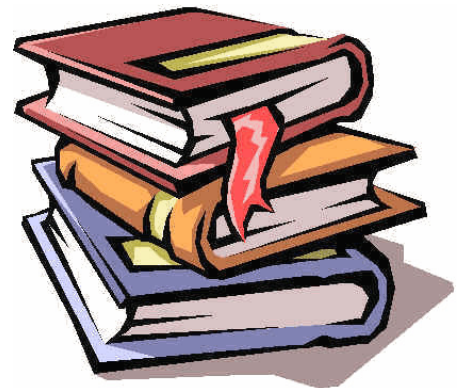
December - *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

January - *Mother Tongue* by Bill Bryson

February - *Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the Story Corps Project* (NPR)

March - *I Love Everybody (and Other Atrocious Lies)* by Laurie Notaro

April - *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave



## NEWCOMERS GROUP COMING IN OCTOBER

Whether you are a true newcomer to Community UCC, or whether you already have been with us for a while, please join us for newcomer group sessions starting on November 7th right after church. Classes will be held on November 7th and November 14th. Newcomer classes are a chance for you to share your story, for us to share Community's story with you, and for you to find out what membership in this faith community is all about! Enjoy a simple lunch while you meet others like yourself, meet Pastor Leah and other church leaders, and have an opportunity to ask questions. Childcare is provided if needed. Please contact Denise Oligney-Estill ([denise.oe1@gmail.com](mailto:denise.oe1@gmail.com)) or the church office if you are interested in participating in the upcoming Newcomers Membership Group.

**\*Sunday Schedule**

9:00 am Confirmation  
 9:25 am Choir Rehearsal  
 10:15 am - 12:00 pm Worship, Church  
 School and Community Time  
 6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group

**CUCC Office Hours**

Monday Through Thursday  
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

# OCTOBER 2010

## Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:30 - 9pm Prayer Walk and Leadership Re- treat II	2 9am Women's Book Group
3 *See Schedule <i>World Communion Sunday</i> *Newcomers Group following worship	4 6pm Worship Committee Meeting	5 6pm Operation Snowball	6 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7pm Choir Re- hearsal	7 10am International Group 5:30pm Commu- nity Building Com- mittee Meeting 8pm AA	8 7pm Cocaine Anonymous	9 9am Women's Book Group
10 *See Schedule *Newcomers Group following worship  12:00pm CLB Meeting 2:00pm Christian Ed Meeting	11	12 6pm Pastoral Relations  6pm Operation Snowball	13 12pm Bulletin Deadline 4-6pm Care Team Meeting 6pm Chime Choir 7pm Choir Re- hearsal	14 10am International Group  5:30pm-9:00pm Prayer Walk  8pm AA	15 7pm Cocaine Anonymous	16 9am Women's Book Group
17 *See Schedule <b>Eileen Gebbie Preaching</b> 12pm Church Life Board Meeting 2pm Christian Ed Meeting	18	19 6pm Operation Snowball	20 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7pm Choir Re- hearsal	21 10am International Group 8pm AA <b>Communigram Deadline</b>	22 7pm Cocaine Anonymous	23 9am Women's Book Group
24 *See Schedule	25	26 6pm Operation Snowball	27 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6pm Chime Choir 7pm Choir Re- hearsal	28 10am International Group  8pm AA	29 6:30pm Halloween Party  	30 9am Women's Book Group

31  
\*See Schedule



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For many years, it has been the tradition at Community UCC that only the Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary have access to the our "Giving" information and for many years this worked well for us. Unfortunately over the past decades as our lives have become more complicated, so has the job of counting, tracking, and dispersing the financial information. A few years ago the Church Life Board agreed that in order to provide needed support to the Financial Secretary, the Sound and Ethical Practices Chairs could have access to the financial reports as needed. At the September 19th CLB meeting, the Board voted to extended this access as needed to the Office Manager (for the purpose of printing and distributing statements and reports) and the Stewardship Team and Pastor (for the purpose of preparing the Stewardship Campaign). The Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary are still solely responsible for the counting and recording of receipts as well as the preparation of statement and reports in regard to those receipts. No personal financial information will ever be publically shared. If you have any questions about this change, please do not hesitate to ask.

Vicky Robertson & Ken Gilbert

Sound and Ethical Practices

### A Question From the Students of the UCC Campus Ministry:

Is anyone interested in hosting a Sunday lunch for the campus ministry? (<10 students)

If so, please contact Lisa - [straub4@illinois.edu](mailto:straub4@illinois.edu)

We would love to meet you and would be grateful to do so over a meal.



### The Justice League NEEDS YOU!

Might you be willing to volunteer to chaperone a youth group event in the coming months? Our youth (grades 6-12) are fun to hang out with. They will make you laugh and surprise you with their insights. If you need help coming up with fun ideas, Pastor Leah has hundreds of games, programs, and outings at the ready – just say the word.

Typically, the Justice League, as they are called, meet on Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm. Events can be at church, in someone's home or another location – we must know one week in advance where youth group will be held so that we can let parents know. According to our safe church policy, we need to have two adults present.

Please contact Pastor Leah ([leah@community-ucc.org](mailto:leah@community-ucc.org)) to let her know when you can lead Justice League. Thanks!



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805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: (217) 344-5091

FAX: (217) 344-5008

Website: www.community-ucc.org

Email: info@community-ucc.org

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**9:00 am** Confirmation

**9:25 am** Choir Rehearsal

**10:15 am** Worship

*After the Children's Time, Sunday  
School begins and children up to 4  
years old are welcome in the nursery.*

**11:30 am** Community Time

**6:00 pm** CUCC Youth Group

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The next Communiongram will be mailed out on October 28.

**CUCC CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor:**

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser  
leah@community-ucc.org

**Religious Education Director:**

info@community-ucc.org

**Choir Director:**

Robert Smith

**Organist:**

Linda Vaughn  
lindavaughn@community-ucc.org

**Office Manager:**

Dana Major  
info@community-ucc.org

**Faith Community Nurse:**

Linda Morgan

**Child Care Providers:**

Jessica Bush, Amanda Dexter,  
Kelly Kopija, and Ari Mann

**UCC Campus Ministry**

**Campus Minister:**

Rev. Karen Bush  
karen@community-ucc.org

**Church as Pilgrimage**

*Hans Kung*

If the Church really sees itself as the people of God, it is obvious that it can never be a static and supra-historical phenomenon, which exists undisturbed by earthly space and historical time. The Church is always and everywhere a living people, gathered together from the peoples of this world and journeying through the midst of time. The Church is essentially en route, on a journey, a pilgrimage. A Church which pitches its tents without looking out constantly for new horizons, which does not continually strike camp, is being untrue to its calling.