

Communigram

Community United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Open and Affirming Congregation

"Cherishing.the.Past.Challenging.the.Future"... (1853-2004)

From the Desk of Rev. Michael Mulberry...

Jack Paxton made a statement at our congregational meeting in the fall that ended up in the minutes for that meeting. He was worried that if we turned toward a new polity we would lose our "institutional memory." I think Jack voiced an important concern on behalf of many others in the congregation and certainly a legitimate fear for all of us.

I am one of those people, however, that does not believe our institutional memory is tied up with our church structure and governance. I believe our institutional memory is bound up with the people who have been active in this church for a number of years. We cannot lose the institutional memory that is within them.

To that end, I have strongly advocated that those with the institutional memory begin to mentor younger leaders and participants in church life. I am one of those people

and have so appreciated when folks have shared stories about Frieda Wascher, the abolitionist movement, or even attempts by Lionel Miles to start a contemporary worship service. So invite a younger leader or participant to dinner or to the church and show them how to do a task you have long done in the church. Then do it with them one day so that they may consult you. Finally allow them to do it on their own. Then teach someone else.

For those younger leaders and participants, I would encourage you to ask how you might participate in an historical ministry or task of our church. How do I sign up for Meals on Wheels, run the sound system, regulate the heat in the sanctuary, prepare communion, change the paraments, learn about the church's historical ministry on campus?

We cannot continue to grow with a generational rift.

We need **all ages**. We are all God's story. Alice Walker wrote, "I believe the truth about any subject only comes when all the sides of the story are put together, and all their different meanings make a new one. Each writer writes the missing parts to the other writer's story and the whole story is what I'm after." (*In Search of Our Mother's Gardens*, p. 49) The whole story is what I'm after.

Shalom,

Mike



From the Moderator

The Administrative Committee (a.k.a. "The Gang of Seven") has met twice in the past three weeks and is off to a good start.

Our work so far has centered on the 2005 budget and building rental and space issues. Our regular meetings are on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 7-9pm in the Conference Room. Please contact any of us with your questions or concerns.

Administrative Committee Members:

Scott Bush - Moderator

Mike Mulberry - Pastor

Ken Gilbert - Financial Policy Officer

Vicky Robertson - Community Life Calendar Keeper

Deb Townsend - Internal Communications Officer

Roger Wade - Treasurer

David Willcox - Clerk



Thank You from Past Moderator

Hi Friends,

Well it has been a month since our Annual Meeting. I handed over moderator reins to Scott Bush. The new Task Groups have gotten underway. And it appears that the church has not fallen apart! Three cheers for our side (whatever side that is)!

On the contrary, it sort of looks like new life is popping out all over. We had a great Black History month, two new babies have come amongst us and others are gaining their walking feet. The Trouts are back in their pew looking strong. The campus ministry is rev'd up and thinking about Spring Break. The choir notes printed in the

bulletin give understanding to our listening of the anthem. The announcements at the end of the service seem to be working just fine. Our worship life seems to be reverently singing along. What more could we ask for? (Well, a little more money would help!)

It has been sort of fun these past few weeks to just sit back and enjoy our congregation and our community life. It has been fun to be at home on Sunday evenings and watch Ken get in the car to head off to Administrative Committee meetings with Scott and others. I don't know what-all they are up to, but I have confidence that it has the best interests of our church at

heart.

I wanted to send off one more thank-you to each of you for the support that you gave me during the last two years. What a rich transition time it was to be deeply involved in the life of our church. I begin to understand why thank you notes can sound platitudinous and flat. It is hard to have the words to describe how dependent we are on each other, and how much the lives of others inspire us. So, I will end with the simplest words I know. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Ruth

’ Mission Moment

**Is the realm of God a place?
Jerusalem, Rome, America? Or is it a vision?
Shalom, Salaam, Peace with Justice?**

We in the United Church of Christ have faith that it is the latter. A holy place can easily become a fortress, from which many are forcibly excluded. But a holy vision is large enough to include all who would embrace it.

Thus our mission is not to guard some sacred abode from invaders, but to lift high a holy vision, so that everyone can see it—and seeing it, can rejoice in their hearts.

That is the purpose, the meaning, and the significance of our United Church of Christ Statement of Mission:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called and commit ourselves...
 To praise God, confess our sin, and joyfully accept God’s forgiveness;
 To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our suffering world;
 To embody God’s love for all people;
 To hear and give voice to Creation’s cry for justice and peace;
 To name and confront the powers of evil within and among us;
 To repent our silence and complicity with the forces of chaos and death;
 To preach and teach with the power of the Living Word;
 To join oppressed and troubled people in the struggle for liberation;
 To work for justice, healing, and wholeness of life;
 To embrace the unity of Christ’s church;
 To discern and celebrate the present and coming reign of God.

God is still speaking,

Make out your check to CUCC, with note for One Great Hour of Sharing, and put it in the offering envelope you will find in the pew, or mail to the church.

Bring the whole family!



It's a Pancake Brunch hosted by CUCC youth.

Sunday, March 6

11:30 am Fellowship Hall

**Enjoy delicious sausage, mouth-watering
pancakes, and beverages**

Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.

Proceeds go towards youth service project.

Easter Flower Order Form



As the spring approaches, and the sanctuary will be adorned with Easter Lilies and Spring Flowering Plants for individuals, families or groups. You are invited to make a gift of one or more plants to be used during the Easter service. Several choices are offered this year. Please mark which flower, size and color you wish to purchase, fill out the form below and place this in the offering plate or mail it to the church office (805 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820). **Deadline for orders is Monday, March 7, 2005.** Thank you for sharing.

I will donate _____ flowers to the church.

I will pick up my flowers after the Easter morning worship service.

Flowers not claimed will be donated to those homebound or in the hospital, or nursing home.

Lilies 4-7 Bloom White Easter Lilies \$ 10.00 7 1/2' - 2 bulbs/pot 9+ Blooms \$ 20.00

Tulips 6" pot (6 bulbs) ()Red ()Pink ()Yellow \$9.00

Daffodils 6" pot (6 bulbs) \$9.00

Chrysanthemums 6" pot ()White ()Yellow ()Lavendar \$12.00

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Calendar

3/03 ~ Thursday

7:00 am Men's Breakfast at *Original Pancake House*

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

8:00 pm AA (FH)

8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

3/05 ~ Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*

3/06 ~ Sunday ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Sunday School (R1-5, FH, CR)

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)

10:15 am Worship Service (S)

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)

11:30 am Pancake Brunch (FH)

6:00 pm Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group (TR)

3/07 ~ Monday

10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

3/09 ~ Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

3/10 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

Noon UCF Board (CR)

8:00 pm AA (FH)

8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

3/12 ~ Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*

3/13 ~ Sunday ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Sunday School (R1-5, FH, CR)

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)

10:15 am Worship Service (S)

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)

6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group (TR)

3/14 ~ Monday

10:00 am *Communigram* Deadline

10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

3/16 ~ Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

3/17 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

7:00 pm Iraqi War Grief Service (S)

8:00 pm AA (FH)

8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

3/05 ~ Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*

Key: FH=Fellowship Hall, CR=Conference Room, S=Sanctuary,
P=Parlor, L=Library,
T=Tower Room, R1...5=Lower Level Classrooms



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will get together 7am Thursday March 3 at the Original Pancake House, which is roughly at the corner of Mattis and Springfield in Champaign.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship for March 10 will be held at the home of Elizabeth Easley at 1 pm. There will be a Bible study led by Dorothy Bell. Hostesses are Ruth Fisher and Jean Creswell. Devotions will be giving by JoAnn Fley. Those planning to attend should note that parking is available in Elizabeth's driveway or on Draper Street, the side street near her house. Parking

is not allowed on that portion of Green Street where Elizabeth lives. Also, those needing a level, non-step entrance to her house should use the back door.



March 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>*Sunday Schedule</u> 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Coffee 6 pm Sr & Jr High Youth</p>	<p><u>**Thursday Schedule</u> 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Play Group 8 pm AA 8 pm Alanon</p>	1	2 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 **See Schedule Above 7 am Men's Breakfast at Original Pancake House Crop Walk Recruiter's Rally	4	5 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale
<p>6 One Great Hour Sharing *See Schedule Above Blood Pressure Checks after worship in the Library 11:30 am Pancake Brunch in the Fellowship Hall</p>	7 10 am Staff Meeting	8	9 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 **See Schedule Above 1 pm Women's Fellowship at Elizabeth Easley's home Noon UCF Board (CR)	11	12 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale
<p>13 *See Schedule Above</p>	14 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm G-CAP Meeting 10 am Communicurgram Deadline	15	16 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 **See Schedule Above 7 pm Iraqi Grief Service	18	19 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale
<p>20 Palm Sunday 10:15 Trial of Christ with Palm Processional Schubert's Mass in G presented by Choir 7 pm Adm Committee</p> <p>*See Schedule Above</p>	21 10 am Staff Meeting	22	23 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 Maundy Thursday **See Schedule Above Maundy Thursday Service: 6 pm Potluck, 7pm Worship	25 Good Friday 7 pm Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary	26 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale
Spring Break						
<p>27 Easter Sunday 9 am Easter Breakfast *See Schedule Above</p>	28 10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Communicurgram Deadline	29	30 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 **See Schedule Above		

A Service of Grief

A community-wide service of grief will be held at our church on **Thursday, March 17, 7 pm**, to remember the beginning of the Iraqi war two years ago. Lest we be hardened to the continuing death and trauma experienced in Iraq, we will seek to soften our own hearts so that God's love and compassion might be known in the world. If you are interested in planning this service with other faith communities in the Champaign-Urbana area, please let Rev. Mulberry know.

Mark your calendars for the following Easter Week services:



Sunday, March 20 - Palm Sunday - 10:15 - Palm processional & choir cantata

Thursday, March 24 - Maundy Thursday - 6:00 P.M. potluck in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the Maundy Thursday Service

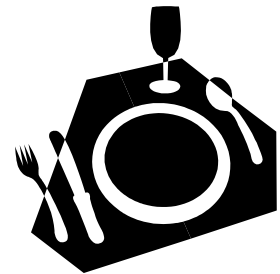
Friday, March 25 - Good Friday service - 7:00 P.M. in the Parlor

Sunday, March 27 - Easter Breakfast at 9:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall and the Easter Service at 10:15 A.M.

Easter Breakfast

Everyone is warmly invited to attend the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 27 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up will not be needed; we just ask that you bring a bread, fruit, or egg dish to share! As the awesome beauty of spring starts to reveal itself, we ask that everyone do their part for the environment, and please bring your own table service. This should

include plates, silverware, and cups. We are trying to cut down on the disposable goods that we use and would very much appreciate your help. The Hospitality Task Group will provide coffee, juice, and milk. If you have any questions, please call Becky Duffield at 694-4756.



The Prayer Protest Continues

The Prayer Protest continues each Wednesday at noon. Bring your sack lunch and we will sit out on the northeast front stoop of the church. If you are interested in providing "gorp"



or "trail mix" please drop it off in the church office. We will be providing campus ministry folk "food for thought". "Gorp" or "trail mix" will be offered to those passing by the church. These goodies will contain words of compassion for those suffering in Iraq.

Community Cares

Our Sympathy is extended to:

- ⇒ Jerry Bell and family following the death of his father, Warren.
- ⇒ The family of Grace Wilson following her death on February 28. Burial with a brief service at the gravesite will be at West Liberty, IA.

Congratulations to:

- ⇒ Kristin Hoganson and Charles Gammie following the birth of their new daughter, Edith Frances Gammie Hoganson, born February 11. Edith has a sister Annemily.
- ⇒ Patricia Brady and Daniel Kuchma following the birth of their new son, Mark Everest Kuchma born February 21. Mark has a brother Benjamin.

Thank You

Dear Friends at Community
United Church of Christ,

Thank you very much for
your donations to empty tomb.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. It enables people to receive needed help full in Jesus' name.

May God bless you richly.

You are a blessing to others!

Sincerely in Christ,
Marsha Gruschow

Matching Program for the Heifer Project International

A matching program for individual donations to Heifer Project International has been located. Recently the American Veterinary Medical Association donated \$100,000 to Heifer Project, and then also pledged \$400,000 which with it would match individual donations. The donations will be used to fund the expansion of Heifer Project's programs in areas recovering from the recent tsunami. Personally, I am excited and proud that

this prominent organization has identified Heifer Project as a charity whose mission is consistent with its own ideals of the knowledgeable husbandry of livestock for the improvement of public health. If you are interested in making a donation to Heifer Project that will be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis then please talk to Tracy Heilman or me, Paul Eubig, at church in the next two weeks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Meals On Wheels

We still need drivers and substitute driver for the weeks of

April 18th – 22nd, 2005

August 15th – 19th, 2005

The time is 10:30 to 12:30 and usually takes less than 2 hours

If you could possibly volunteer to drive, please call Pat Syoen, 367-0055

Thank you!

Easter Rotations

During the month of March, we will be exploring the story of Easter. Each week, a new storyteller will arrive to share the story from their own perspective. The children will also have an opportunity to tell the story.

In our workshops, we will respond to the stories in a variety of ways. We will have an opportunity to create our own Tomb scenes. In the computer lab, we'll take a tour of the actual sites that we hear about in the stories. We'll even work together to create a wonderful surprise that we'll give to Rev. Mike on Easter Sunday.

Don't miss the fun. Join us in Sunday School!

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Each Sunday morning, the littlest members of our church are welcomed into the nursery for their time of fun and fellowship. Catherine Ioseliani, our nursery care provider, supervises as the young ones create pictures and airplanes, build castles and knock them down, learn to crawl and walk and jump and run.

We are pleased to report that each Sunday we have more and more children coming to the Nursery. This means that we need your help!

We invite you to sign up to be a volunteer in the Nursery. The sign-up sheet is on the Nursery Room door. Be a volunteer, and spend a Sunday morning getting to know the littlest members



of Community United!

Youth Group!

Whether we're playing games, watching a movie, walking a labyrinth, or just hanging out, we always end up having great conversations and lots of fun. If you are in the 6th -12th grade, plan to join us on Sunday evenings in the Tower Room. We meet from 6-8 pm.

March 6

Planning and organizing for the Mexican Fiesta and Auction on April 9

March 13

Continued planning and organizing for the Mexican Fiesta and Auction on April 9

March 20

Dinner at Tracy's.

March 27

No Youth Group

Pancake Breakfast

Mouthwatering pancakes and sizzling sausage await you this Sunday following worship! Follow your nose to the Fellowship Hall and help support the Youth Service Trip to San Antonio, Texas! Tickets are still available!

Thank you from Heifer Project

Jo Luck, President and CEO of Heifer Project International, writes:

"Right now, your generosity and that of the Sunday School is helping to provide families with gifts of livestock and training. Your compassion is helping to restore health and dignity to those working towards self-reliance. The value of your gift is simply beyond measure. Thank you for making a difference."

Everyone is invited to the March family event . . .

It's time to go

BOWLING

Sunday afternoon, March 13th

4:00 to 6:00

Illini Union Rec Room

(Basement of the Illini Union)



Discounted Group Rate:

\$3.15 per game

\$1.00 shoe rental

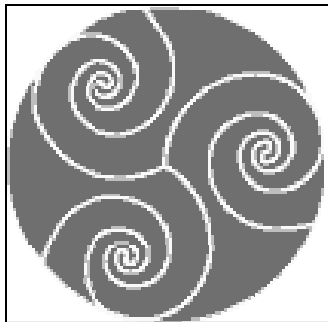
Please sign up on the sheet
outside the sanctuary.

All ages welcome.

For more information:

Ellen Kordik 337-7450

Rev. Tracy Heilman 344-5091



WHIRLWIND PROJECT 2005: Chaos~Creation~Creativity

Sounds, words, and visual art through the ages have featured Chaos, Creation, and Creativity. Whirlwind Project has moved from interfaith explorations of Exodus, the character of suffering Job, and Meditation to this year's 3 C's.

Whirlwind Project 2005: Chaos~Creation~Creativity begins with an Interfaith Creation Storytelling Event and International Potluck Supper at Wesley Foundation on Saturday, March 5 beginning at 5 PM. Don't miss this opportunity for the whole family to be entertained by different views of our beginnings, and to enjoy a feast and visit with members of our community from different faiths and cultures. Please bring a dish to share from your own tradition. Great Hall, Wesley Foundation, 1203 W. Green, Urbana

On Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm, Professor Wayne Pitard will give the keynote lecture in the Whirlwind Project 2005 series: "From Chaos to Order: Creation Stories from the Beginning of Civilization." Coffee and cookies will be served. Julia Burnham Auditorium, Champaign Public Library, 505 S. Randolph, Champaign

Creation Storytelling & International Supper

Saturday, March 5

5:00 PM Creation Stories from Hebrew, Muslim, Native American, African and Hindu Traditions
Featuring Kate Kuper, Dawn Blackman, Children from Central Illinois Mosque & Islamic Center, Rakhi Sen, and more

6:00 – 8:00 PM International Potluck Supper

Feel free to bring a dish from your own tradition to share.
Wesley Foundation, Great Hall, 1203 W. Green, Urbana

Keynote Lecture

"From Chaos to Order: Creation Stories from the Beginning of Civilization"

Wayne Pitard, Professor of Religious Studies, University of Illinois

Monday, March 7, 7:00 PM

Julia Burnham Auditorium, Champaign Public Library, 505 S. Randolph, Champaign

Whirlwind Project is a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster community initiatives bringing people together to explore sacred stories, traditions and perspectives through music, dialogue and the arts. Sharing their diversity and celebrating their unity, leaders from the arts community, CU Jewish Federation, Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center, Prairie Zen Center, and several Christian congregations have come together to plan this series of community events.

For more information about Whirlwind Project 2005 events, visit our website at www.whirlwindproject.org, or call Jenny Southlynn at (217) 328-1641

Community United Church
of Christ
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805 S. Sixth St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School ~ 9 am
Worship ~ 10:15 am
Coffee Fellowship ~ 11:30 am
Jr & Sr High Youth Group ~ 6 pm

Next Communigram
will be mailed out
on March 16.

We're on the Web!
www.community-ucc.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Urbana, IL
Permit No. 18

Community United Church of Christ



805 South Sixth, Champaign, IL 61820

Ph: (217) 344-5091 FAX: (217) 344-5008

Website: www.community-ucc.org

Email: info@community-ucc.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9 am-3 pm

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Michael Mulberry.....mike@community-ucc.org

Religious Education Director: Rev. Tracy Heilman.....tracy@community-ucc.org

Choir Director: Robert Smith.....bobsmith@community-ucc.org

Organist: Linda Vaughn.....lindavaughn@community-ucc.org

Facilities Manager: Robert Scaggs.....bobscaggs@community-ucc.org

Parish Nurse: Linda Morgan

Office Manager: Cindy Dodd.....info@community-ucc.org

Nursery Care Providers: Elizabeth Austermuehle, Catherine Ioseliani

UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

Campus Minister: Rev. Karen Bush.....Karen@community-ucc.org