

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...

I want us to begin to dream. I want us to think long term. I want us to begin seeing ourselves as vital to the health and well-being of the University of Illinois and Champaign, Urbana, Fisher, Savoy, Flatville, Rantoul, Mahomet, and Ludlow. If we believe anything about death and resurrection, we should believe that Jesus and the community that surrounded him believed death could not hold their ministry and teaching. That ministry and teaching would not stay dead because God was involved in that teaching. God was living and breathing into that ministry. In every age God re-creates that ministry and teaching by breathing into every fiber of its body.

When we go into sur-

vival mode trying to hang on for the next week or year, we allow death to retain its hold on us. When we go into survival mode repeating the same behaviors expecting a different result, we doom our ministries to addictive extinction. (I think AA has been most effective in relating this to people who are trying to recover.)

One of the former search committee members recently told me that some of the candidates for pastor of this church did not want the pastor position because they saw us as a dying church. Because I took this position, you know I do not believe this to be the case. I do believe, however, we are caught in death habits, patterns, and practices. I see many pro-

gressive churches caught in this same pattern. We do not dream much. We do not think long term much. We do not think of the next task before us to get us to our dream.

To dream, we will need everybody coming together to decide what core values propel us forward. To think long term, we will have to abandon some of the core values we have long held which now hold us back. To see ourselves as vital, we need to begin forming long term, intimate relationships that can transform us. Easter is coming. Get ready.

Shalom,

Mike



Contact for Calendar at CUCC



CUCC has changed the way meetings or events are scheduled. Anybody who has any calendar inquiries please call Vicky Robertson at 398-8932, or email her at victoriarobertson@insightbb.com or email her at the CUCC Website www.community-ucc.org.

A Prayer Service of Grief

“Lest We Become So Hardened”

Gathering Together in Faith to Recognize and Mourn the Second Anniversary of the Iraq War



I regard the death and mangling of a couple thousand men as a small affair, a kind of morning dash - and it may be well that we become so hardened.

General William Tecumseh Sherman, 1864

Thursday, March 17th 2005, 7:00 p.m.
COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 At Sixth & Daniel

Tolling of the Bells at 8:00 p.m.

Sponsors

First Mennonite Church

U-C Friends Meeting

Community United Church

East Bend Mennonite Church

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Unitarian Universalist Church

Contact Tom Anderson (thand@uiuc.edu) or Mike Mulberry (mike@community-ucc.org) for more information.

CALLING ALL SOFTBALL PLAYERS (OR WANNA BE PLAYERS)

Community UCC is once again hoping to have a Co-Rec softball team that will participate in the recreational church league. Last year was our debut year and we finished 3rd in the standings. This year, the teams will be playing at Dodds Park where we will have a paid umpire, concession stands, and bathrooms. Everyone is invited to participate even if you have never

played softball before or if your skills are really rusty (we are in the recreational league after all). The league is held on Friday nights and games will start the week of May 16 and end the week of August 15. After game partying often involves trips to Jarlings Custard Cup. You do not have to commit to being at every game—just come when you can. We will need to regis-

ter by no later than April 1st. The cost for each individual player will be \$20.00. If you need to purchase a CUCC uniform T-shirt, the cost will be \$25.00. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the church office no later than March 28th at 344-5091 or by email info@community-ucc.org.

Calendar

3/17 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

7:00 pm A Prayer Service of Grief "Lest We Be-
come So Hardened" (S)

8:00 pm AA (FH)

8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

3/19 ~ Saturday

10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)

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

3/20~ Sunday ~ Palm Sunday

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

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)

10:15 am Worship Service and Schubert's **Mass in G** presented by Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists (S)

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)

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

7:00 pm Administrative Committee (CR)

3/21 ~ Monday

10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

3/23 ~ Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest

6:00 pm Chime Rehearsal (S)

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

3/24 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Potluck (FH)

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service (FH)

8:00 pm AA (FH)

8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

3/25 ~ Friday

7:00 pm Good Friday Service (P)

3/26~ Saturday

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

3/27~ Sunday ~ Easter Sunday

9:00 am Easter Breakfast

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)

10:15 am Worship Service (S)

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)

3/28~ Monday

10:00 am *Communigram* Deadline

10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

3/30 ~ Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

3/31~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

8:00 pm AA (FH)

8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

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

The Community United Church of Christ

Chancel Choir and Guest
Instrumentalists will present

Schubert's Mass in G

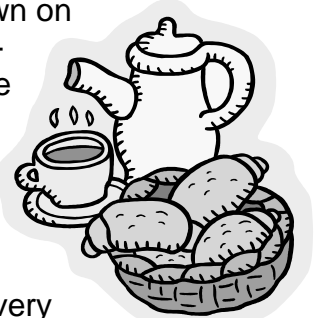


Palm Sunday, March 20
10:15 am in the Church Sanctuary

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 the church office 344-5091.



Introduction to Healthy Congregations

Saturday, April 16, 2005 - 9:00 am—3:00 pm
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 236 West Fifth Street,
Minonk, Illinois 61760

Workshop Leader: Bob Williamson is Associate Director of Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Lombard, IL. Bob leads a variety of workshops yearly on conflict transformation in congregational systems, and serves as a consultant to conflicted churches.

Registration Fee: The registration fee is \$20 for one person and \$5 for each additional individual from the same congregation (two to three are encouraged to attend from each congregation). **Deadline is April 8.**

Extra brochures with more information and registration forms can be found at the back of the sanctuary on the credenza.

Who will benefit? Pastors and other church staff, Church Council, Personnel Committee and all congregation members and leaders will benefit. Also, anyone interested in enhancing their capacity to manage self in a non-anxious and responsible way, whether in the church, the home, the workplace, or the community.

6th Annual CUCC 2005 Community Arts Camp

"Project Peace" by Roger Emerson

Directed by Bob Smith and Angela Schneider

June 13 through June 24

Monday-Friday ~ 9 am-3 pm

Tuition: \$125

Registration Deadline: **Monday, May 23** with Maximum enrollment is 25 students for ages 3rd through 8th grade students

For more information, call Bob Smith (352-2638)
(Limited, partial scholarships available)

Send \$125 Tuition payment to: Community Arts Camp—UCC, 805 S. Sixth Street,
Champaign, IL 61820

Name: _____

Grade Level 2005-06 year _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ and/or email _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

Baptism



Congratulations to Claire Isabella who was baptized on Sunday, March 13, 2005. Parents are Tei and Donald Barnhart.

Memorial Plaque

The Louise Leonard Memorial Plaque has been relocated to the west wall of the entrance to the sanctuary. Louise was an active member of our church and was dedicated to the

church's outreach efforts. She participated in the creation of the ecumenical chapel at the Women's Prison at Dwight, Illinois. We honor her memory.

Church Women United

Church Women United is having their State Assembly in Champaign on **Tuesday, April 12** at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 808 East Bradley, Champaign. The National President of CWU, Gail Mengel, will be the featured speaker.

Registration is at 8:30, program runs 9:30 AM to 3 PM. Cost is \$25 including lunch. This is a rare opportunity to hear a national officer and find out more about CWU.

For both these events see posters on bulletin board in parlor. There may be some extra registration forms for the April 12 meeting. I am going to be gone Feb. 24- April 1. I will not be at the March meeting, but will go to April one and would be glad to give rides to anyone wanting to go.

Jan Wilson

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.



Sunrise Cluster Women

SUNRISE CLUSTER WOMEN will meet **Monday April 4** at United Church of Atwood. The program will be given by the brand new minister at the Atwood church, Pastor Veronica Walsh-Don. She has worked at the UCC sponsored group home, Emmaus, in Marthasville, MO, first as a caregiver and later as pastor. She should have an interesting point of view on the home. Becky Hanson will have programs to hand out. I will be driving and can give rides, but we will just barely be home so I cannot answer questions.

Jan Wilson

From the Moderator

WORK DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 23
9 AM-NOON

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 24
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!

Lost Christianities Returns Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the Conference Room

With Ron Szoke

Often times, we erroneously think that our Christian Faith has a single historical voice. In fact, Christianity has had many voices in the past, as it does in our present. Join the class each Sunday morning in April as Ron introduces us to some of this diversity. Class time will include viewing videos, explanations as well as discussion of the topic.

Children & Family Ministries

Previously known as the Religious Education Committee, the Children & Family Ministries Task Force is primarily responsible for the

Children's Sunday School Program, Nursery Care, Monthly Family Outings.

In addition to these ongoing programs, we are interested in once again providing a week-long summer Vacation Bible School for all ages. We

are planning an All Church Retreat this Fall, to be held at one of the two Conference Camping facilities.

The Children & Family Ministries group meets once a month to plan upcoming programs, and to review ongoing ones. At this time, our members include Ellen Kordick, Sandy Melvin, Jennifer Kelleher, Elizabeth Easley, Patricia Donahue and Becky Hanson. If you are interested in putting your talents and energies into this area of our Church life, please talk with one of us!

The Easter Rotation Continues!

Our children and young people are continuing to learn the stories of Holy Week, from Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem to his execution on the cross. From fear and sadness at his death to courage and new life at the empty tomb.

In the weeks ahead, we will continue to explore these stories as we create our own Holy Week story books, as we enter the city of Jerusalem via the computer, and by creating our own video of the story.



We will wrap up our Easter Rotation with two fun events. On April 17th, we will once again go on a treasure hunt. Then, on the 24th we would like to challenge the church family to a battle of the wits! Let's see how well we all know the story!

Community United Youth Group

If you haven't been to Youth Group in a while, we miss you! We've had fun planning for the Mexican Fiesta, listening to music, discussing weird things that happen in movies (I'll never watch the Wizard of Oz in the same way!) and discovering how very angry daisies can be. Come by the Tower Room on Sunday Evenings from 6-8 pm for good food, good conversation and great company! All youth in 6th - 12th grade are welcome.

March 20: Ticket sales, auction items, food and set up will be topics of discussion.

March 27: No Youth Group. Enjoy Easter with your family.

April 3: Final plans for the Fiesta! How about a taste test of the menu?!

Mexican Fiesta and Silent Auction

Saturday, April 9, 5-7 pm



Join us for a delicious meal of beef tacos, chicken or cheese enchiladas, tamales, salsa and chips, refried beans and Spanish rice. Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 3 is free).

Our silent auction will include a variety of goods and services (stargazing at UI Observatory, Taiji lessons, Geek Squad, fingernail painting party, day trips, custom jewelry, gift baskets, family caricature, event photographed to name a few!). If you would like to contribute, please complete the form below and return it to Tracy.

All proceeds from the dinner and auction will help fund the Youth Service trip

Silent Auction Item

Item being donated:

Service being donated:

Date of service: _____



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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 30.

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

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

CUCC HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 20 - Palm Sunday

- 10:15 A.M.
- ⇒ Trial of Christ with Palm Processional (this service will begin across the street in the parking lot to the East of the church and proceed into the sanctuary)
 - ⇒ Choir Cantata (Schubert's Mass in G)

March 24 - Maundy Thursday Potluck & Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall

- ⇒ 6:00 P.M. - Potluck - bring dish to share & your complete table service (plate, silverware and cup)
- ⇒ 7:00 P.M. - Worship Service

March 25 - Good Friday Worship

- ⇒ 7:00 P.M. - Worship in the Parlor

March 27 - Easter

- ⇒ 9:00 A.M. - Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (bring fruit, bread or egg dish and your complete table service)
- ⇒ 10:15 A.M. - Worship Service in Sanctuary

