

Communi-gram

Community United Church of Christ
A Just Peace, Open and Affirming Congregation

From the Desk of Rev. Michael Mulberry...

Since my last article about small groups in the Communi-gram, someone reminded me that Women's Fellowship provides the intimacy and belonging of a small group setting. I am excited that some people are recognizing the powerful impact small groups already have on their lives. I am hoping that we might begin this important ministry at the beginning of the school year in 2006 (Fall 2006).

At our last Administrative Committee meeting, Deborah Townsend asked how small groups would be kept safe for people. That is one of the most important questions for small group ministry. People who discuss and write about small groups have stated that behavioral covenants are imperative for the life and health of small groups. People who began a small group thinking they only needed general guides for discussion eventually ran out of steam. When conflict hits, a group without a behavioral covenant may run from the group like the plague. We write such covenants knowing that

good, diverse people inevitably end up in conflict. Covenants contemplate walking through that conflict together.

I always tell couples during holy union counseling: "You will not only need to care for each other, but you will also need to care for your relationship as well." I ask couples to write out how they do conflict resolution together so that both can construct a process which makes them feel safe to speak and free to listen. These covenants will require each group to work hard, but, hopefully, will provide the ongoing safety and care required for relationships to flourish.

One of the other important concepts for small group ministry will be "birthing." We want to keep these small groups small. If a group builds to a certain number and refuses to split, that may be good for the group but will drain the church of energy. Pretty soon we have one group in which everybody wants to participate for whatever reason and other small groups are

drained of people and resources that might come their way. If we continue to "birth" new small groups, we broaden our diversity and allow other groups to become strong over a period of time.

Behavioral covenants and birthing will be important to the life of a future small group ministry.

I hope many of you have picked up a copy of *Calling the Circle: The First and Future Culture at Pages for All Ages* and have found the time to wade into the first few chapters. If we are to be faithful in this ministry, we will need the whole church to go forward.

Shalom,

Mike



From the Moderator

I was very glad to see a number of visitors attend our May Administrative Committee meeting on May 22nd. The Administrative Committee meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month and we would love to have more people in attendance.

Some of the highlights of our May meeting are:

- Jodie Steggerda presented her thoughts on how we might 'think big' about our future and our facilities.
- Pastor Mike presented some updates on the rollout of small group ministries, the fall adult education plans, and part of the God is Still Speaking video.
- We approved purchase of new membership financial software.

We also discussed the 2005 budget and the amazing and gratifying response to our need for more funds that came during the Spring Congregational Meeting. We passed a basket around the room asking if anyone wanted to increase

their pledge in order to close our current budget gap. We received over seven thousand dollars in new pledges to go along with the six thousand in increased pledges that had already been received! This went much of the way toward giving us a balanced budget but did not completely eliminate our deficit. Everyone who was not at the meeting will have an opportunity to increase their 2005 pledge over the next four weeks at Sunday worship. Forms will be provided at Sunday worship and can be dropped in the collection plate. Another way to increase your pledge is to call or email Tom Watterbach, our financial secretary. We have come a long way with our budget and now have a great chance to put ourselves on solid ground for 2005. Thank you all for your generosity and commitment!



Scott Bush, Moderator

Energetic Volunteers Needed – No Experience Required

A little bit of history.... The Mexican migratory worker in America is regarded as a necessary part of our bustling harvest season. This need to import labor was heightened first by the expansion of cattle ranches in the southwest and by the increase of fruit production in California in 1850 and 1880. Chinese workers were replaced by Japanese workers who were

themselves replaced by arriving Mexican workers. Mexicans also joined in railroad construction for rail transport between Mexico and the US, comprising 60% of the railway crew. By the 1890s, the institution of Mexican workers in the U.S. was well established

in commercial agriculture, the mining industry, light industry and the railroad.

Want to learn more? If you are interested in participating with a BorderLinks delegation, please do not let money be an obstacle. Plans are being made right now for a delegation in spring of 2006. Contact Rev. Mulberry if interested.



6/02 ~ 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)

6/03 ~ Friday

6:00 pm Church Softball League CUCC vs. New Horizon UMC at Dexter Field

6/04 ~ Saturday

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

6/05 ~ Sunday

8:45 am Choir Rehearsal (P)

9:30 am Worship Service (S) then Sunday School for K-6th following *Children's Time* (FH)

Free Blood Pressure Checks in Library

10:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)

No Adult Education

6:00 pm Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group

6/06 ~ Monday

10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

6/08 ~ Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest

6/09 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

5:30 pm Worship Task Force

8:00 pm AA (FH)

8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

6/10 ~ Friday

7:00 pm Church Softball League CUCC vs. Vineyard Royal at Dodds 5

6/11 ~ Saturday

Youth leave today for San Antonio, TX for the 2005 Youth Service Trip

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

6/12 ~ Sunday

8:45 am Choir Rehearsal (P)

9:30 am Worship Service (S)

10:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)

10:45 am Adult Education (CR)

6/13 ~ Monday

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

6/14 ~ Tuesday

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

6:00 pm God is Still Speaking Committee (CR)

6/15 ~ Wednesday

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

Noon Prayer Protest

6/16 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

8:00 pm AA (FH)

8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

6/17 ~ Friday

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

6:00 pm Church Softball League CUCC vs. Temple Baptist at Dexter Field

6/18 ~ Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*
Youth return today from the 2005 Youth Service Trip

6/19 ~ Sunday ~ Father's Day

8:45 am Choir Rehearsal (P)

9:30 am Worship Service (S)

10:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)

10:45 am Adult Education (CR)

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

6/20 ~ Monday

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

10:00 am Deadline for *Communigram*

6/21 ~ Tuesday

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

6/22 ~ Wednesday

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

Noon Prayer Protest

6/23 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

8:00 pm AA (FH)

8:00 pm Alanon (CR)

6/24 ~ Friday

9:00 am Art's Camp (FH)

8:00 pm Church Softball League (Double Header)
CUCC vs. Faith UMC and CUCC vs. McKinley at Dodds 6

An Invitation for CUCC

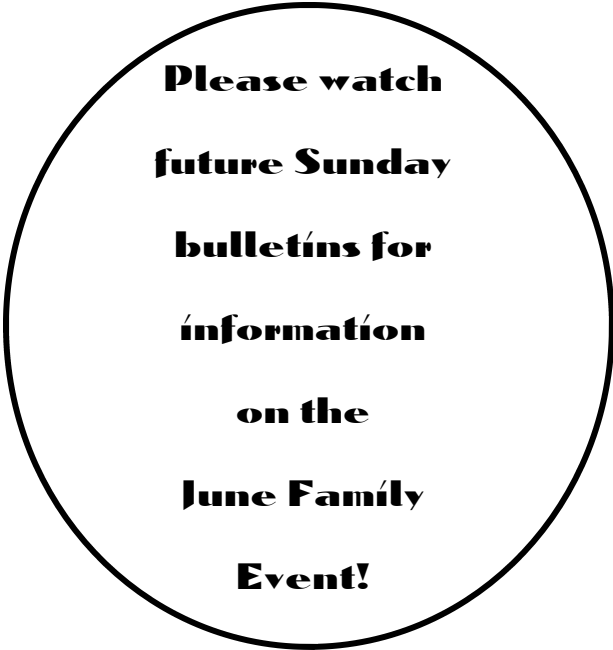


The Duffield Family
would like to extend an invitation
to all of our friends at Community United
Church to attend

Travis and Carls' High School Graduation Party!

Saturday, June 4th • 2:00-6:00 pm • T.I.A. Hall

101 West Main St. Thomasboro



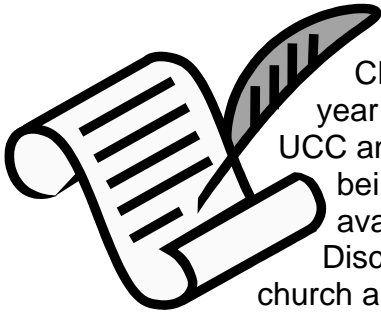
Church Softball League Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Opponent
5/20	9 p.m.	Dodds 5	Urbana Assembly of God
6/03	6 p.m.	Dexter	New Horizons UMC
6/10	7 p.m.	Dodds 5	Vineyard Royal
6/17	6 p.m.	Dexter	Temple Baptist
Double Header			
6/24	8 p.m.	Dodds 5	Faith UMC
	9 p.m.	Dodds 6	McKinley Presbyterian Church
7/08	9 p.m.	Dodds 5	New Horizon UMC #2
7/15	8 p.m.	Dexter	Vineyard Grey
Double Header			
7/22	6 p.m.	Dodds 4	Vineyard Navy
	7 p.m.	Dodds 4	Harvest Church

The Dodds fields are located at the Dodds Softball Complex near Parkland College off of Parkland Way. Dexter Field is located in Centennial Park off of Kenwood Avenue directly south of the Bresan Meeting Center. Come out and support the team if you get a chance!



Cherishing the Past



Cherishing the Past, the 150 year history of Community UCC and its predecessors is now being printed. It should be available on Sunday, June 5. Discover our roots! Meet our church ancestors!

Cherishing the Past will be available for \$10. Get copies for your family members who grew up in the church. It will be on sale during coffee hour in the parlor. See Curt Wilson.

Kevin Crum

After much deliberation, a few members of Community UCC have created an independent fund for Kevin Crum, member of CUCC since 1990 and former choir member. The fund will help Kevin start anew when he is released from prison in a few years. If you knew Kevin and/or are interested in learning more about this fund and how to contribute to it, please contact Elizabeth Easley, Lanie Dickel (she'll be leaving us soon), Jeanne Ward, or Caryl Henkel.

The Prayer Protest Continues

The Prayer Protest continues each Wednesday at noon. Bring your sack lunch and we will sit out by the northeast front entrance 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 "food for thought" to

campus folk. "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.



The Interfaith Alliance C-U Local Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, June 28, 7 PM
Dean Clark Room, McKinley Foundation

At the corner of Sixth and Daniels in Champaign (We will have beverages and snacks)

We invite you to attend the third meeting of our local chapter of The Interfaith Alliance. The "TIA" welcomes diverse religious and spiritual traditions - Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs - 70 faith

and philosophical traditions in all including Secular Humanists, Agnostics, and Atheists.

- ⇒ We stand for democratic values such as tolerance, diversity, respect, compassion, understanding, and peace.
- ⇒ We believe that many different faith traditions and philosophical perspectives should have a voice in our nation's public life.

- ⇒ We stand for a healthy relationship between religion and government, and work against efforts to impose religious litmus tests on public policy.
- ⇒ We seek to have our moderate and progressive voices and values heard on matters of public policy.

PLEASE JOIN US. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



General Synod Resolutions

Discernment and Direction in our Denomination

Adult Education following Worship Services in June

During the first week in July, the United Church of Christ will hold its national business meeting (General Synod) in Atlanta, Georgia. Because our denominational polity (a church's structure and organization) is not hierarchical, we are to engage these resolutions as covenant partners. We are called to work with them, be in relationship with them, bring our input to Illinois Conference representatives who will voting on our behalf, and then discerning how we shall move with these issues after the vote is taken. A vote to ratify the resolution at the General Synod in Atlanta certainly calls us to a higher level of covenant discernment.

We will discuss a number of these resolutions after worship each Sunday in June, beginning June 12 in the library or downstairs in the Conference Room if we attract a large crowd. You may obtain the resolutions at <http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/> or pick up a copy of the resolutions for each week on the credenza in the back of the sanctuary.

The resolutions do reflect our denomination's historical commitment to justice and our denomination's theological diversity, but they do not all reflect who we are as Community United Church of Christ

The schedule I am proposing is below. Because there are so many for each class, I will ask at the beginning what particular resolutions people would like to discuss. We will drop a resolution from discussion if nobody shares they would like to discuss it. Then we will allot time to the remaining resolutions based on three criteria: "invested", "interested", and "curious." Those resolutions with more investment will receive more time for discussion.

June 5

1. In Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All
2. Marriage Equality
3. Marriage is Between One Man and One Woman
4. Called to Wholeness in Christ: Becoming a

Church Accessible to All.

The United Church of Christ Is a Christian Church

June 12

1. A Call for Environmental Education and Action
2. Supporting Congregations and Providing Guidance for Stewardship for God's Creation During the Coming Period of Declining Fossil Fuels
3. Tear Down the Wall
4. Calling the United Church of Christ to Be a "Fair Trade" Denomination Promoting Peace for All in the Sudan

June 19

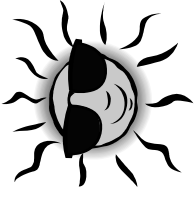
1. Calling for a Study of Divestment of Church funds from Companies that Profit from the Perpetuation of Violence and Injustice in Israel and Palestine
 2. Selective Divestment from Companies Involved with Israel's Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, the Building of the "Security Fence," and the Israeli Settlements within the Palestinian Territory.
 3. For the International Criminal Court
 4. Religious Freedom for Native Hawaiian Prisoners
- Another World Is Possible: A Peace with Justice Movement in the United Church of Christ

June 26

1. In Support of Ministries to our Campuses of Higher Education
 2. In Support of Fair and Just Compensation for Lay Employees of the United Church of Christ
 3. Establishing Representative and Senatorial Synods
 4. For the Common Good
 5. The Cross Triumphant as the Symbol of the United Church of Christ
- Saving Social Security from Privatization



June 2005



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

<p>*Sunday Schedule 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Sunday School for K-6th following Children's Time 10:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:45 am Adult Education 6:00 pm Sr/Jr High Youth</p>	<p>**Thursday Schedule 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Play Group 8 pm AA 8 pm Alanon</p>		<p>1 Noon Prayer Protest 6 pm Chimes</p>	<p>2 **See Schedule Above 7 am Men's Breakfast at Original Pancake House</p>	<p>3 Church Softball League 6 pm CUCC vs. New Horizon UMC at Dexter Field</p>	<p>4 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale</p>
<p>5 *See Schedule Above No Adult Education Blood Pressure Checks after worship in Library</p>	<p>6 10 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>7 Noon Prayer Protest</p>	<p>8 Noon Prayer Protest</p>	<p>9 **See Schedule Above 5:30 Worship Task Force</p>	<p>10 Church Softball League 7 pm CUCC vs. Vineyard Royal at Dodds 5</p>	<p>11 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale Youth Leave today for San Antonio, TX for the 2005 Youth Service Trip</p>
<p>12 *See Schedule Above 10:45 am Adult Ed General Synod Resolution Discussion</p>	<p>13 9 am-3 pm Art's Camp 10 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>14 9 am-3 pm Art's Camp 6 pm God is Still Speaking Committee</p>	<p>15 9 am-3 pm Art's Camp Noon Prayer Protest</p>	<p>16 **See Schedule Above 9 am-3 pm Art's Camp</p>	<p>17 9 am-3 pm Art's Camp Church Softball League 6 pm CUCC vs. Temple Baptist at Dexter Field</p>	<p>18 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale Youth return today from the 2005 Youth Service Trip</p>
<p>2005 Youth Service Trip in San Antonio, Texas</p>						
<p>19 Father's Day *See Schedule Above 7 pm Administrative Committee 10:45 am Adult Ed General Synod Resolution Discussion</p>	<p>20 9 am-3 pm Art's Camp 10 am Communion Deadline</p>	<p>21 9 am-3 pm Art's Camp 10 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>22 9 am-3 pm Art's Camp Noon Prayer Protest</p>	<p>23 **See Schedule Above 9 am-3 pm Art's Camp</p>	<p>24 Church Softball League 8 pm CUCC vs. Faith UMC & 9 pm CUCC vs. McKinley at Dodds 6</p>	<p>25 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale Art's Camp Performance</p>
<p>26 *See Schedule Above Worship with Message led by Art's Camp 10:45 am Adult Ed General Synod Resolution Discussion</p>	<p>27 10 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>28 10 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>29 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Adult Ed Ministries Planning</p>	<p>30 **See Schedule Above</p>		

Youth Group

San Antonio, here we come!

Please remember the members of our Service Trip team, as we travel to, serve with and learn from the people of San Antonio. Participants are: Jessica Bush, David Burns, Katelyn Hoffman, Sam Mate, Jeff Offenbecher, Nathan Smith and Emily Ward. Adults are Tom Ward and Tracy Heilman. These members will be Commissioned during the June 5th worship service.

Keep your eye on the Youth Page of the website. We will be updating the page while we are in San Antonio, June 12-17, so that you can share the experience with us. Look for journal entries, reflections and maybe pictures.

Thank you, again, to all in the congregation who have supported us in our efforts to make this trip possible.

Congratulations Graduates!

All High School graduates are invited to Jarlings, Sunday, June 5th, from 6 pm till 8 pm. It's our treat! We want to congratulate you on your graduation, hear about your future plans, and generally make a big deal over you. The whole youth group will meet you there.



Sunday School

The Nature of Faith



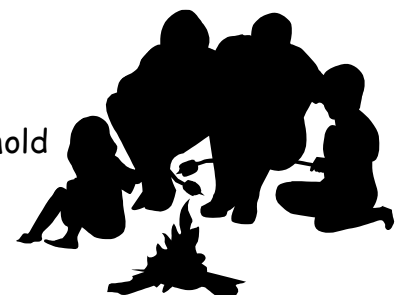
During the summer months, we will have a combined Sunday School class for children who have completed Kindergarten through 6th grade. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall following the Children's Time to explore together "the Nature of Faith."

We will see that Faith considers, wonders, questions, remembers, digs in, and much more! We hope that you will join us. Adults, if you would like to lead a single session, please contact Tracy for a lesson plan.

All Church Retreat

Retreat Begins September 16, 2005

Thanks to the great response, we are moving forward with plans to hold an All Church Retreat at Pilgrim Park from Friday, September 16 - Sunday, September 18. Save the date, and watch for more details.



CUCC Sharing the Good News

Priscilla and James Hammond would like to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Alayna Clare Ritchie. Alayna was born **Friday, April 29, 2005** to first time parents, Abbie and David Ritchie. She weighed 6 lbs 6 oz and measured 19 inches long.

Thursday, May 5, 2005 was the date that Hanna Marie Laible-Seif was born. She weighed 7 lbs 7 oz and was 19 inches long. Hanna's parents are Robert Laible and Denise Seif and is the granddaughter of Martha Seif.

New Arrivals



Eleanor Claire Gyuk was born **Monday, May 23, 2005**. She is the new daughter of Kathy and Geza Gyuk of Glenview, IL. Eleanor has a sister Sophia Katherine, 18 months.

Everyone is well and flourishing. I am now blessed with two granddaughters. Their very proud grandpa, Ron Szoke.

Adina Pearl Gerstenecker was born **Wednesday, May 19, 2005** at 11:14 p.m. weighing 10 lbs 5 oz and measuring 21.25" long. Adina is the daughter of Sophie and David Gerstenecker. She has a big sister, Phoebe.

To the Pastor and congregation of Community U.C.C.,

It's remarkable what our gifts will do. The Wider Church Ministry Team of the Conference Council of the Illinois Conference wishes to thank you for your generous donation towards projects of One Great Hour of Sharing 2004. We are grateful for your support and ministry to many. May your giving bring you great joy.

Bob Schmidt

Member of the Wider Church Ministry Team



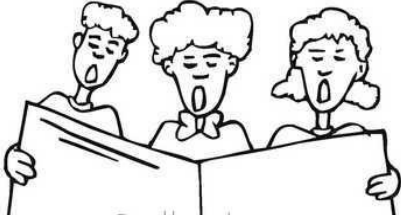
A Few Notes

From Bob Smith

Community Arts Camp

The Sixth Annual Community Arts Camp will present "Project Peace" by Roger Emerson on Saturday evening, June 25, 2005 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. The Show will feature 21 campers and will also include several talent show selections. There is no admission charge but an offering will be taken with proceeds going to camp scholarships and a charity to be

selected by the campers. "Project Peace" is directed by Bob Smith and Angela Schneider and will also be part of the 9:30 am Sunday Service on June 26.



Singers Invited

During June and July, we invite singers in our congregation to come join the choir for our anthem. We will rehearse at 8:45 am for the 9:30 am service. We know we have people in our congregation who



sing and read music well, but perhaps cannot make the commitment throughout the entire year because of Wednesday evening rehearsals, etc. This is your opportunity to be a part of the choir and enjoy sharing your talent with others. The choir has prepared these anthems in advance so you should have

someone next to you who knows your part. We would welcome you to come give this a try. It will be helpful if you can sing on pitch and have some music reading ability. Any questions, please call Bob Smith, choir Director at 352-2638.

Special Music Needed in August

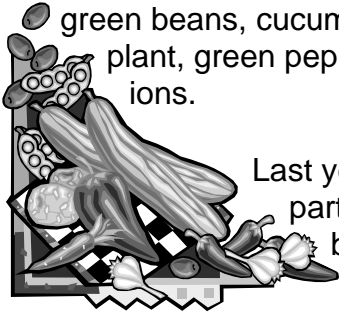
During August, the choir is on break so we offer "Adopt an August Sunday for Music". "The Sweet Adelines" Barbershop group will sing one Sunday, but we are looking for soloists or small groups to present special music for other Sundays. Please contact Bob Smith at 352-2638 if you would like to "Adopt a Sunday"!



Prairieland Community Supported Agriculture

PCSA is an organization in which customers buy shares in order to receive produce direct from the farm throughout the growing season. Jim and Diann Moore of Watseka practice organic farming which means that no pesticides are used on their crops. This year the shares are selling for \$400 and provide Jim and Diann with a stable income. The growing season is from mid April through mid November. Produce from the Moore farm is delivered to an Urbana location every

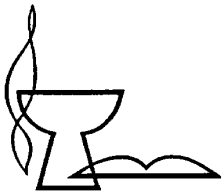
Wednesday. A sample pick-up may include green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, egg-plant, green peppers, potatoes and onions.



Last year Community UCC participated in the program by buying three shares, we are continuing the

program this year. Each Wednesday we will be picking up our three shares and delivering them to **A Women's Place, Women in Transition and El Centro.** Church members have the opportunity to take part in this project by picking up the produce and making the deliveries. It takes about an hour of your time. This spiritual practice of hospitality is a great way of practicing our Faith.

Shares are picked up every Wednesday between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet for Drivers on the Bulletin Board outside the Office Door. We have detailed directions in the Office. If you would like a rider to go along with you on your first delivery or have other questions, please call me at 367-0055 or e-mail: psyoen35@sbcglobal.net . Thank you for your cooperation. Pat Syoen



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

Organist: Linda Vaughn

lindavaughn@community-ucc.org

Facilities Manager: Robert Scaggs

bobscaggs@community-ucc.org

Office Manager: Cindy Dodd

info@community-ucc.org

Community Life Calendar Keeper: Vicky Robertson

victoriarobertson@insightbb.com

Nursery Care Providers: Laurie Lyter

Parish Nurse: Linda Morgan

UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

Campus Minister: Rev. Karen Bush

Karen@community-ucc.org

Community United Church
of Christ
A Just Peace,
Open and Affirming Congregation



805 S. Sixth St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Weekly Office Hours

Mon.-Thu. ~ 9 am-3 pm

Summer Sunday Schedule

Choir Rehearsal ~ 8:45 am

Worship ~ 9:30 am

Sunday School K-6th following

Children's Time during Worship

Coffee Fellowship ~ 10:30 am

Adult Ed begins **June 12** ~ 10:45 am

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group ~ 6 pm

Next Communigram
will be mailed out
on June 22.

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

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Summer Schedule Changes Begin June 5

- ◆ **8:45 am** Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
- ◆ **9:30 am** Worship in Sanctuary then K-6 Sunday School following *Children's Time* down in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ **10:30 am** Coffee Fellowship in Parlor
- ◆ **10:45 am** Adult Ed begins **June 12**

