

Communigram

Community United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBT Open and Affirming Congregation

From the Desk of Rev. Michael Mulberry...

We greet the beginning of a new year at the church with a fair mix of excitement and trepidation. I am aware that while plans for worship, adult education, and identity might be exciting for some, these same plans are creating anxiety and pain for others. In any mainline denomination church doing the necessary work God has placed before them, this juxtaposition is where the faithful church finds itself.

One of my earliest memories of working at Community United Church of Christ is leading a book study with Gil Rendle's book, *Leading a Congregation through Change*. I was advised by those participating in the study that "change" might be considered a culturally pejorative word. Maybe I could use some other word to suggest the work that might be ahead. I remember

selfishly thinking, "How am I going to survive here?"

Rev. Jane Fidler-Hoffman, our Illinois Conference Minister, just sent out a missive to the members of Conference Council quoting passages from that same book to help us all envision the work that is ahead for the Illinois Conference. Over a year ago Illinois Conference leadership asked people attending the annual meeting to make decisions about massive budget cuts needed to go forward. People attending the meeting refused all of the options presented.

Our own Rev. Tracy Heilman participated in the Illinois Conference Visioning Task Force over the last year to help provide leadership for much needed structural and process changes to the Illinois Conference. Just before that Visioning Task Force was to present at the annual meeting, they

were told that the Conference was headed in another direction.

If a faithful path was walked in the past, why would we assume that so much "change" is required for the future? How do we carve a faithful path when one word embodies so much fear and so much pain? Does not faith dictate that we need to listen intently to our past to chart out our present and future? How do we keep leaders and encourage leadership when their hard work is rewarded with unfair critique? Why not go slower? Why not go faster?

I believe we are doing the necessary work God has placed before us.

Shalom,

Mike



Community Life Day

Join us for food, fellowship, and celebration of the life and ministry of our church after worship on Sunday, September 11. We have so many ministries where we need so many people within an entirely different interim structure. Come to be Community United Church of Christ on September 11!

Notes from your Administrative Committee

We met again this past Sunday evening (August 21) and accomplished quite a lot, including:

1. Vicky Robertson, who is a landscape architect, has worked with other members to develop a plan for improving the external appearance of our church building. There will be many new plants to plant and much mulch to spread, so we are having **LANDSCAPING DAYS, SEPTEMBER 3 and 10.** Plan to come and help. We'll need all the help we can get.

2. **OUR NEXT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 9 AFTER CHURCH.** Among the issues to be discussed are:

- ⇒ Frequency of communion
- ⇒ When to have announcements on Sunday mornings
- ⇒ Shall we get a new Advent wreath?

There will be others. If you want to bring something to the congregation, please contact our moderator, Scott Bush.

sbush@urbana.css.mot.com

3. We approved the design of a new sign that will soon be installed to replace the old brick one. Watch for it! It's going to be very attractive and will represent us well.
4. We discussed plans for **RALLY DAY ON SEPTEMBER 11** and are all set to go!
5. We made good progress on two new tri-fold pamphlets: one describes who we are and the other explains various ways to give to our church. They should be out soon.

Our next meeting will be September 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. We'd be glad to have you attend.

Deb Townsend, ICO & Ombudsperson

The Sign of Jonah at Pilgrim Park in Princeton

Intergenerational Retreat-Friday, September 16 - Sunday, September 18

Early Christians did not use the cross as a symbol of their faith but the whale. Perhaps they were recalling Jesus using the story of Jonah as the only sign he would give his generation. Other than the prophet being swallowed by a big fish (whale), what is that story? What is that sign? Told as a parable to the Jewish people, this important story still reverberates as a parable (a story that undercuts the prevailing mythology) in our day and age.

Come to celebrate the story, have fellowship with other Community UCC members, do some liturgical shouting, and eat some s'mores! Return home with the story as part of your skin, in every bone and muscle, ready to share it with the world.

The retreat ends with worship at Pilgrim Park on Sunday morning.

All Church Retreat
Fri, Sept. 16—Sun, Sept. 18
Pilgrim Park & Conference Ctr

Adults: \$67.50
Teens: \$40.50
Kids: \$40.50
Under 4 is free

Price includes 3 meals, 2 overnights, and a weekend of fun and fellowship. If you are interested, please RSVP to tracy@community-ucc.org



Next Two Weeks

PAGE 3

8/25 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
9:30 am Preschool Play Group
8:00 pm AA (FH); Alanon (CR)

8/27 ~ Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Espresso Royale*
9:00 am UCF Annual Meeting at St. Peter's UCC

8/28 ~ Sunday ~ Twenty-second Sunday Ordinary Time

9:30 am Worship (S)
9:30 am Staffed nursery for K and younger (N)
10:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
10:30 am Presentation of CODAC (CR)
6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth End of the Year Party

8/30 ~ Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

8/31 ~ Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest

9/01 ~ Thursday

7:00 am Men's Breakfast at the Urbana Garden
9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
9:30 am Preschool Play Group
8:00 pm AA (FH); Alanon (CR)

9/03 ~ Saturday

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

Note: Begin Fall Schedule

9/04 ~ Sunday ~ Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
10:15 am Worship (S)
11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
Free Blood Pressure Checks (L)

9/05 ~ Monday ~ Labor Day

Office Closed

9/05 ~ Tuesday

10:00 am *Communigram* Deadline
10:00 am Staff Meeting (L)

9/07 ~ Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

9/08 ~ Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
9:30 am Clean Up & Decorating of Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Preschool Play Group
1:00 pm Women's Fellowship @ Martha Seif's
8:00 pm AA (FH); Alanon (CR)

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

Contact for Calendar at CUCC

For scheduling events at CUCC or for 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. Thank you.

Sunday, August 28

Presentation of CODAC

The New Adult Education Model

10:30 am after worship in the

Conference Room

Calling all actors, set designers, costumers, and groupies! More People Needed!

An unlimited number of people are needed for an upcoming play. "The Sign of Jonah" will be told as a fractured fairy tale. This play will be given as the sermon at the end

of September or the beginning of October.

Six actors are also needed for a very serious reader's theater based on Gustavo Guitierrez's book, *On Job: The Suffering of the Innocent*. This reader's

theater will be given as the sermon at the end of October or in early November.

Please contact Rev. Mulberry if you are interested!



September 2005



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>*Sunday Schedule 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Coffee 6 pm Sr & Jr High Youth Group</p>	<p>**Thursday Schedule 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Play Group 8 pm AA 8 pm Alanon</p>			<p>1 **See Schedule Above 7 am Men's Breakfast at the Urbana Garden</p>	<p>2 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale Landscaping Days</p>	<p>3 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale Landscaping Days</p>
<p>4 *See Schedule Above Blood Pressure Checks after worship in the Library Landscaping Days</p>	<p>5 Labor Day Office Closed</p>	<p>6 10 am Communion Dead-line 10 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>7 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8 **See Schedule Above 9:30 am Clean-Up & Decorating Fellowship Hall 1 pm Women's Fellowship @ Martha Seif's home</p>	<p>9 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale</p>	<p>10 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale</p>
<p>11 *See Schedule Above 9 am Sunday School Rally Day ~ Continental Breakfast 11:30 am Community Life Day</p>	<p>12 10 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>13 10 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>14 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15 **See Schedule Above</p>	<p>16 17 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale Intergenerational Retreat at Pilgrim Park</p>	<p>17 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale Intergenerational Retreat at Pilgrim Park</p>
<p>18 *See Schedule Above 7 pm Administrative Committee No Youth Group Tonight</p>	<p>19 10 am Communion Dead-line</p>	<p>20 10 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>21 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 **See Schedule Above</p>	<p>Intergenerational Retreat at Pilgrim Park</p>	
<p>25 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC ~ On Job: God Talk-Book and Scripture Study</p>	<p>26 10 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm CODAC at "The Loft" ~ Calling the Circle, Living the Experience</p>	<p>27 10 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm CODAC at "The Loft" ~ Calling the Circle, Living the Experience</p>	<p>28 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29 **See Schedule Above</p>	<p>30 October 1</p>	<p>24 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale</p>
<p>Intergenerational Retreat at Pilgrim Park</p>						
<p>Women's Retreat @ Pilgrim Park</p>						

Sweet Adelines Providing Music for CUCC August 28

The Champaign-Urbana Chorus of Sweet Adelines International will be providing the music for the service on Aug. 28. The Organization is 60 years old this year and dedicated to the education about and singing of 4-part barbershop-style harmony. The local

group meets weekly at the Grace Lutheran Church on Prospect in Champaign every Tuesday at 7 p.m. and is always looking for women who love to sing! They are currently preparing for their annual show which will be Nov. 12 and 13 at St. Thomas More High School. See Caryl Henkel for more information!

News from your Worship Task Force

We have been busy planning for the remaining months of 2005. At our retreat in July, we identified several areas relating to the Worship Service for which we needed to either write or revise policies, and training procedures (i.e. ushers, greeters, liturgists, acolytes, Communion, Sound System, paraments). We are in the process of getting these procedures written and in place.

We are happy to announce that beginning **September 4th, when we return to the 10:15 A.M. worship time**, we will be using Usher Teams again. Thanks to the efforts of Kent Henkel and Sarah Isaacs, the fivehead ushers and their teams have been identified, including one team of college students. Kent and Sarah will meet with each of the teams individually to train them and review procedures. A list of additional ushers will be provided to the teams in case substitutes are needed.

October 2nd, which is World Wide Communion Sunday, will be our next Communion Service.

For the readers and those lighting the Advent Wreath this year, our Task Force has decided to focus on groups of the church to help with this. We have identified 6 groups to participate : Women's Fellowship, Sunday School, Men's Breakfast Group, College Group, Youth Group, and the Play Group.

We plan to bring back the Advent Workshop this year and also try something new for decorating our sanctuary. We will have the Advent Workshop on Saturday, November 26th (beginning at 3:00 p.m.) and then a special Sunday morning service on November 27th, the first Sunday in Advent. At this service, we will incorporate decorating the sanctuary (including the tree, as Mike shares the meaning of the Chrismon ornaments), the parlor and "hanging of the greens", wreaths & banners, along with

liturgy and music. We will need the help of all ages to help with the service and the decorating. This service will be a bit longer than most and then we will have a light lunch afterwards. Please stay tuned for more on these two activities – **but please mark your calendars now**. This will be Thanksgiving weekend, so plan to come back early if you are gone for Thanksgiving, because you won't want to miss these two exciting all church activities to begin our Advent Season.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, members of the Worship Task Force include: Mike Allen, Kent Henkel, Sarah Isaacs, Rev. Mulberry, Elaine Peppers, Emily Rogers, Mary Ellen Schroeder, Emily Ward, Tom Ward & Peg Wade.



Community United Youth Group



All youth in grades 6-12 (entering or completed) are invited to join us each Sunday evening from 6-8 pm. We always have room for you and your friends! Join us for snacks, fun, fellowship, music and prayer

Aug. 28: End of summer Party! We'll have food, Frisbees and fun.

Sept. 4: Labor Day weekend. No youth group tonight, but enjoy the day with your families.

Sept. 11: How has the tragedy of 9/11 affected you? How has it affected our world? Tonight, we'll spend some time thinking and talking about the impact of 9/11.

Sept. 18: No Youth Group as many will be returning from the All-Church Retreat

Sept. 25: Planning night. Bring your calendars of school, family and work commitments. We'll be mapping out fundraisers, lock-ins, service projects and more.

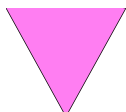


B(e)aring the Image

Eastern Association
Youth Event at
Community United Church
October 21-22

\$30 per person includes...

**Friday night concert with
Lost and Found**



Mark your
calendars & save the date!



Religious Education at Community United

**Rally Day is coming,
and you don't want to miss it!**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am on Sunday, September 11th for a continental breakfast, a chance to meet your Shepherds, Buddies and Teachers, and to get a sneak peak at our coming lessons.

During the Worship Service, our new Kindergarten students, and new 6th grade students will receive their Bibles.

Then, stay for Community Life Day (pizza party included) where you'll have a chance to earn tickets to build your own Ice Cream Sundae. There will be a picture-taking booth, t-shirts to decorate, and new friends to meet!

YOUR help is needed!

We need to "spruce up" the Fellowship Hall for September 11th's Rally Day and Community Life Day. If you can help with some light cleaning, moving, straightening, and decorating, please join us on **Thursday, Sept. 8, from 9:30 till noon**. Please RSVP to tracy@community-ucc.org. Thanks!

Would you like to help create a photo wall? We have many, many pictures of our Sunday School children and program. We need someone who can take these digital photos and artfully display them on the wall in the Fellowship Hall. Would you like to help? Contact Tracy!

We will be recruiting Sunday School teachers for the 2005/2006 session. Teachers are typically responsible for adapting one lesson to three different age groups. This is a three week commitment that comes with a teacher training session as well as the love and appreciation of our children.



Prairieland Community Supported Agriculture

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 and**



Women in Transition. 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 Women's Fellowship Program 2005-2006

EXPLORING OUR MISSION: FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE, EDUCATION, INSPIRATION

- PresidentJean Creswell
- Vice-President.....Becky Hanson
- Treasurer.....Diane Carothers
- Secretary.....JoAnn Fley and Marianna Janssen
- Representative to Church Women United.....Janice Wilson
- Representative to Sunrise Cluster Women.....Sally Paxton and Janice Wilson
- Courtesy and Concern.....Frances Kurtz
- Soup for TIMES Center.....Janice Wilson

All women of the church are members of the Women's Fellowship and are encouraged to join us for fellowship and study. Call the church office (344-5091) or Jean Creswell (359-1877) if transportation is needed.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

- Thursday, 1 pm at the home of Marha Seif
- Hostess: Sally Paxton
- Devotions: Jan Wilson
- Program: Rev. Ann Burger speaking on Champaign County's Health/Medical Care Program

OCTOBER 13, 2005

- Thursday, 1 pm Pages for All Ages, 1201 Savoy Plaza, Savoy
- Hostess: Jean Creswell
- Program: Review of Current Religious Publications

NOVEMBER 12, 2005

- Saturday, 1 pm at the home of Diane Carothers
- Hostesses: Ruth Fisher
- Devotions: Marianne Janssen
- Program: Community UCC's Parish Care Program with Linda Morgan, Tai Barnhart and Elizabeth Easley

Birth

Jenelle and Greg Dorner are proud to announce Leif Reagan Dorner who was born on June 15, 2005 at Bloomington Hospital and weighed 9 lbs. 11 oz. He was 22 in. long.



Congratulations to Jenelle, Greg and Kramer!

Words of Appreciation

Members and friends of Community UCC want to thank Juliane Gorretta, Chad Ballantyne, Laura Kimmel, Chris Eubank, Brad Culpepper, Bob Smith, Alexia Kruger, John Green, Jori Johnson Jennings and Ingrid Kammin, our choir members and their friends, for their memorable musical gift in the performance of "The Marriage of Figaro" on August 19 and 21. We thank you all for your willingness to spend your time and your voices for a good cause, The Prompting Theater, and for our pleasure.

DECEMBER 8, 2005

Thursday, 1 pm at the home of Karen Bush
 Hostesses: Pat Barnhart and Tai Barnhart
 Devotions: Pat Barnhart
 Program: Group sharing of Christmas selections and cookie exchange

JANUARY 10, 2006

Thursday, 1 pm at Clark-Lindsey Village
 Hostesses: Mary Ellen Andrew, Jean Due, Peg Frampton
 Devotions: Jean Due
 Program: Rev. Michael Mulberry on Immigrant and Migrant Worker Issues

FEBRUARY 9, 2006

Thursday, 12:00 Noon at Clark-Lindsey Village
 Hostesses: Frances Kurtz, Jan Wilson
 Devotions: Jean Creswell
 Program: Rev. Jane Fiser Hoffman with an Update on UCC Conference Concerns

MARCH 9, 2006

Thursday, 1 pm at Clark-Lindsey Village
 Hostesses: Helen Crane, Ruth Fisher, Mary Forbes
 Devotions: JoAnn Fleay
 Program: Dorothy Bell leads the group in Bible Study

APRIL 13, 2006

Thursday, 6 pm at the Church in the Parlor
 Salad Supper, honoring the Religious Education Teachers, led by Rev. Tracy Heilman
 Hostesses: Becky Hanson, Marianne Janssen, Elaine Peppers
 Devotions: Rev. Tracy Heilman
 Program: Review of Community UCC's Religious Education Program

MAY 11, 2006

Thursday, 1 pm at the home of Olive Garrigus
 Annual Business Meeting and Program
 Hostess: Elizabeth Easley
 Devotions: JoAnn Fleay

2005/2006 Sunday School Registration for Community United Church of Christ

Family Name: _____

Address: _____ City & Zip _____

Phone Number: _____ email address _____

Name of Parent or Adult Contact: _____

1. Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade Entering: _____

Birth Date: _____

Allergies or Medical Issues

T-Shirt Child S M L

2. Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade Entering: _____

Birth Date: _____

Allergies or Medical Issues

T-Shirt Child S M L

3. Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade Entering: _____

Birth Date: _____

Allergies or Medical Issues

T-Shirt Child S M L

4. Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade Entering: _____

Birth Date: _____

Allergies or Medical Issues

T-Shirt Child S M L

Donations of \$10 per child will help with the cost of T-Shirts.

Please complete and return to church office by Sept. 1st

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

Worship ~ 9:30 am

Staffed Nursery ~ 9:30 am for chil-
dren kindergarten & under

Coffee Fellowship ~ 10:30 am

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group ~ 6 pm

Next Communion
will be mailed out
on September 7.

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

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

Address Service Requested

WE RETURN TO OUR 10:15 A.M. SERVICE
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER —
SEPTEMBER 4TH

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

Community Life Calendar Keeper: Vicky Robertson.....victoriarobertson@insightbb.com

Ombuds Person: Deborah Townsend.....dtown34@sbcglobal.net

Nursery Care Providers: Laurie Lyter

UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

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