

Communigram

Community United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Progressive, Open and Affirming Congregation



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Staff at Community United Church of Christ

Wishes you and your loved ones

Blessings this Christmas

And a Happy New Year!

Mike

Tracy

Bob Smith

Cindy

Bob Scaggs

Karen

Linda

Late Christmas Eve Service Traditional Lesson and Carols

Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m.

Early Christmas Eve Service "The Gifts of Christmas"

Informal Family Service at 5:30 p.m.

White Gifts: One of the ways we will celebrate the gifts of Christmas is through white gifts each person brings to the manger to help support the TIMES Center, a homeless and transitional shelter for men and a soup kitchen for the community. Here are the needs the TIMES Center has at this time: dry milk, spices, sugar (not flour or corn meal), dish soap, scrubbing utensils for dishes, napkins, canned soups, canned vegetables, and canned fruits. Please wrap each of your gifts in white tissue paper to present to the manger to be brought forward at the appropriate time during Christmas Eve worship. We will take over the White Gifts to the TIMES Center on Christmas Day.

The Gift of Room, The Gift of Bread, The Gift of Sight, The Gift of Light: We will also celebrate the gifts of Christmas through different values we bring to the manger: hospitality, food, countercultural vision, and true light. To symbolize those gifts, we need different people who will make or bring items to place in the manger. One person or family will make large keys. One person or family will make bread. One family will bring a globe. If you are interested in making the keys or bread or bringing a globe that you or your family can bring forward during the early Christmas Eve service, please call the church office (344-5091).



2005 CHRISTMAS FUND

Because needs of retired and low-income clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ are year round your contributions to the annual Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering, (formerly known as the Veterans of the Cross), work throughout the year, not just during the Christmas Season.

The proceeds from the Christmas Fund are used to provide gifts to clergy and lay employees in all life stages of their

ministry to and through the UCC. Having these funds available is critical to the ability of the Board for Ministerial Assistance to help ensure a sustainable quality of life for those who receive the gifts.

Dollars given go directly to those who have served the church and who now are in need. Over 1300 families have received assistance through this offering this year. Recipients include 30 retirees who are over 100 years of age and

worked at Low Church salaries, other retired clergy and lay with marginal incomes that need help with health benefits as well as income supplements. Some gifts go to younger clergy whose financial situations have been compromised by tragedy or illness.

Your generous contributions do make a difference! Envelopes will be available at church through **January 8**, or send a check to the church with a note to Christmas Fund.

Calendar

12/22, Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

8:00 pm AA (P)

12/24, Saturday

Two Christmas Eve Services This Year:

5:30 Informal Family Oriented Service

6:15 – 7:15 pm Wassail, Punch and Cookies in the Parlor

7:30 pm Traditional Candlelight Service, with the choir

12/25, Sunday ~ Christmas Day

10:15 am Worship (S)

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)

No Sunday School and No Youth Group—Enjoy your families!

12/26, Monday-Tuesday, 12/27 Office Closed

12/28, Wednesday

9:30 am Staff Meeting

12/29, Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

8:00 pm AA (P)

1/01, Sunday ~ *New Year's Day Service*: We will have a joint service with McKinley Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center. It will be at **10:00 am** at St. Andrew's, 909 S. Wright, Champaign.

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 Community-ucc.org.

Flower Chart 2006

The Altar Flower Chart for 2006 can be found in the Parlor. If you wish to sponsor altar flowers for a specific Sunday in 2006 please sign up on the chart provided. Sponsorship is \$20 per Sunday and a check earmarked "Altar Flowers" can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office.



The Ladies of the Manor Invite You To

The Twelfth Night Feast

Sunday, January 8 at 5:00 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Feast upon Rustic Breads & Butter, Chicken Soup with Vegetables & Rice, Organic Greens with Vinaigrette, Baked Cornish Hens with Herb Butter (Chicken Legs for Children), Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Honeyed Baby Carrots, Gingerbread Cakes with Warm Applesauce (Cookies for Children), Coffee, Iced Tea (Juice for Children)

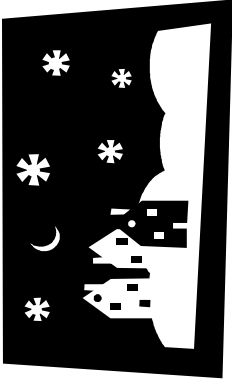
Tickets are \$20/Person

Contact Rev. Tracy Heilman (344-5091) or tracy@community-ucc.org

to reserve your tickets today!

*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

January 2006



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10 am Joint Worship Service at St. Andrew's, 909 S. Wright, Champaign	2 Office Closed	3	4 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 **See Schedule Below 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens	6	7 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale
8 *See Schedule Above Blood Pressure Checks after worship in the Library 5 pm Twelfth Night Feast 9 am CODAC: War Is a	9 10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Communitgram Dead-line 6:30 pm CODAC: The Devil's Highway	10	11 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 6 pm CODAC Meeting 6:30 pm RE Meeting	12 **See Schedule Below 1 pm Women's Fellowship @ Clark-Lindsey Village	13	14 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale 9-Noon New Member Class
15 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: War Is a Force 7 pm Administrative Committee	16 10 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm CODAC: The Devil's Highway	17	18 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 **See Schedule Below	20	21 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale Fireside Dinners <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">ICY Mid Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Park</div>
22 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: War Is a Force <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">ICY Mid Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Park</div>	23 10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Communitgram Dead-line 6:30 pm CODAC: The Devil's Highway	24	25 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	26 **See Schedule Below	27 9:30 am-3 pm Illinois Maya Ministry	28 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale
29 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: War Is a Force 11:30 am All Church Luncheon & Annual Meeting	30 10 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm CODAC: The Devil's Highway	31		<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;">**Thursday Schedule 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Play Group 8 pm AA</div>		<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;">CUCC Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm</div>

CUCC Cares

Joys

- Birth of Kainoa Arthur Oden born December 4 to Amara and Leif Oden. Grandparents are Ken and Ruth Gilbert.
- Birth of Mia Marie Fogel. Great Niece of Patricia Donohue.

Prayers for:

- Mark Melvin as he goes in for can-

cer surgery and for Sandy, Zachery and Melissa.

- Diane during her treatments and recovery.
- Birte, Janni Sorenson's mother, for health problems.
- Janni Sorenson's four month old nephew with possible heart problems.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rebecca Banke on winning the 2005 NISOD award for excellence. This is a national award given by the National Institute for

Staff and Organizational Development to outstanding teachers in the Community College System. Rebecca will be flying to Texas in May to

receive the bronze medallion on a burnt orange ribbon and a monetary award!

From the Personnel Committee

The church has relied heavily on our staff in the past year to keep things running and our staff has willingly accepted the challenges. We would like to recognize the CUCC staff with a little something extra to show our appreciation. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Denise Oligney-Estill after church or at denise.oe@insightbb.com by the last Sunday in January. The congregation's gifts will be presented to the staff at the annual meeting.

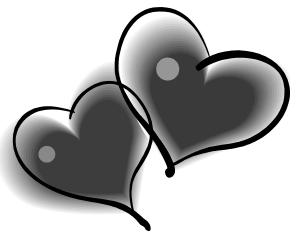
Will You Attend New Member Orientation on January 14?

Because child care and lunch will be provided at the New Member Orientation on Saturday, January 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., we need to know if you will be attending so that we have the requisite number of child care providers and food available. Please contact the church office (344-5091) if you are interested.

Community UCC always needs the many gifts of an ever-widening circle and extends that welcome for you to join that circle. We will introduce for understanding, participation, and discussion, some history of the United Church of Christ, the Illinois Conference, and Community United Church of Christ. See the most recent identity material to come from our de-

nomination. Learn the various opportunities for ministry throughout our denomination, conference, and local church. No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here.

Saturday, January 14, from 8:30 to 12:00 p.m.



Thank you to all those who have taught in our Sunday School during our Fall/Winter sessions:

Susan Schnuer, Karen Kelsky,

Sunday School

Kellee Weinhold, Denise Oligney-Estill, Jim Carnahan, Sarah Isaacs, Ellen Kordik, Mary Koloroutis, Todd Isaacs, Kristin Hoganson, Beth Robischon, Bruce Smith, Sophie Gerstenecker, Linnea Joffe-Nelson, David Robertson, Janni Sorensen, Jerry Robinson, Raymond Smith, Barbara Bell.

Each of you are an important reason that our children are learning and loving the stories of our faith. You bring your individual talents to the lessons, and make them fun and exciting for the children. You have earned a special place in all our hearts. Thank you!

Adults Needed

We are looking for Workshop Leaders for the following weeks and lessons. Please contact Tracy if you are interested, or would like to learn more.

	<u>Level One Class</u>	<u>Level Two Class</u>
January 8	Fun & Games	Show & Tell
January 15	Show & Tell	Fun & Games
January 22	Community Life	Brain Teasers
January 29	Brain Teasers	Community Life
February 5	Hands On	Time Out
February 12	Time Out	Hands On
February 19	Food & People	Food & People
February 26	**Intergenerational Discipleship Event**	

Youth Group

We are focused on the 12th Night Feast! No Youth Group on the 25th or the 1st. We will

be scheduling additional practices between the 25th and the 8th. And please reserve the af-

ternoon of the 8th; we'll need to decorate, get food ready and do a final dress rehearsal!



PEACE

6th-12th Grade Illinois Conference Youth

A Mid Winter Retreat

January 20-22, 2006 ~ 7 pm Friday - 11 am Sunday
Pilgrim Park, Princeton, Illinois



Registration Deadline is January 6th. Cost is \$110. Youth pay \$50 and CUCC Youth Group will pay \$60.

For more information contact Rev. Tracy Heilman (344-5091) or tracy@community-ucc.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Wassail Helpers Needed! Cookie Bakers Needed!



In order to serve our traditional wassail and cookies for our Christmas Eve service(s) we are requesting some helpers.

We will be serving hot wassail and cookies in between the two evening services this year, from 6:15 -7:15 p.m. Cookie donations may be brought to the church starting December 17th. Please label "Christmas Eve Service" and wrap or seal in containers to be placed in the upstairs refrigerator. You

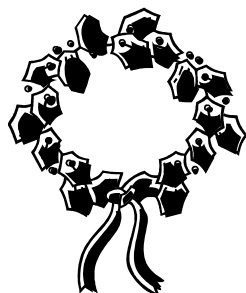
may bring cookies with you the night of the service as well. Cookies will be arranged on trays that evening- so there is no need to send on your best dish.

We also need 4-6 people to volunteer an hour or two that evening to either help set up, serve, or clean up. You may choose the time that is most convenient for you, and still attend either the 5:15 or 7:30 service. Set up will be in between hours 3-5; Serving will

be from 5-7 and clean up will be from 6-8 (at the latest).

Please consider helping with this wonderful CUCC tradition. Your help is truly appreciated. Please contact Becky Duffield at 694-4756(h) or 384-3800(w) if you would like to make cookies or help with wassail.

We Could Use Your Help!



We could use your help.

We will be taking down the decorations and storing them away on **Saturday, January 7th, beginning at 1:00 p.m.** If

several people come, it should go fairly quickly. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or send me an email at wade@soltec.net

Thanks! Peg Wade

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED for COUNCIL OF CONGREGATIONS HOSPITAL SERVICES

It might be a young mother visiting her premature baby, or a patient getting radiation treatment or kidney dialysis. There are many reasons that transportation is needed. As we offer help, we learn from these people who are our own neighbors and who come from all walks of life.

Requests for rides are made by hospital social workers or health agency personnel. The Council of Congregations tries to fill the requests from its volunteer list. Cooperating

groups now include eight mainline churches, Sinai Temple, and St. Patrick's Catholic Church. CUCC has contributed volunteers to this program for many years. But requests have doubled in the past year, COC served 611 cases and more volunteers are needed!

If you are interested or have questions, call Ruth Fisher (344-5962) or Deb Townsend (352-8885).

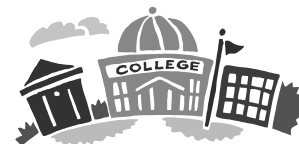


An Invitation

Greetings,

As you start building your calendars for the new year, please make note that Elmhurst College will host an evening with Edith Guffey from the UCC National Office. Everyone from our churches and the campus community is invited to attend:

- ❖ Thursday, February 23, 2006
- ❖ 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ Room at the college will be announced at a later date



If you have any questions please direct them to:

JoAnne Kreams ~ Secretary, National Church Associates of Elmhurst College
Chaplain's Office ~ (630) 617-3462

Illinois Conference, All-Conference Meeting

Open Space Technology: A Utilization Primer

February 11, 2006 ~ Jennifer's Garden, Morris, IL ~ 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

What is Open Space Technology? Open Space Technology is one way to enable all kinds of people, in any kind of organization, to create solutions to a specific problem, goal or issue. In Open Space meetings, participants create and manage their own agenda of parallel working sessions around a central theme. It works with groups as small as five and as large as 1000, working

in one-day workshops, three-day conferences, or at the regular weekly staff meeting.

Using Open Space Technology the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ poses the question, "How shall we shape and structure our covenant community to address the ministry opportunities of the future?" The entire day, February 11 will be de-

voted to this question and you can take "this opportunity to shape our future together. The importance of hearing your voice cannot be understated. Every voice is important, every voice!"

For more information about Open Space Technology and this conference and registration look for the packets found in the back of the Sanctuary on the Credenza.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Events

Friday, January 13 ~ 4-6 pm ~ "Beyond the Dream" at Holiday Inn, Urbana

Sunday, January 15 ~ 5 pm ~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Community

Celebration at Krannert Center

Monday, January 16 ~ 8 am ~ MLK Prayer Breakfast at The Vineyard Church, Urbana

Wednesday, January 18 ~ 7:30 pm ~ Sisters in Cinema (2003) at 101 The Armory, Champaign

Thursday, January 19 ~ 7 pm ~ An Up-Close Dialogue with the Tuskegee Airman, Reading of A Commissioned Poem by Professor Tyehimba Jess, and screening of the film The Tuskegee Airman—They

Fought Two Wars (2003) at Foellinger Auditorium, Urbana

Saturday, January 21 ~ 1-5 pm ~ A Single Garment of Destiny: Our Common Threads at Krannert Center, Urbana

Wednesday, January 25 ~ 7 pm ~ Dinner and a Movie CRASH (2004) ~ FAR Multipurpose Room (Students Only)

Thursday, January 26 ~ 7 pm ~ Kenote Address by Mr. Marc Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League, former New Orleans Mayor and Louisiana Senator at Smith Music Hall, Urbana

For more information please go to:
<http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/mlk/calendar/calendar.html>

Moderator's Notes

The Administrative Committee met on December 18th. We reviewed 2006 pledges so far and found that while the number of pledge units is down from last year, the total dollar amount pledged is up. This is encouraging but we still have a significant gap between what we have pledged and what we will need to fully fund the budget. The com-

mittee discussed newly created task groups for worship setup activities, building maintenance and a new nominating committee to fill the task groups for 2006. We also voted to give \$1000 to a seminary student for a mission trip to Africa. This money will be a combination of private donations and money from available CUCC accounts. Rev. Mulberry distributed

a mission endowment proposal that will be considered at our next meeting. Since my time as Moderator will end with this year's annual meeting, the Personnel Committee has agreed to nominate a new moderator for 2006.

As always, please contact any of the members of the Administrative Committee with your questions or concerns.
—Scott Bush

The Return of the Fireside Dinner

By popular demand the Fireside Dinner will be returning Saturday, January 21, 2006. The Fireside Dinner is an unstructured social evening where members and friends of the congregation who may not normally have a chance to interact can get to know one another outside of our usual environment.



need to know the age and number of children we will have. If you are willing to host a children's dinner in your home, please let me know.

Held in our homes, these small group dinners (6-8 people) are pot-luck style, so that no one has to do all the work. Usually the hosts prepare the main course with the other guests bringing appetizers, side dishes, and dessert.

To begin we need to know who would like to attend, who is willing to host, and whether or not you will need childcare.

To sign-up, please contact me at 398-8932 or at victoriarobertson@insightbb.com. There will also be a sign-up sheet on the credenza at the back of the Sanctuary.

Childcare will be provided for a nominal fee, but we

In Fellowship,
Victoria Robertson

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.....smithbob@champaignschools.org
Organist: Linda Vaughn.....lindavaughn@community-ucc.org
Facilities Manager: Robert Scaggs.....bobscaggs@community-ucc.org
Office Manager: Cindy Dodd.....info@community-ucc.org
Parish Nurse: Linda Morgan
Community Life Calendar Keeper: Vicky Robertson.....victoriarobertson@insightbb.com
Ombuds Person: Deborah Townsend.....dtown34@sbcglobal.net
Nursery Care Providers: Laurie Lyter, Jessica Bush, David Robertson

UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

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

Community United Church
of Christ

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805 S. Sixth St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Weekly Office Hours

Mon.-Thu. ~ 9 am-3 pm

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School ~ 9:00 am

Choir Rehearsal ~ 9:30 am

Worship ~ 10:15 am

Coffee Fellowship ~ 11:30 am

No Youth Group ~ Dec. 25 or Jan. 1

Next Communigram
will be mailed out
on January 11.

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

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

Address Service Requested



Two Christmas Eve Services

5:30 - 6:15 P.M. Informal Family Oriented Service

6:15 - 7:15 P.M. Wassail, Punch and Cookies in the Parlor

7:30 P.M. Traditional Candlelight Service, with the choir

Christmas Day Service

We will have our regular Sunday morning service at our church, beginning at 10:15 A.M.

New Year's Day Service

We will have a joint service with McKinley Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center. It will be at **10:00 am** at St. Andrew's, 909 S. Wright, Champaign.