

# Communigram

Community United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Progressive, Open and Affirming Congregation

## From the Desk of Rev. Michael Mulberry...

Just recently Tracy and I took a little mini-vacation to St. Louis for the Braggin' Rights game. We went on the net and got a great deal for a St. Louis' downtown hotel. We scheduled a dinner at a great restaurant that serves food grown and raised at local farms in Illinois and Missouri (Riddles, in University City). We invited friends from Eden Theological Seminary to join us for dinner.

The meal, the company, and the conversation were excellent. We talked about parenting, the food, how each of our vocations has given life to the other, how thankful we are for the friendship we share. Inevitably, the conversation turned toward our beloved United Church of Christ and the future of the denomination. Carla brought up that our hometown church in Metamora, Christian Union Church, and the UCC church in the neighboring town, Christ Church in Germantown Hills, had left the denomination. Christopher, a visiting professor at Eden in preaching and worship, shared that his teaching position was going well at Eden but doubted whether the seminary had the money to retain him.

As I have tried to relate in recent sermons, at one time the culture supported mainline denominations and mainline denominations supported the culture. We did not talk about the need for separation of church and state as much then because we profited from an intermingling of the two. Many of us are advocates for that separation now because we know that beliefs and understandings which are not necessarily our own are being supported by the wider culture.

I know that some folks believe I have a rather negative view of Community UCC because of the worries and concerns I express on an ongoing basis. Nothing could be further from the truth. I love this church. I am just trying to relate that we need to get out in front of dynamic changes going on in our society that will leave us without the safety net we once had. Our denomination, our conference, and our seminaries are struggling. We can no longer assume our own existence if we do not mentor leadership, clarify identity, develop a discernment process, call people toward us out of our identity, and work on our vocation as a whole people.

The outside culture is telling us that salvation is found in blurring our communal identity (so that the prevailing culture carries the day), in our individual faith stances (using a valued word like "diversity" to keep us apart), and in turning church into a consumer-driven, service industry (so that we demand little of each other but way too much of a select few). I believe salvation is found in clarifying our identity, in community process and work, and in a mutual sharing of our lives and work.

So if you feel me pushing, know that most of the time I do it because I care deeply about this church and I have some realistic worries whenever I am invited to see the big picture. The rest of the time I am pushing because I worry about my own future here if a church and community I already deeply love cannot sustain an important presence in this community. I promise to push more for the former than the latter. I invite you to push with me.

Shalom,

*Mike*



## Thank You!

Thanks to those people who made the Second Annual Twelfth Night Feast a great event. Special thanks goes to Becky Duffield for soliciting so many donations and making meals fit for a queen! Without Becky this would not be the incredible meal it is. She does all this work with such love and care in such difficult circumstances that every meal is a miracle in and of it-

self.

Thanks also goes out to Pat Syoen and Brian Duffield for working so hard in the kitchen.

Thanks to Jean Nanney for the time and talent she always brings to her piano playing. Her ministry and creativity are always wonderful additions to church activities and presentations.

Finally, thanks to Caryl Henkel for her work in securing costumes, fitting costumes, and creating costumes so that all of the youth are royally dressed.

All of these people have made the Twelfth Night Feast one of the hottest tickets at Community UCC.

## A Note of Thanks

Jan Wilson and Community United Church of Christ,

Thank you for your donation of soup. Your act of kindness is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Staff & Residents  
TIMES Center (Transitional Initiatives & Men's Empowerment Services)

## 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](mailto:denise.oe@insightbb.com) by the last Sunday in January. The congregation's gifts will be presented to the staff at the annual meeting.

## 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 committee 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

## Prayers for:

- ⇒ Janni Sorenson and Jerry Robinson and family. Janni has traveled to Denmark with their two sons to be with her mother who has health concerns.
- ⇒ Marjorie Harlan who is now recovering at Meadowbrook.

## On Call for Pastoral Emergencies

Rev. Mike Mulberry will be traveling to Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma for their Minister's Week. On call January 15-21<sup>st</sup>

for Mike, will be Rev. Deborah Owen. She can be reached at McKinley Foundation at 344-0297 or at home 398-8600.

## Usher/Greeter Organizer Needed



I have resigned my post as usher/greeter organizer as of December 31, 2005. Does someone want to volunteer for the job? The usher teams are in place. All you have to do are get replacements as people leave their teams and remind next week's team they are on.

I have been recruiting Greeters on a monthly basis, except for the Kurtz's who have volunteered to do each second Sunday of the month. Please contact the church office (344-5091), Peg Wade, or me.

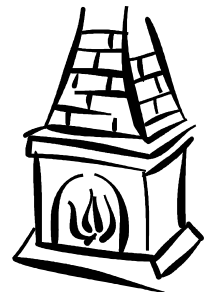
Thank you,  
Kent Henkel

## Winter Fireside Dinners

The Fireside Dinners will be held January 21<sup>st</sup> from 6 to 9 pm. Fireside Dinners are a great chance for Members and Friends of the Congregation to get to know each other outside of Worship. If you have any questions or would

like to reserve a space, please let me know by **January 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Vicky Robertson



## Contact for Calendar at CUCC



For scheduling events at CUCC or for anybody who has any calendar inquiries please contact Vicky Robertson by email at [victoriarobertson@insightbb.com](mailto:victoriarobertson@insightbb.com) or email her at the CUCC Website [www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org). Thank you.

# Calendar

## 1/12, Thursday

- 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
- 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
- 8:00 pm AA (P)
- 1:00 pm Women's Fellowship at Clark

Lindsey Village

## 1/14, Saturday

- 8:30 am—Noon New Member Class
- 9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Caffe*

*Paradiso* at the corner of Nevada & Lincoln

## 1/15, Sunday ~ **Second Sunday after Epiphany**

- 9:00 am Sunday School for all ages (FH, R 1-5, CR)
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
- 10:15 am Worship (S)
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
- 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth (TR)
- 7:00 pm Administrative Committee

## 1/16, Monday ~ **Martin Luther King Day** ~ Office Closed

## 1/18, Wednesday

- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

## 1/19, Thursday

- 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
- 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
- 8:00 pm AA (P)

## 1/20, Friday

ICIY Mid Winter Peace Retreat at Pilgrim Park

## 1/21, Saturday

ICIY Mid Winter Peace Retreat at Pilgrim Park  
 9:00 am Women's Book Club at *Caffe Paradiso* at the corner of Nevada & Lincoln  
 6:00 pm Winter Fireside Dinners

## 1/22, Sunday ~ **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

- ICIY Mid Winter Peace Retreat Concludes
- 9:00 am Sunday School for all ages (FH, R 1-5, CR)
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
- 10:15 am Worship (S)
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship (P)
- 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth (TR)

## 1/23, Monday

- 10:00 am Communigram Deadline
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

## 1/25, Wednesday

- Noon Prayer Protest
- 5:30 pm Worship Task Force (CR)
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

## 1/26, Thursday

- 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
- 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
- 8:00 pm AA (P)

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



## 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

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Events

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>

## Updates from Religious Education

At our December meeting, we discussed how a small, but committed, group of adults can accomplish all the activities and ministries that we hope to offer in the coming

years. We came up with what we hope will be a great idea!

We divided the Religious Education calendar into quarters, with specific activities and events in each Quar-

ter. Then, members of the Religious Education committee agreed to each take responsibility for a Quarter. It looks something like this:

### Quarter

Nov – Jan

Feb – Apr

May – Jul

Aug – Sep

### Activities

Advent activities, Christmas Pageant

Lenten offering, Easter, Children's Worship

Curriculum, recruitment, supplies

Rally Day, UNICEF, SS Room cleaning/Prep

### RE Member

Patrick Keenan

Sandy Melvin

Ellen Kordik

Jennifer Kelleher

The next step is to find additional committed adults who will join one of the Quarterly Task Groups to assist the RE member in the activities. We hope that by asking for a

smaller time commitment, but with a more focused need, that others of you will join us in continuing to build our Religious Education Program for children.

If you have questions, or want to join a task group, please speak with any of the above members, or contact Tracy.

## Fighting Illini

How about an afternoon watching the Fighting Illini play!

We have an opportunity to get free tickets (for children in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and under) to the Women's Basketball Game on Sunday, February 5 at noon. We thought we'd turn it into a fun, family event. Again,

tickets would be free for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and under; the rest of us pay the usual \$2 General Admission price. If you and your family, friends or neighbors would like to go, please contact Tracy by January 13<sup>th</sup>.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Twelfth Night Feast Delights the Crowd!

Once again, the Youth worked hard to present a wonderful show that delighted children and adults alike. It would not have been a success with the help of many...

- ♥ Becky Duffield, who sought out food donations and then prepared the delicious meal.
- ♥ Pat Syoen and Brian Duffield, her able assistants, who anticipated what she needed next!
- ♥ Mike Mulberry, who wrote a script that surprised us all with its wit and wonder.
- ♥ Mike Mulberry, who directs the talented youth to perform even better than they think they can!
- ♥ Jean Nanney, who brings it to life with music.
- ♥ Caryl Henkel, who dresses it all up with costumes from here, there and everywhere!
- ♥ Parents, like Tom Ward, Jeanne Ward, Ellen Kordik, Mary Koloroutis, Paul Offenbecher, Donna Offenbecher, Tim Smith, Debbie Nelson, Mary Anderson and Scott Bush, who peeled, diced, washed, dried, draped, stapled, taped, stacked, unstacked and wrapped.

Mirabella Bakery, Meijer, County Market, Old Time Meat and Deli Shoppe, and Strawberry Fields, area businesses who supplied bread, chickens, salad, and gift certificates, .

Emily Ward, Linnea Joffe-Nelson, David Robertson, Brent Anderson, David Burns, Melissa Melvin, Jeff Offenbecher, Kaila Simpson, Jessica Bush, Paul Kordik, Alicia Persigehl, Nathan Smith and Cubbie Knox thank all of you for helping with the preparations, and all of you for supporting us with the purchase of tickets. We made nearly \$1000 which will go towards our Summer Service Trip. Thank you!

## Altar Flower Chart 2006

The Altar Flower Chart for 2006 can be found in the Parlor. Check your calendar for the following open dates as of this writing: January 22, 29, March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 30, May 21, June 11, 18, July 2, 30, August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 17, October 1, 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19,



December 3, 10, 31. If you wish be a sponsor please sign up on the chart provided in the Church Parlor. Sponsorship is \$20 per Sunday and a check earmarked "Altar Flowers" can be place in the offering plate or sent to the church office. Thank you for sharing.

## 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 the church office (344-5091).



## Peace Bazaar Results

Great news from Joan Nelshoppen tonight. The Peace Bazaar made over \$5000 this year! Generally it has made in the mid \$3000 range. So even splitting the recipients 12 ways, they will each get a very nice check. Thanks to all of you who helped, especially to the UCF student and the high school group who helped carry boxes into the church. It was a

community effort, adding the Moslem group this year, and we would never have gotten all the stuff out of the church without those strong and willing young men from the Mosque who showed up at the end of the Bazaar and carried and carried!

More help is needed, it has grown too big for Joan to manage on her own. We need stor-

age for items donated during the year and more help in planning and then of course on the day of the sale. Several of you helped on the sale day and it was good to have CUCC people there. Thanks to all of you. Thanks also to those who came and shopped! If any of you have interest in being more involved next year, please let me know.

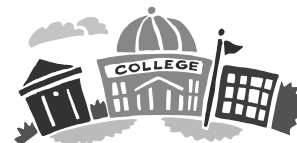
Jan Wilson

# 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 Kremske ~ 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.

**W**hat 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.

## Community United Church of Christ

805 South Sixth, Champaign, IL 61820

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

Website: [www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org) Email: [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)

Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9 am-3 pm



### CHURCH STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Michael Mulberry.....[mike@community-ucc.org](mailto:mike@community-ucc.org)

**Religious Education Director:** Rev. Tracy Heilman.....[tracy@community-ucc.org](mailto:tracy@community-ucc.org)

**Choir Director:** Robert Smith.....[smithrob@champaignschools.org](mailto:smithrob@champaignschools.org)

**Organist:** Linda Vaughn.....[lindavaughn@community-ucc.org](mailto:lindavaughn@community-ucc.org)

**Facilities Manager:** Robert Scaggs.....[bobscaggs@community-ucc.org](mailto:bobscaggs@community-ucc.org)

**Office Manager:** Cindy Dodd.....[info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)

**Parish Nurse:** Linda Morgan

**Community Life Calendar Keeper:** Vicky Robertson.....[victoriarobertson@insightbb.com](mailto:victoriarobertson@insightbb.com)

**Ombuds Person:** Deborah Townsend.....[dtown34@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtown34@sbcglobal.net)

**Child Care Providers:** Laurie Lyter, Jessica Bush, David Robertson

### UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush.....[Karen@community-ucc.org](mailto:Karen@community-ucc.org)



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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  
Youth Group ~ 6-8 pm

**Next Communigram  
will be mailed out  
on January 25.**

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org)

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## **Annual Meeting, January 29**

The Annual Meeting of Community United Church of Christ is called for Sunday, January 29th at 12:30 pm, following lunch.

The agenda will include:

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting, and of the April 24 and October 9 Congregational Meetings.
2. Reports from the Pastor, church officers, task groups, etc.
3. New Business:
  - A. Adoption of the 2006 proposed budget.
  - B. Report of the Nominating Committee and election of officers.
  - C. Other items as may come before the congregation.

Copies of the Annual Report will be mailed and available prior to the scheduled meeting.

Sincerely,  
David Willcox, Clerk