

Communigram

Community United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Progressive, Open and Affirming Congregation

From the Desk of Rev. Michael Mulberry...

First of all, thanks to Personnel Committee, and in particular, Denise Oligney-Estill, for soliciting funds and looking high and low for an extra gift. Thanks to all those congregational members who contributed to that gift. I am continually grateful for the appreciation and love that is shared with me and my family.

Secondly, we had a great annual meeting with so many people contributing to making that so. Cindy Dodd did a wonderful job of putting the annual report together and working with Pat Syoen to get it out as quickly as possible. Proper care of Cindy in the future will mean all of us, myself very much included, working much earlier to get our individual reports into her so that she does not have to scramble to get the annual report put together.

Thanks to Paul Offenbecher for setting up and all those who worked hard to put together the meal. How wonderful to come from worship to another form of community and hospitality!

Thanks to Scott Bush for his wonderful moderation and facilitation of our congregational meeting. Scott helped us to avoid rough spots without avoiding necessary confrontation, discussion, and dialogue. He showed his skill as a caring and careful leader. Wherever the new polity goes from here, Scott has given us all a chance. His idea to do more congregational meetings facilitated important financial discussions that might have been sidetracked if we had not dealt with other issues at the other congregational meetings.

Thanks to all of those who spoke their necessary and important truths and listened with attentiveness throughout our discussion. By a long shot, this congregation has more worthwhile dialogue and discussion than any church I have ever served. We do not often take disagreement personally, and yet, we work hard on important issues that face us. I found myself thinking, "I don't necessarily agree with what this person or that person thinks, but I appreciate the care and stewardship they are

offering to the church." These congregational meetings are a big reason I believe small group ministry would be amazing for our church. We do wonderful things when we get together.

Thanks to all who did the clean up afterwards. I was pooped. People wanted to speak with me. I was incredibly grateful that others took responsibility for clean up, take down, and moving. Thanks also to Ken Gilbert for organizing the carpet cleaning. The carpet downstairs looks fantastic!

Thanks to all who took the time to participate in this congregational meeting. Your investment makes us better. Sometimes adding amendments to amendments may seem over the top, but we almost never end up with an idea in its original form. I think that reflects the Spirit of God moving in our church. And it is moving. Thank you.

Shalom,

Mike



A Note of Thanks

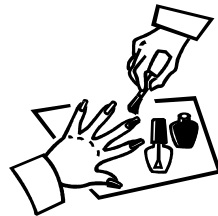
What a wonderful gift! I am very excited about the gift certificate to BJ Grand Salon. As Mike can attest, I've been pouring over the enclosed brochure of services offered. It's relaxing just to imagine spending an afternoon at the Salon. Thank you so much for the generous gift.

Thank you also for the way that Sunday after Sunday, you entrust your children and young people to our Sunday School program. Each week, I learn from them and am inspired by them. They challenge me to bring the Good News to them in ways that are approachable and active and meaningful to their lives. Thank you, too, for setting aside time that your

youth can join together with us on Sunday evenings, so that we can get to know each other, share our interests, and expand our world views.

It continues to be a privilege and honor to serve with and among the people at Community United Church.

Tracy



I would like to thank CUCC for the wonderful gift certificate to BJ's Grand Salon and Spa in appreciation for my efforts here at Community. Please know that I have a great fondness for the many who come through my office doors in search of answers, to communicate information to me, to volunteer in the office or just come in to say hello. It's not only nice to know that you appreciate my efforts but that you support me too. My work here has been a life changing experience and I want you to know that I look forward to coming to work each day.

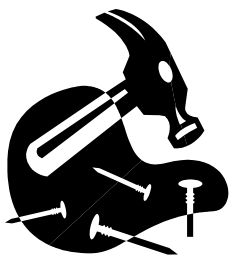
In appreciation,
Cindy Dodd, Office Manager

Casserole Delivery

If you know of anyone who would benefit from having a casserole delivered to his/her door, please contact Tei Barnhart, preferably by e-mail: tei_barnhart@ameritech.net Otherwise by telephone: 384-5801.



FAST (Faithful Advocates Serving Together)



Summer Youth Work Trip!

Last week we decided to head to the Appalachian Region with

F.A.S.T (Faithful Advocates Working Together). This is a

"work experience in the Appalachian Region that involves pre-trip Bible study and learning about the region, a one-week project including home rehabilitation, worship and an exploration of social and economic issues; and post-trip action to advocate for issues of justice in your own community and Appalachia." We deter-

mined that the best date was June 25-July 1. Preliminary registration was sent in for a trip to Alderson, West Virginia! We have 12 spots available, so I need to hear from you if you are interested in attending. We need to send in a \$40 deposit per person by the first week of February.

Youth Group Super Bowl Party February 5th



The Offenbecher's have once again agreed to host CUCC's Youth Super Bowl Party. Kick off is at 5:00 pm, so Youth Group will be from 5-7 pm. All youth should be at Offenbecher's by 5 pm and should bring some kind of snack to share.

They will have chicken wings, and either pizza

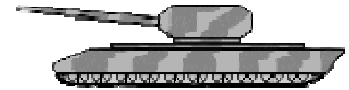
or sandwiches. Please email Rev. Tracy Heilman if you have a preference, (tracy@community-ucc.org). Youth should bring chips, cookies, drinks, etc. They will watch the game, finish watching West Side Story, and it is rumored that Emily and David said something about singing songs? It'll be a fun time!

CODAC ~ Adult Class Sunday Mornings at 10 am

We are discussing the book, "War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning", by Chris Hedges, a New York Times war correspondent for fifteen years after graduating from Harvard Divinity School. As always, it will help to have read it, but we are attempting to accommodate those who don't have access to the book by summarizing most of the main points. Additional

ideas about war from "realist" perspectives are being presented, along with some thoughts about the three main Christian responses to war: pacifism, just war, and crusade. Why do wars persist even though almost everybody says they abhor violence and want peace? Do people have a deep, unconscious need for wars?

Sunday mornings through Feb. 26, 9--10 am in the conference room, downstairs.



Ron Szoke

Hotel Rwanda to Be Shown February 7

The film "Hotel Rwanda" will be shown at the Channing-Murray Foundation, 1209 W. Oregon, Urbana, on Tuesday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m. Community United Church of Christ is one of the co-sponsors of this event. Scott Edwards of Amnesty International will facilitate discussion afterwards.

The film, based on a true story, is about a hotel manager in Rwanda who houses refugees in

his hotel in the mid 1990's during a time when a million people in Rwanda were brutally killed.

You are also welcome to come at 5:00 p.m. for a casual potluck if you can. Please bring a dish to share.

For more information, contact the church office 344-5091.

Volunteers Needed on Sunday Morning

Our Little Blessings need some watching!

Sign up sheets are available in the Nursery and in the Big Kids room. You may also contact Rev. Tracy Heilman (344-5091 or tracy@community-ucc.org). Please volunteer to help out in the coming weeks.



February 2006



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
*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			1 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 **See Schedule Below	3	4 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert
5 Communion Sunday *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: War Is a Force Blood Pressure Checks after worship in the Library 5 pm Youth Superbowl party at Offenbechers	6 10 am Staff Meeting	7	8 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 6 pm CODAC Meeting 6:30 pm RE Meeting	9	10	11 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert 9:30 am Open Space Technology "Re-Gathering" @ Jennifer's Garden, Morris, IL by Illinois Conf. Council
12 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: War Is a Force	13 10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Communitgram Deadline	14	15 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 5:30 pm Worship Task Force	17	18 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert
19 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: War Is a Force	20 10 am Staff Meeting	21	22 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert
26 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: War Is a Force	27 10 am Staff Meeting	28 Office Manager Vacation		***Thursday Schedule 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Play Group 8 pm AA		CUCC Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm

Church Carpet Cleaning

Everything you wanted to know

The good news is that the carpets in the parlor, social hall, foyer, sanctuary, and foundation office were all cleaned during a marathon cleaning session following annual meeting.

I can recall the conversation that this congregation had about carpets as we were upgrading the social hall from a painted concrete floor with bare bulbs hanging from the ceiling to the present configuration. There was a lot of concern that carpets would just be harder to take care of and keep clean. We were won over by the assurance from the architect that with regular maintenance, carpets serve very well and provide a much nicer “feel” for a space such as ours. We eventually agreed, but somehow we never got the implementation of regular maintenance into our system (has it really been three years since we last had the carpets cleaned?). Today’s effort included a major remedial effort, and there is still remedial work that will be called for.

Out! Out! Cursed spot! Carpet spots most often happen because some food or beverage is spilled on the carpet. As the liquid from spilled soda evaporates, it leaves a sugar (or oily) residue which is sticky. Dust that settles on that spot won’t release when the vacuum is run over it, so there ends up

being a place that has more dirt stuck to it than other places. Apparently carpet cleaning fluid that isn’t adequately vacuumed up will also produce this “sticky” area, and the shape of some of the spots suggested that they were most likely the result of unevenly cleaned carpet from last cleaning attempt. The rented carpet cleaning machine does lift off the layer of extra dirt clinging to the top of the loops of carpet, but it doesn’t necessarily get the reservoir of sugar that by now has established itself in the carpet backing. The cleaning effort may just wet that old sugar residue so that some of it will rise by wicking action to the top of the carpet loops and create a new spot in exactly the same spot as the old one.

The most obvious heavy duty spots were pre-scrubbed in the weeks before our carpet cleaning using dish detergent and repeatedly wiping the area with rags until they came clean. Sometimes that didn’t work, so a pad of clean rags was set under a weight on the scrubbed area so that the sticky residue would wick itself right up into the clean rags that are then lifted and laundered. Less major spots were simply scrubbed with a brush and more concentrated Simple Green on the day we ran the carpet machine. Heavy traffic spots like the entrance to the kitchen required serious hand scrubbing and multiple passes with the ma-

chines. Spots that re-emerged as the carpet dried were re-scrubbed. Over the next month, some of the spots will re-appear. We will try to deal with them in a way that gets the residue out of the carpet backing.

But beyond the issue of spots, there was the issue of accumulated grime. Much of the carpet in the social hall had as many as six passes with the carpet cleaning machine, and we were still lifting a great deal of dirt in the soapy water that gets sucked back up in the process. When there is regular cleaning, you can eventually get the point that there is very little dirt in the sucked up water. So our carpets are MUCH cleaner, but still fall short of clean. The carpets in the parlor and social hall were cleaned with Simple Green. This is bio-degradable which means that we don’t need to worry that cleaning residue will harm kids who crawl around on the carpet.

Having never really cleaned the whole set of carpets before, we had no idea how to plan for the event. Just how many people do we really need to get this job done? Well, now we know it takes about 20 person hours to do the whole thing. (That is after you have somebody else push all the chairs, tables, pianos, coat stands, etc out of the way and you have cleared space to clean). Next time we do the “whole thing” we need to

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: March 19, May 21, June 11, 18, July 2, 30, August 20, 27, September 3, October 29, November 12, 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 placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office.

Thank you for sharing.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship of Community United Church of Christ will meet on **Thursday, February 9, 2006, at 1:00 pm** in the Clark Lindsey private dining room.

Dorothy Bell will lead the group Bible study. Hostesses are Helen Crane, Ruth Fisher and Mary Forbes. JoAnn Fley will offer devotions. Conflicts in the schedule of the Rev. Jane Fisler Hoffman, the Illinois Conference minister, have caused a change in the date of her presentation at Women's Fellowship.

The luncheon meeting will be held at 11:30 am on Saturday, March 11, 2006, at Clark

Lindsey. All church members and interested friends are invited. Following the luncheon, the Rev. Hoffman will speak to the group on Illinois Conference concerns and their impact on us. Reservations for the luncheon should be made with Jan Wilson.

Details will follow.

Carpet Cleaning Cont. from P. 5

think about six people taking 3.5 hour shifts. That is really pretty manageable. Hauling around the machines is a bit more vigorous than using a vacuum cleaner, but its not so rugged that a 3.5 hour shift would seem overwhelming.

The Sunday school class rooms and library were not cleaned in this round. The sanctuary (with its deeper pile carpet) was just given a once over as we ran out of energy. Both of those would be on my list for the spring work day. Then I think we need to organize for the next carpet cleaning marathon after the next annual meeting (It really does help to have all those hands to clear the space)

So between cleanings, what is a person to do to take care of the carpets? The most helpful thing is that when you are aware of a spill, get to it with paper towels or napkins and sop up as much of it as you can. You don't need to scrub it with soap. Just don't leave fluids to evaporate away leaving the sticky residue behind.

Oh yes, the question of tape on the carpet. That great open social hall space offers itself for things like hop scotch and relay races which are really good for small kids. Our school teachers or Summer Program organizers may want to mark off the relay course or game space on the carpet. We have "gaffers tape"

in the religious ed office that can be freely put down on carpet and doesn't leave residue. Ask Rev Heilman for the stuff. Feel free to use as much as you need. Just don't put duct tape or masking tape or packaging tape on the carpets. Anything but gaffers tape will leave a sticky spot that is very hard to deal with later.

I'm sure that is all you ever wanted to know about church carpets. I'm also convinced that if we all do know this tape, we will end up being happier with the way the carpets serve us. I'm already looking forward to the next carpet marathon.

—Ken Gilbert

Welcome New Members

New Membership Sunday at Community United Church of Christ was on Sunday, January 29, 2006 and included the following:

Mike Allen a transfer from First Congregational UCC Angola, NY; Linnea Joffe-Nelson; Stig Lanesskog and Deirdre McGlone Lanesskog transfer from First United Methodist Church, Champaign, IL (children are Eva, Blake, Clara and Nick); Sharon Reynolds (children are Linnea, North, and Alexander); Grant Robbenolt and Jennifer Robbenolt transfer from Columbia

UCC, Columbia, MO (children are Dale and Jake); Elizabeth Robischon a Reaffirmation of Faith and Bruce Smith (child is Charlotte); Katherine and Paul Vaaler transfer from First Congregational Church of Sharon, Sharon, MA (children are Benjamin and John).

We welcome these folks to our community.

For names, addresses, emails and phone numbers of our new members please look on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary.

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 devoted 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.

Champaign-Urbana Interfaith Alliance February Meeting

When: Monday, February 6, 7:00 PM

Where: McKinley Foundation - Corner of Fifth and Daniels (Dean Clark Room)

Who: Rabbi Klein will be our special guest. He will lead a discussion on Jewish/Christian relations.

ALL ARE WELCOME. For more information, please e-mail Colleen Vojak: vojak@uiuc.edu

Jennifer Hixson, Multicultural Program Director
Urbana School District 116



Come Solve the Mystery of the Secret Valentine!

At the CUCC Campus Ministry SWEETHEART DINNER

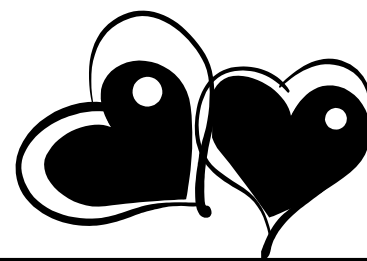
When: Saturday, February 11 at CUCC Fellowship Hall

Time: Seating 5:30 pm, Serving 6 pm

Price: \$20/Adult, \$10/Children 12 & Under

Reservations: Place yours by Sunday, Feb 5th by signing up after Sunday worship, emailing Karen Bush (ks-bush@uiuc.edu) or calling the church office.

All proceeds go to support
our UCC Campus Ministry Programs!



Weekly UCC Campus Ministry Programs

Monday-Thursday at 11 am to noon ~ Drop In to meet with Pastor Karen

Mondays at 10 pm ~ Campus Ministry Choir singing

Wednesdays at 8 pm ~ Sanctuary Meditation Prayer Service

Thursdays from 2-4 pm ~ Open House in Karen's Office

Fridays at 5 pm ~ Rotating array of programs (coming up: local service, movie/discussion, playtime, camping, Hillel)

Sundays at 10:15 am ~ Worship with CUCC

Worship Task Force Wants Your Input

The Worship Task Force invites anyone with comments or suggestions (good, bad or indifferent) regarding the two Christmas Eve Service format and the Wassail Bowl reception between the services which we tried this past year, to please contact a member of the Wor-

ship Task Force. Our next meeting is February 15th, and it would be very helpful if we had any comments by that date.

As always, anytime you have suggestions or comments on any segment of the Worship

Service, please feel free to contact any of our task force: Mike Allen, Sarah Isaacs, Mike Mulberry, Elaine Peppers, Mary Ellen Schroeder, Emily Ward and Peg Wade. Thanks.

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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 February 15.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Urbana, IL
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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.....smithrob@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
Child Care Providers: Laurie Lyter, Jessica Bush, David Robertson

UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

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

