

Communigram

VOL. 38 No. 4

MARCH 8, 2006



COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

*A Just Peace, Progressive,
LGBT Open and Affirming Congregation*



From the Desk of Rev. Mulberry...

I came to be pastor at the United Church of Christ in North Hampton, New Hampshire, after their minister of twenty-two years retired. The interim pastor following that long term minister changed nothing. He was a disciple of the former pastor and well-known to the congregation. The second interim was a retired pastor who served only a few days a week. He was referred to as an “old coot” whenever he proposed changes. No changes were made.

I was told that when I arrived congregational worship had dwindled to about thirty people every Sunday. The church had no mission. The church had no Sunday School. The person who was constructively serving as interim pastor was a Harvard seminarian. She was a daughter of the church who did not know there were any other churches besides the United Church of Christ New Hampton until she was twelve. She believed that Harvard Divinity School was a liberal cesspool. The church was proudest of the youth group trip she took every year to various parts around the country.

So I made the natural assumption that when worship attendance skyrocketed, the Sunday School program became energized, and new members flocked to the church, everybody would be excited. Not that I made all those things happen, but I did hear the church clamoring for those things when I arrived. So shouldn't they be excited?

Some were excited. Some people, coming out of a worship filled with challenge and energy, related to me some of the most wonderful things. I began, however, to brace for impact two weeks later. I began to understand the congregation as the opposing complementary forces in Chinese-yin and yang. I began to recognize that for all the yin directed at me one week, the yang was yet to come two weeks later.

So I was not really surprised when two weeks after taking in a great new members' class at Community UCC, a complementary and opposing energy shared the fear, anger, and loneliness experienced by some folks in our church. I would love everyone to be excited about the advent in chil-

dren and youth ministries in the church, the work we are doing to finally speak to some of our organizational structure, and the incredible new members we are receiving into our life and ministry, but I learned in North Hampton that for every yin there is a yang.

Some folks who were the historical stewards of our church are scared, angered by a perceived or real loss of power, and feel left out of what goes on at the church. That yang is as real as the yin.

My image of hope for the church happened a couple weeks ago when Becky Hanson “adopted” a young man attending church who was sharing a lot of “yin” the week before. So there Becky Hanson sat with this young man in worship one Sunday. Yin and yang came together.

In Chinese mythology, one cannot exist without the other and the seeds of one are found in the other. I saw that one Sunday not too long ago.

Shalom,

Mike



Moderator Musings

I put a huge value on communication. I hope that you will see plenty of information from the Administrative Committee this year on what we are doing, discussing, and what I am thinking. David Willcox, our church Clerk, has prepared a summary of the Administrative Committee meeting minutes from February 19, 2006. These summaries should provide you with an overview of the things we talked about. I want to discuss a few things in this article.

More members on Administrative Committee: As noted in the summary, we passed a motion to pursue adding two additional members to the Administrative Committee. My understanding is that this has been discussed for a while.

There have been times when the Administrative Committee just felt too small and many times when there was more work to do than there were people. Since this is defined in the constitution, We will be putting forward an amendment at the April 30 congregational meeting to increase the number from seven (7) to nine (9).

Presentation on developing our extra property: Community U.C.C. owns the lot to the West of the church with the house, gravel lot, and shed. A presentation is scheduled for March 28 at 7:15 p.m. in the parlor. Please find more information about this in a separate article.

Heating problems in the church:

Unfortunately for our budget, there have been multiple leaks in the heating system downstairs. We have tried to stay on top of these, but the expenses have been around \$4,000 for the latest repairs. I am also aware that the heat in the sanctuary has its problems (some radiators not heating at all, for example). These issues are being investigated.

The next Administrative Committee meeting will be March 19 after church and fellowship time. You are welcome to join us (bring a lunch or stop by a local eatery for carryout). Even if you choose not to come, I request that you pray for us as we meet.

Peace, David Gerstenecker

Church Software seeking Computer Geek

The church has purchased a commercial computer program, Church Windows (<http://www.churchwindows.com/>), to help with our membership data, financial records, and general information. It has been installed and is being used by our treasurer and financial secretary. Would you be

interested in helping us use it up to its potential? I am looking for a leader that will take the lead on getting others trained on its use (like the office manager, pastor, other appropriate task leaders). Please contact me if you are interested. **–David Gerstenecker, Moderator**

“I hear we are putting a McDonald’s in behind the church?!?”

March 28, 7:15 – 8:45 p.m., Parlor

Did I get your attention? I am not trying to create a rumor, but rather dispel them before they start. Community U.C.C. owns the lot to the West of the church with the house, gravel lot, and shed. Currently the University of Illinois rents from us and their five year contract expires in the middle of this year (but they have an option to continue for another five years). Even if they choose to rent another five years, we need to be thinking about that property and how to utilize it best. Scott Bush and Roger Wade met with Charlie Oewel who was in town meeting with McKinley Presbyterian church on redeveloping their Presby House property. We have set up a meeting with him and his associates to discuss our additional property. They will be presenting their program of redevelopment of ministry sites into sustainable income property. The date is set for March 28 at 7:15 p.m. (likely run about 1.5 hours – half presentation and half questions) in the parlor. Please join us if you are interested in learning more. There is no commitment here; it is information gathering. So, we currently have no plans to tear down the house and build a McDonalds, but we hopefully will have some other ideas after March 28. **–David Gerstenecker, Moderator**

Our Little Blessings need some watching!

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



The Grand West Association of the Michigan Conference of
The United Church of Christ
Invites You to Celebrate the Ordination of
David Andrew Stewart
(a former member of CUCC)
will be ordained on
Sunday, March 12, 2006 at 5:00 pm
Plymouth Congregational UCC
4010 Kalamazoo Avenue, S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

New Members' Orientation

We encourage church membership and our next membership orientation will begin with an informational meeting on Sunday, April 23, right after worship for a half hour. The full orientation will take place on Saturday, April 29, from

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. But there is no pressure to join ever. Our community is enriched by friends, visitors, and relatives who join with us in celebrating the love and compassion of God. Church membership is not a prerequisite

for that celebration. Please contact Cindy Dodd, our Office Manager (info@community-ucc.org; 344-5091), if you are interested in joining.

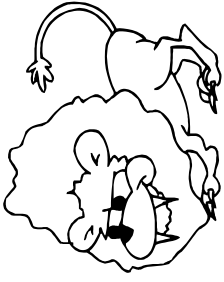
Worship Task Force Information

Here are some upcoming dates and events that will be happening at CUCC for your March and April calendar:

- **Sunday, March 19th** – Jean Nanney, Licensed Lay Minister preaching
- **Sunday, March 26-** Paul Pitcher a Missionary will be joining us
- **Sunday, April 2** – Choir Cantata
- **Sunday, April 9** – Palm Sunday, Palm Processional
- **Thursday, April 13** – Maundy Thursday Service – traditional service in sanctuary 7:00 pm
- **Friday, April 14** – Good Friday Service – informal service in Parlor – 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, April 14- Sunday, April 16** – Easter Vigil (watch for details coming out soon)
- **Sunday, April 16** – Easter Service – preceded by an Easter Breakfast
- **Sunday, April 23** – College Student Led Service



March 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 7 am Ash Wednesday Service Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens 4:30 pm CODAC Meeting Office Manager Vacation	3 	4 9 am Women's Book Club at Caffe Paradiso
5 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: A Song to Sing Blood Pressure Checks One Great Hour of Sharing Jazz Service, featuring Tim Deal's Jazz band	6 10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Communitgram Deadline	7 	8 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm RE Meeting	9 Office Manager Vacation	10 	11 9 am Women's Book Club at Caffe Paradiso Noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon at Clark-Lindsey Village ~ Special Guest. Jane Fisler Hoffman
12 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: A Song to Sing	13 10 am Staff Meeting	14 	15 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm Worship Task Force	16 	17 	18 9 am Women's Book Club at Caffe Paradiso
19 *See Schedule Above Jean Nanney, Licensed Lay Minister preaching	20 10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Communitgram Deadline	21 	22 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 	24 	25 9 am Women's Book Club at Caffe Paradiso
26 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: A Song to Sing Missionary, Paul Pitcher	27 10 am Staff Meeting	28 7 pm Administrative Committee	29 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 	31 	**Thursday Schedule 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Play Group 8 pm AA

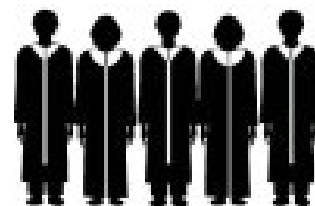
Rev. Michael Mulberry and Rev. Tracy Heilman Vacation (leaving evening of March 26)

Special Easter Music

Special Easter Music, this year on April 2nd (two weeks prior to Easter Sunday and the first day of Daylight Savings time). A Festival Choir will be performing music from the period of great Religious Fervor that swept

America in the 1800's. This all English language concert is relatively kid friendly. It would be a comfortable time to invite a neighbor to attend church with you, and will be a glorious way for you to move your spirit into

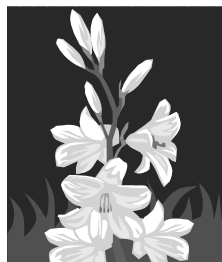
the time of Easter Joy.



Child Care Now Available!

There will now be child care available for Wednesday nights during choir rehearsal. The times of child care are 7-8:30 pm.

Easter Flower Order Form



The Easter Season approaches, and the sanctuary will be adorned with Easter Lilies and Spring Flowering Plants donated by individuals, families or groups. You are invited to make a gift of one or more plants to be used during this holiday time. Several choices are offered this year. Please mark which flower, size and color you wish to purchase, make a check payable to Community UCC marked "Easter Flowers" on the memo line, fill out the form below and place this in the offering plate or mail it to the church office (805

S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820). Thank you for sharing. **Deadline for orders is Sunday, April 2, 2006.**
Thank you for sharing.

Lilies 4-7 Bloom White Easter Lilies ____ pots @ \$ 10.00 each

7 1/2" - 2 bulbs/pot 9+ Blooms ____ pots @ \$ 20.00 each

Hyacinths 6" pot (3 bulbs) ()Blue ()Pink ()White ____ pots @ \$9.00 each

Tulips 6" pot (6 bulbs) ()Red ()Pink ()Yellow ____ pots @ \$9.00 each

Daffodils 6" pot (6 bulbs) ____ pots @ \$9.00 each

Daisy Chrysanthemums 6" pot ()White ()Yellow ()Lavendar ____ @ \$12.00 each

My total is \$_____

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

I will claim my flowers after the Easter morning worship service.

Please donate ____ pot(s) of my flowers to be given to someone.

Flowers not claimed will be donated to those homebound or in the hospital, or nursing home.

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

This unit explores a large and important story. It is comprised of a series of stories that encompass the last week of Jesus' life and ministry. Over the course of the unit, our Kindergarten through 8th grade students will gather around a story that begins with a parade, journeys through suffering and death, and ends with the fulfillment and promise of new life.

As a progressive church, we will be telling this story in ways that differ from the common culture. Jesus is not offered up as a sacrifice; rather, Jesus remains faithful to his conviction of who he is and what God is calling him to do. Even when arrested, he maintains a stance of nonviolent resolution. He never denies who he

is, or betrays what he believes. Through this, we see that it is Jesus' *life* that is informative for our own lives.

These stories can be difficult to approach with children. The Religious Education Task Force has some resources that may be useful to you and your family. Please visit the table in the Narthex for Biblical Background sheets, hints for talking with your children about death and dying, a newsletter with ideas for celebrating Lent in your home, and Heifer Project Banks and Giving Calendars so that you may support the work of Heifer Project International this Lenten season.

A Call to Create a Coalition of Illinois Peace & Justice Organizations

The Confederation of Northern Illinois Peace Groups is planning a state wide conference to take place on April 1st in Champaign.

Information concerning this conference can be found on the credenza the back of the church.

Crop Walk

Save the Date! CROP WALK will be **Sunday April 2**. Information and walk sheets available from Casey Hoercher for UCF, from Tracy Heilman for youth and Sunday School, from Jan Wilson for others. This walk will raise money for Church World Service in it's many areas of disaster and need.

Women's Activities

Women's Luncheon

CUCC Women's Fellowship will meet **Saturday, March 11** at Clark Lindsey Village. Our Illinois conference minister, Jane Fidler Hoffman, will speak on the realities of wider church ministries in days of budget cuts. She will answer questions you may have about Illinois conference.

Lenten Breakfasts

CUCC Lenten Breakfast, sponsored by Illinois Women in Church and Society. There will be five breakfasts in the five associations; all with the same program. The theme is "Touching Jesus---

Touched by Jesus". Eastern Association Breakfast will be held at the First Congregational UCC, Dwight, IL. Registration and information forms, including directions to the church, are in stacked black bins on the credenza at the rear of the sanctuary. They need registrations to get a count for the breakfast, but the fee of \$3.00 can be paid at the door.

National Women's Meeting

MIX IN 06--national meeting of women from UCC and Disciples. This will be a very large gathering of women with outstanding leadership in music, worship, and inspi-

ration **June 21-25** at Indianapolis Convention center, with rooms in several nearby hotels. Blue covered information packets are in the black stacked bins on credenza. Registration can be done at any time; the cheaper hotels are going fast. The gathering held 4 years ago got glowing reports from those who attended and it will not get any closer or more convenient for us than Indianapolis!

Questions or concerns on any of these, call the church office (344-5091).

Community United Youth Group

This year, we're heading to the Appalachian Region for our annual Service Trip. We'll leave C-U on Sunday, June 25, and return on Saturday, July 1.

Appalachia is a land rich in beauty and resources, with mountains that are among the oldest in the world. Those who chose to make this area their home developed a rich culture based on hard work and faith. They pulled together, neighbor helping neighbor, to mine the minerals and farm the land. While we are there, we will learn about the economic realities that have trapped many families in poverty while living in a land rich in coal, timber and natural resources.



So far, we have 3 adults and 7 youth. We only have room for 12 total, so if you are interested in joining, let me know ASAP.

Upcoming Schedule 6-8 pm on Sundays

March 12: **Fundraising!** Let's plan our Meal and Auction to raise funds for our trip to Alderson, WV. We'll also play a game of "The Great Dalmuti."

March 19: **Our Lenten Discipline—God for Beginners.** We'll meet at my house (1701 Briarcliff Drive) for dinner (Emily requested Spaghetti Pie and I'll make French bread to go with it) and discussion.



March 26: **Fun!** We'll go bowling somewhere

April 2: **Work Trip Orientation.** If you're going on the trip, plan to be at Youth Group tonight!

April 9: Our **Lenten Discipline—God for Beginners**

April 16: **Easter, no Youth Group**

April 23: **Fundraising:** continued work

April 30: **Fun!** Swimming at Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center. We may have to change our time to 5-7.

Silent Auction

The Youth Group will once again sponsor a Silent Auction to help raise funds to finance our trip to Alderson, WV to rehab houses in the Appalachian Region.

We are accepting your kind donations of good, services, gift certificates, and creations.



We appreciate your help!

The Illinois Disciples Foundation (IDF) is pleased to present...

5th Annual Human Rights Film Series Spring 2006

7-9 pm at the IDF**

Free Admission and Snacks

<http://www.prairienet.org/idf/filmseries.html>

It's time again for our annual Human Rights Film Series! The Human Rights Film Series is an opportunity for campus and community members to come together to view and discuss films pertinent to those issues that face us all. Following each film, there will be a discussion facilitated by a local campus or community member who has expertise on the topic of the documentary. The films will be shown using IDF's newly purchased projector and large screen. Light snacks and refreshments will be available!

This spring, we have organized an exciting film series that not only highlights those issues relevant to CU residents, but those to which many local residents have committed their own life and work. See below for more information on the film being shown this spring!

THE SOLDIERS' HEART Thursday, March 9 @ 7 pm

The military teaches soldiers how to fight, how to kill, how to survive.

But who teaches them how to live with themselves? FRONTLINE examines the underreported story of the Iraq War: the psychological cost on those who fight it. Today it's commonly referred to as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD. A study commissioned by the Army shows that one in six veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering from PTSD.

Yet the fear of being labeled a "coward" keeps many soldiers from seeking help. This documentary features expert testimony from mental health professionals and most importantly first-hand experiences from the veterans themselves.

For more information:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/heart/>

Two labor rights films!

WAL-MART: THE HIGH COST OF LOW PRICE **LOCKOUT 484** Thursday, March 16 @ 7 pm

Given the recent opening of the new Urbana Wal-Mart despite strong local opposition, Wal-Mart's unscrupulous employment and business strategies have become a topic of conversation in Urbana-

Champaign. **WAL-MART: THE HIGH COST OF LOW PRICE** gives local citizens an opportunity to better understand the retail giant's assault on families and American values. The film dives into the deeply personal stories and everyday lives of families and communities struggling to fight a goliath. A working mother is forced to turn to public assistance to provide healthcare for her two small children. A Missouri family loses its business after Wal-Mart is given over \$2 million to open its doors down the road. A mayor struggles to equip his first responders after Wal-Mart pulls out and relocates just outside the city limits. A community in California unites, takes on the giant, and wins!

LOCKOUT 484 covers another labor rights issue. In February 2005, Celanese, a major transnational corporation, bought a chemical plant in the small town of Meredosia, IL. Celanese demanded up to a 33% cut in pay and a reduction of health care benefits. When the workers asked for an extension and more information, the corporation locked them out and replaced them with unskilled workers.

For more information on WAL-MART:
<http://www.walmartmovie.com/>

For more information on LOCKOUT 484:
<http://www.lockout484.org/story.html>

Three more films will be offered on March 30, April 6 and 13th. Two of them deal with healthcare and the last one with torture. Please look for more information on the bulletin board across from the church office.

February 19 Administrative Committee Meeting Notes

The Administrative Committee met on February 19. Here is a short summary of the meeting:

We had a discussion of priorities for the Administrative Committee for 2006. We didn't decide on a final priority list, but some ideas mentioned were:

- Continue efforts to make it easy for people to get involved in task groups.
- Get involved in a mission project outside of our church
- Continue building on **God is Still Speaking** to make us more welcoming to visitors and potential members.
- Organize our church records to make them more accessible and usable
- Better integrated financial reporting. (Our new software should help this.)
- Get a better handle on needs of our building
- Make ourselves more visible in the community
- Be more active in contacting inactive members
- Increase efforts to build community in our congregation

We discussed building maintenance and how to keep track of all of those little maintenance issues that come up. For the time being we will have a rotating volunteer who is the initial person to call when emergencies come up. We decided to investigate the possibility of sharing a full-time building manager/maintenance person with Faith United Methodist. We also decided to investigate decorative covers for the pillars in the Fellowship Hall.

Through an oversight, Tom Watembach wasn't officially approved as Financial Secretary at the Annual Meeting. We approved him in that position for this year, and made a note to include this as an elected position next year.

We agreed to pursue adding two members to the Administrative Committee. The precise roles are yet to be determined, but at large, "Pastoral Care" and "Church Building" are possibilities. We plan to present this at the next Congregational Meeting.

We are half-way through the two-year experiment in church polity. We need to be thinking about what we want to do at the end of the interim period. We will probably have a Saturday "mini-retreat" about this.

We agreed to set up a meeting with Charlie Oewel from the organization that is working with McKinley Presbyterian to redevelop the Presby House property. We want to hear what ideas he has about what we could do with our property. We have no plans at this point, we just want information.

The next Administrative Committee meetings will be March 19 and April 23. We'll meet after the Sunday service, not in the evening. (As always, Administrative Committee meetings are open to all interested parties.)

The next Congregational Meeting will be April 30.

David Willcox, Clerk

➔ Just a note to let anyone from Community United Church know that they can ask to get copies of the Administrative Committee minutes as they become available.

DOLE Date Cranberry Orange Bars

Prep: 15 min. Bake: 35 min. Makes: 24 bars

½ cup margarine softened

1 cup sugar, divided

1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour, divided

3 eggs

1 pkg. (8 oz.) DOLE Pitted Dates, cut up, or Chopped Dates

½ cup dried cranberries

¼ cup orange juice

Beat margarine and ½ cup sugar, in bowl, until light and creamy. Stir in 1 cup flour. Press onto bottom of 8" or 9" square pan. Bake at 375° F., 12 to 15 min. or until edges start to brown. Beat eggs in bowl, stir in remaining sugar, flour, date, cranberries, and juice. Pour over crust. Bake 20 min. more until lightly browned. Sprinkle with powdered sugar, if desired. Cut into bars.

Per serving: 129 calories; 5g fat (1g sat); 27mg cholesterol; 53mg sodium; 21g carbohydrate; 2g protein

Several people asked for the DOLE Date Cranberry Orange Bar recipe found above after the morning coffee on Sunday, March 5. This recipe is from Barb Bell.

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



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 March 22.

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

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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

*A Just Peace, Progressive,
LGBT Open and Affirming Congregation*



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

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Religious Education Director: Rev. Tracy Heilman.....tracy@community-ucc.org

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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

