

Communigram



COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

A Just Peace, Progressive,

LGBT Open and Affirming Congregation



VOL. 38 No. 5

MARCH 22, 2006

From the Desk of Rev. Mulberry...

Slowly but surely, we are learning some important lessons for what a permanent polity might look like. Some of that has come from just deconstructing the old polity and waiting. Some of that has come from trying new things and being successful. Some of that, of course, has come from trying new things and failing.

Here are some of the things I think we have learned and are learning. The extra congregational meetings have worked! Each congregational meeting has had important discussions and fronted issues which need our attention. We are able to give attention to some important issues because we do not have to cover every single issue in one meeting.

Some times we do not need a whole committee of people as we need one person to handle important polity issues. As a member of Administrative Committee, Victoria Robertson has done an excellent job coordinating our calendars, providing a knowledge bank for us at Administrative Committee meetings, and helping us to better understand the space use relationship we have with Covenant Fellowship Church.

We are already receiving compliments for the way our church is

helping couples navigate a wedding in our church. Sophie Gerstenecker has put together a resource kit for wedding days, developed a historic register for couples married in our church, and is rounding out an updated marriage policy.

Breaking a worship leadership team out of Diaconate has been a huge success. Some of that has been due to the great leadership of Peggy Wade, but having a group meet regularly has been so positive for me. Worship Leadership Team has helped us work with feedback in a positive way, streamlined the regular work and chances we might take as we move forward, and given the congregation opportunity to weigh in on important worship issues (the place of announcements and the frequency of communion).

We have developed a great team concept for doing the regular maintenance and repair of our building. Charles Gammie checks in with a regular report. Folks weigh in with additional items or different assessments. Ken Gilbert, Scott Bush, James Carnahan, and Rick Langendorf (forgive me if I'm missing anyone) have found a way to split the work that seems to get the job done. So though not everything is perfect, we seem to be gaining

ground by leaps and bounds.

The God is still speaking, Leadership Team (evangelism, identity, and outreach) is just about ready to launch a great initiative which will bring structure and formality to the already wonderful informal hospitality we offer.

These are some of the positives I see flowing out of our interim polity time. I know there are frustrations and delays with other huge priorities. I would love to see us kick up our commitment levels to education for all ages of our church. We need a comprehensive pastoral care plan. My hope is that we will eventually displace the good charity work we have done and continue to do with priorities and foci in justice and mission work.

There are times when I come home at the end of the day and say to Tracy, "We'll never get this organized." There are other times when I come home so excited believing that we are on the verge of something great. Maybe that is just church work and both are true. We are learning.

Shalom,

Mike



From the God Is Still Speaking committee:

The God Is Still Speaking committee recognizes CUCC's tradition of community spirit and enthusiastic welcome given to members, friends, and first-time visitors alike. We also recognize the tradition of name tags, as started by Olive and Upson Garrigus, as one method of increasing community and offering welcome.

The committee wishes to build on these traditions as we introduce an initiative that should allow visitors to participate more fully in the life of the church and encourage them to start the process towards becoming members. Starting in the near future, we will intro-

duce new name tags for all members and friends. These name tags will have both a clip and safety pin, and we will have attachable lanyards available if you prefer to wear your tag around your neck. You can pick up your name tag from tables set up in the entrance to the sanctuary. Then, before you leave the church, please drop your name tag back on the table, or in the baskets which we will place in the parlor and at the doors to the sanctuary. We will put the name tags back in alphabetical order so they will be available for you the following week. All CUCC members' name tags will have CUCC symbols on them.

A Name Tag Host will staff the table to help you find your name tag. The host will also create hand-written name tags for first-time visitors and give them a Visitors' Packet with information about CUCC. If you notice people with hand-written name tags, they are new visitors and might appreciate someone to chat with them! In the following week, we will create printed name tags for all visitors so, when they visit C U C C again, they will know that they had been expected and wanted to return.



—Patricia Brady

MAINTAINING OUR BUILDING'S SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Rick Langendorf is the on call person for building issues this quarter. He took the initiative to invite in the fire marshal to review our safety equipment and is working on the few things that fell short of requirements. Those of us who work on maintenance are eager to find the money to replace all thirty of our EXIT signs with LED versions of the same sign. The current EXIT signs require bulb change fairly frequently – and they are all located in odd places so you have to haul a ladder around to change the bulbs. Both EXIT signs and the emergency light systems depend upon a battery back up. This battery has to be checked every six months to be sure that it is still functioning. The batteries that lasts longer if you turn off the power every six

months and let the batteries run down and then recharge. But it's not so easy to get into the church and turn off the power without risking harming the computers or having the furnace refuse to come back on after its had its power shut off for a while. At twelve dollars a replacement battery, it's a significant expense to get them replaced. The LED version of the EXIT signs eliminates both these problems. The cost is about \$45.00 per unit, so we aren't in a position to just replace all our EXIT signs at once, but over time we intend to work them into the maintenance budget.

While Rick was checking in with the fire marshal about EXIT signs and emergency lights. Cindy called the fire extinguisher company to come and check that all our fire extinguishers are fully

armed and ready to work if needed.

Another strategy for safety involves keeping the lights turned ON in the stairwell. The light hanging in the stairwell on the way to the tower room, and the light at the foot of the stairwell in the Fellowship Hall are both low energy fluorescents. It is our intention to leave these lights on around the clock as a way to reduce the risk that somebody who doesn't know where to find the light switch will be forced to travel on a dark stairway. During winter months many evening meetings occur when it is already dark outside. Rather than have people come into a dusky foyer, we intend during winter months to just leave the front door entrance lights turned on around the clock. We hope eventually to

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VACATION: Rev. Michael Mulberry and Rev. Tracy Heilman will be on vacation beginning the evening of Sunday, March 26 through Friday, March 31.

**ILLINOIS COALITION FOR PEACE & JUSTICE
Founding Conference**

April 1, 2006, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Coffeeshouse/Concert, **March 31, 8 - 10 pm**

McKinley Church and Foundation, 809 S. 5th St., Champaign IL 61820
Registration: \$15 (after March 22: \$25); Lunch: \$10 (optional)

Spread the Word! Registrations must be received by March 26.
What do you want your coalition to do? Submit a proposal for action by March 26.

Mail check (payable to OPCTJ) to:
Treasurer, 150 N. Lombard, Oak Park, IL 60302

For more information or to register: Go to: www.ilcpj.org or call 708/668-7945. More information can also be found on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary at CUCC.

Home hospitality is needed for Katherine Hayes. She will be coming to lead the workshop on "How peace/justice groups use the media" which is being organized by Oak Park Coalition for Truth and Justice. Contact Estelle Carol (708-386-7197) if interested in hosting Katherine.

Calendar

3/23, Thursday

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

3/25, Saturday

9:00 am Women's Book Club Espresso
Royale by Krannert

3/26, Sunday ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

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 Hour (P)
6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group Bowling

3/28, Tuesday

7:00 pm Administrative Committee

3/29, Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

3/30, 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

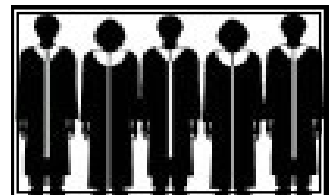
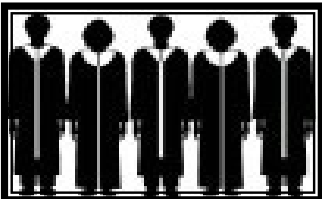
The Chancel Choir of Community United Church of Christ and Singers from the
Campus Ministry and the First Mennonite Church of Urbana
present

FOUR AMERICAN FOLK HYMNS

Arranged by Mack Wilberg with additional selections from the Olive Leaf, 1878, Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835, Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813, and The Sacred Harp

Robert L. Smith, Directory
Linda Vaughn and Deb Sutter, Accompanist

Sunday, April 2, 2006—10:15 am Service
Community United Church of Christ Sanctuary
805 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 344-5091





April 2006



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>*Sunday Schedule 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 6 pm CUCC Youth Group</p>						1 9 am Women's Book Club at Caffe Paradiso
2 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: A Song to Sing 10:15 Four American Folk Hymns 1:30 pm CROP Walk	3 10 am Communion Dead-line	4	5 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens 4:30 pm CODAC Meeting	7 7 pm Youth Group trip to Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Centennial High School	8 9 am Women's Book Club at Caffe Paradiso 9-Noon All Church Workday
9 <i>Palm Sunday</i> *See Schedule Above 10:15 am Palm Processional	10	11	12 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	14 7 pm Good Friday Service 8 pm Prayer Vigil Begins	15 9 am Women's Book Club at Caffe Paradiso Prayer Vigil All Day & Night
16 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8 am Prayer Vigil Ends 9 am Easter Breakfast 9 am CODAC: A Song to Sing 10:15 am Easter Worship No Youth Group	17 10 am Communion Dead-line	18 6:30 pm CODAC at "The Loft" - Calling the Circle	19 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm RE Meeting	20	21	22 9 am Women's Book Club at Caffe Paradiso 5 pm Silent Auction & Pig Roast
23 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: A Song to Sing College Student Led Service 11:30 am New Member Orientation	24	25 6:30 pm CODAC at "The Loft" - Calling the Circle	26 Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29 9 am Women's Book Club at Caffe Paradiso 8:30 am—Noon New Member Class
30 *See Schedule Above 9 am CODAC: Holy Conversations Congregational Meeting				<p>**Thursday Schedule 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Play Group 8 pm AA</p>		

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 26** - Paul Pitcher a Missionary will be joining us
- **Sunday, April 2 at 10:15 am** - Choir Cantata
- **Sunday, April 9 at 10:15 am** - 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, 8 pm - Sunday, April 16, 8 am** - Easter Vigil
- **Sunday, April 16 - 9:00 am** Easter Breakfast ~ Please bring your own table service. Also bring an egg dish, or some kind of bread (muffins, quick breads, etc.) or a fruit dish. Beverages will be provided. Then join us at **10:15 am** for our Easter Service. **Becky Duffield needs help with set-up on Saturday afternoon and then set up, clean up, cleaning up coffee hour upstairs on Easter Sunday. Please call the church office (344-5091) if you can help.**
- **Sunday, April 23** - College Student Led Service

Easter Vigil

With the encouragement of the Worship Leadership Team, Tom Watembach and Rev. Mulberry will be organizing an Easter Vigil starting on Friday, April 14, Good Friday, at 8:00 p.m. and lasting till Easter Day, Sunday, April 16 at 8 am. The

library will be transformed into a chapel space for meditation, prayer, reading, and reflection. Although devotional material will be provided, please feel free to bring your own. Sign up for the Easter Vigil will take place on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary. Sign up

for half hour time slots and feel free to take multiple slots. This vigil offers a time and space for folks to find time and rest to contemplate and meditate on the Holy Week story and how it is repeated time and time again in our world.

Women's Fellowship

Members of Community United Church of Christ's Women's Fellowship met for lunch and program at Clark-Lindsey Village on March 11, 2006. Frances Kurtz and Jan Wilson acted as hostesses. Jean Creswell led the group in devotions. Due to illness, the Rev. Jane Fisler Hoffman, Conference Minister, had to cancel her trip to Champaign to give her program on UCC Conference concerns. Curt and Jan Wilson gave a slide presentation of their Church World Service sponsored tour of India, which was much appreciated.

In the business portion of the meeting, the budget for 2006-2007 was presented, discussed and accepted. Elizabeth Easley reported that the children's braille books, *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds and *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram, had been ordered from BrailleINK. and would be sent to the church for our presentation to the Champaign Public Library and the Urbana Free Library.

—Jean Creswell

MAINTAINING OUR BUILDING'S SAFETY EQUIPMENT

(Continued from page 2)

have a light timer system functioning again that will control the lights outside the entrance. Until we have such as system we are just leaving the lights for the inside entrance on all the time until we get to Daylight Savings Time again. The bulbs are low energy fluorescents so that the cost of this safety measure is very reasonable.

Ken Gilbert is the person on the administrative committee who is assigned to keep on top of building issues. For the current quarter (January through March) Rick Langendorf is the on-call person for building emergencies. If you are aware of safety issues for the building, you would be welcome to contact either of these members.

—Ken Gilbert

Community United Sunday School

Our children and young people are continuing to learn the stories of the last week of Jesus' life in Sunday School and during the Children's time. Each week, a new symbol is introduced to help the children remember the story:

Palm Branch: The people shouted "Hosanna" which means "God saves us" as they waited for their warrior king to enter the city. Instead, Jesus rode in as their Prince of Peace.

Chalice: Jesus gathered with his close friends to celebrate the Jewish Passover. He told his

friends that no matter what others say about them, they are to remember that they are Children of God.

Flower petals: Jesus went to a quiet garden so that he could pray, so that he could listen for God's voice. We can listen for God's voice no matter where we are.

In the weeks ahead, we'll hear about a crown of thorns, a wooden cross, and a large stone

On Easter Sunday, the children are invited to take the bags home so that they can tell the stories over and over to their families.

New Members' Orientation

We encourage church membership and our next membership orientation will begin with an informational meeting on **Sunday, April 23**, right after wor-

ship 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.

SHOWERS OF HOPE



How many faucets do you have in your home. For many children in the world, the answer is none. Five million people, mostly children, die each year from illnesses caused by impure water.

The **CROP WALK**, Sunday, April 2, will provide money for Church World Service to bring safe water to families in many nations of the world. The money will also replenish the store-rooms emptied of disaster relief materials by the past year's hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes. Church World Service will be there

when needed, will our money be there also?

Youth, students, and adult Walkers will be asking for your pledges in the next two weeks. You could also volunteer to be a Walker, or if you can't walk, join me, (Curt Wilson) in non-walking jobs essential to making the Walk work. The walk will tour a part of north-west Champaign where we have never walked before. The Walk starts at St. Peter's UCC at 905 S. Russell--get there early so we can begin the walk at 2 PM

WALK WITH THE WORLD

Community United Youth Group

Much of our focus over the next few months will be preparation for our trip to Alderson, West Virginia, June 25-July 1. We'll spend time learning about the culture and the

causes of poverty in the region. We'll also think about our role in their community during our visit, and our responsibility when we return to our own community.

Work trips are life-changing experiences. If you are in 6th—12th grade, we hope that you will consider joining us this year.

Upcoming Youth Group Schedule 6-8 pm on Sundays

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! If you still need to be convinced to go on the work trip, then join us!

CROP Walk. Would you like to join in the CROP Walk? It will take place at 2pm. Let Tracy know if you can walk.

April 7: Let's support David Robertson and enjoy an evening of Theatre! Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, 7pm at Centennial High. Let me know if you want tickets!

April 9: Our **Lenten Discipline**—God for Beginners. Our conversation was great on the 19th.

Let's just focus on one chapter for our discussion tonight (that will give everyone time to catch up!). So, come prepared to discuss chapter 4.

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

April 22: Silent Auction and Pig Roast! We'll start working in the kitchen at 1pm, in order to prepare the meal and get the Fellowship Hall ready. Please plan to come and help!

April 23: **Fundraising:** We'll work on the thank-you notes to the Auction winners.

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

Silent Auction and Pig Roast Saturday, April 22nd 5-7 pm



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

We invite you and yours to join us for a delicious meal of roast pork, homemade applesauce, mouthwatering cornbread, and delicious fruit cobbler, all served family style. The cost to attend is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. Children under 3 are free.

We are accepting your kind donations of goods, services, gift certificates, and creations to help us raise the needed money for our trip.

We appreciate your support!

Our Prayers

We grieve the loss of Elizabeth McClure and surround Caryl and Kent Henkel and Mary Anderson and her family with our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Elizabeth died on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at The Carle Arbours, Savoy. Our prayers are that Elizabeth has found rest and Sabbath as she moves from death to life.

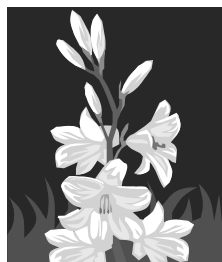
Hospitality Needed!

Next week we welcome Paul "Pablo" Pitcher to our service. Paul recently returned from his missionary work as a "critical presence" with Guatemalan Cultural Ac-

tion. During Paul's stay we will need folks who might volunteer to provide meals, a place to stay overnight, and then transportation to Bloomington after our service next Sunday. We have already received one offer for Paul to stay overnight. So if

someone would be willing to take him out to lunch next Sunday and/or take him to Bloomington shortly after lunch, please call the church office (344-5091).

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.

Communigram

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School ~ 9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal ~ 9:30 am
Worship ~ 10:15 am
Coffee Hour ~ 11:30 am
Youth Group ~ 6-8 pm



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

All Church
Workday



Saturday,
April 8

9:00 am—Noon

The next Communigram
will be mailed out
on April 5.



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OF CHRIST

*A Just Peace, Progressive,
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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

