

Communigram



COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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



VOL. 38 No. 6

APRIL 5, 2006

From the Desk of Rev. Mulberry...

Holy Week Schedule

What an incredible lead-in the Lenten Cantata provided for Holy Week! We begin Holy Week this Sunday, April 9, with our Palm Sunday service at 10:15 a.m. Please pick up palm branches in the church and meet us across the street as we begin the service with the Trial of Christ and a palm processional into the sanctuary. As we process to the altar with our palms, we will join in singing an "echo" song learned by the Sunday School children, "Jesus is coming, pave the way with branches." We invite all ages to place their palms around the altar and on the stairs leading up to the altar. Rev. Tracy Heilman will be leading worship and preaching for Palm Sunday.

On Thursday, April 13, we will be sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion during our traditional Maundy Thursday service. The service will be in the sanctuary and begin at 7:00 p.m. In keeping with the congregational surveys the Wor-

ship Leadership Team received about the frequency and serving of Holy Communion, we will offer an alternative to the way the elements will be served. We will ask folk to come forward to receive the elements by intinction (breaking off a piece of bread and then dipping the bread into the juice to receive them both at the same time). When those who can come forward have been served, the communion stewards will then go out into the congregation to serve those who cannot come forward. Child care will be provided.

On Friday, April 14, we will have our Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. During this time we repent of the violence found in the cross and name our doubts and questions to light the way home. Child care will be provided.

Right after the Good Friday service, at 8:00 p.m., we will begin our Easter Vigil in the Jack Good Library. The library will be converted into a chapel with devotional material, opportuni-

ties for sacred music and prayer, and just a time to remain in silence. Sign up for the Easter Vigil is found on a clipboard on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary. You may also call the church office to find available times. Feel free to sign up for multiple half hours or times.

The Easter Vigil leads right into our Easter Breakfast on Easter Day, Sunday, April 16, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall *[Please bring your own table service, an egg dish, or some kind of bread (muffins, quick breads, etc.) or a fruit dish. Beverages will be provided.]* followed by our Easter Day worship service at 10:15 a.m. My sincere hope is that the Lenten repentance, reflection, and study we have done will culminate in a more intentional path we celebrate in joy on Easter Day.

Shalom,

Mike



Moderator's Musings

I have missed you. I have been traveling quite a few of the weekends of late and so I haven't seen you, my church community. I hope to be around again soon. If there is anything that you need to tell me, feel free to pick up the phone or drop me an email.

The last Administrative Committee meeting was March 19 and we had a packed agenda. In the current polity, we haven't yet found a balance - there seems to be too much stuff that the Administrative Committee works on or discusses. But we did have a good meeting and one thing that sticks out for me is our approval of a request to remove the partial pew next to the sound system and the children's table to make more room for the children's area in the back of church. It is very

exciting to see all of the children in our church community.

On April 4 we had a successful presentation by Student Center Associates regarding our additional property. Their focus has been working with campus ministries to revitalize them with a new cash flow and a new way of doing ministry by building resident housing. The resident housing brings in money from the rent, but also brings the students closer to the ministry. Many of these buildings include parking underneath, business space on the first floor, and additional areas for ministry. This is an exciting prospect, but I think it is a big commitment that we would be entering into and we should decide that we are committed to our UCC Campus Ministry before moving forward. I do not have my notes as I

write this, but I believe the following people saw the presentation and would be good people to start discussions with: Deb Townsend, Roger Wade, Curt Wilson, Becky Hanson, Ken Gilbert, Ruth Gilbert, Jean Due, and me. The financial commitment would start with \$15,000 for a feasibility study followed by a large borrowing of money in order to fund the project. The big benefit that was presented to us in regards to the latter, is that tax-free lending would be available to us creating a smaller interest cost on the project. I think this is an opportunity that we should consider and I am very interested in knowing your thoughts on the matter.

Peace, David Gerstenecker,
Moderator

Voices for Peace

People are needed to help organize an event entitled "Voices for Peace" held at our church during the second week of May (just before Mother's Day, a holy day of peace). In a climate where to talk about "peace" is to be unpatriotic and unsupportive of our troops, we need to remember the "voices of peace" that have been historical to the Christian tradition. In much the same manner as Howard Zinn's recent presentation of the "Voices of a People's History of the United States" <http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=06/02/20/148251&mode=thread&tid=25>, we will present these voices to the C-U community to bolster our courage and claim an important path.

Along with these voices, we will need folks to help organize musical selections, organize care packages for U.S. troops with conscientious objector material, and make sure that the whole event rhymes with our mission and ministry as a just peace church. Please contact Rev. Mulberry if you are interested in helping with this important event.



Calendar

4/06, Thursday

7:00 am Men's Breakfast at *Urbana Garden's*
 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
 4:30 pm CODAC Meeting (CR)
 8:00 pm AA (P)

4/08, Saturday

9:00 am—Noon All Church Work Day
 9:00 am Women's Book Club Espresso Royale

by Krannert

4/09, Sunday - Palm Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School (FH, R 1-5)
 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
 10:15 am Palm Processional and Worship (S)
 11:30 am Free Blood Pressure Checks (L)
 11:30 am Coffee Hour (P)
 6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group meets for dinner at

Sam Mate's house (405 N. Garfield, Champaign) **Lenten**

Discipline—God for Beginners

4/12, Wednesday

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

4/13, Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service (S)
 8:00 pm AA (P)

4/14, Friday

7:00 pm Good Friday Service ~ Communion (P)
 8:00 pm Easter Vigil through Easter Sunday (L)

4/15, Saturday

Easter Vigil Continues all day through Easter Sunday (L)

9:00 am Women's Book Club Espresso Royale

by Krannert

4/16, Sunday ~ Easter Sunday

8:00 am Easter Vigil ends
 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (CR)
 9:00 am Easter Breakfast (FH)

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)

10:15 am Worship (S)

11:30 am Coffee Hour (P)

6:00 pm No Youth Group

4/18, Tuesday

6:30 pm *Call the Circle* at the Loft

4/19, Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest
 5:30 pm Worship Task Force (CR)
 6:30 pm RE Meeting (FH)
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (P)

4/20, Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline
 9:30 am Preschool Play Group
 7:00 pm Women's Fellowship Dessert (P)
 8:00 pm AA (P)

4/22, Saturday

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

5:00-7 pm Silent Auction & Pig Roast (FH)

4/23, Sunday ~ First Sunday after Easter

9:00 am Sunday School (FH, R 1-5)
 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (S)
 10:15 am College Student led Worship (S)
 11:30 am Coffee Hour (P)
 11:30 am New Member Orientation (L)
 11:30 am Administrative Committee (CR)
 6:00 pm CUCC Youth (TR)

4/24, Monday

10:00 am *Communigram* Deadline

4/25, Tuesday

6:30 pm *Call the Circle* at the Loft

4/26, Wednesday

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

4/27, 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

Calling all Softball Players!!!!

If you're interested in playing on the church co-rec softball team for this year, it's not too late. All games are played on Friday evenings at either Dodds softball complex or Dexter field at Centennial Park. Practices will start the week after Easter. Our first game will be Friday, May 5th and the season usually ends with a tourna-

ment in mid-August. We do not play Memorial Day weekend or Fourth of July weekend. The fee will be \$20.00 per person for the league (the price of new shirts is yet to be determined). If you are interested in playing, please contact the church office (344-5091) or email (info@community-ucc.org).

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.

God Is Still Speaking,

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. Beginning Sunday, April 23, the Sunday after Easter, we will introduce 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 CUCC again, they will know that they had been expected and wanted to return.

—Patricia Brady



Parking Space Rental



There are currently 3 parking spaces available for weekday rental in our parking lot. We are eager to keep up the income flow from parking rental, so don't hesitate to mention the opportunity to your colleagues working on or near campus. These are specifically reserved spaces (as contrasted to University Parking Contracts which give the option of parking in a lot, but do not reserve a specific space). Contracts run Feb through July/ Aug through January. Payment is at the beginning of the contract for six months, or pro rated from the time of beginning the contract. A potential renter may walk into the church office Monday through Thursday 9 AM to

4 PM or may contact the church office manager at info@community-ucc.org.

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.

Children's Lenten Offering

Our children have been saving their change for Heifer Project. Children have had the opportunity fill their Ark Banks during Lent. Now, on Easter Sunday, children are invited to bring their filled banks forward during the Children's Time.

We will dedicate this offering to Heifer's work in our world.

Don't forget, bring your filled Ark Bank to church on Easter Sunday!



Women's Fellowship

Due to the schedule conflict between the Women's Fellowship meeting date and the Maundy Thursday church service date, the members of the Women's Fellowship will meet one week later, on **Thursday, April 20, 2006**, at

7:00 p.m. in the church parlor for dessert and a meeting to learn about the current Religious Education curriculum. More details later.

—Jean Creswell



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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

Our Little Blessings need some watching!

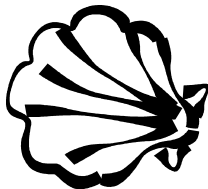
We need extra hands in the nursery. Sign up sheets are available in the Nursery room. You may also contact Rev. Tracy Heilman (344-5091 or tracy@community-ucc.org). Please volunteer to help out in the coming weeks.



New Baby

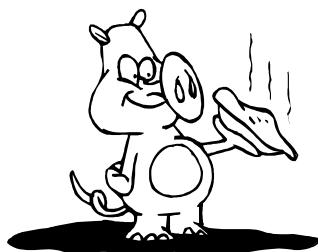


Congratulations to Tei, Donald and Claire Barnhart following the birth of their new son. They welcomed Allen David Barnhart into their hearts on Wednesday, March 29.



Congratulations to Jacob Andrew Aebischer Mulberry who was baptized on Sunday, March 26, 2006.

Jacob is the son of Rev. Michael Mulberry and Rev. Tracy Heilman.



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

Dinner Served Family Style

Roast Pork
Homemade Applesauce
Mouthwatering Cornbread
Delicious Fruit Cobbler

\$10 for adults
\$ 5 for children 5-12
Children under 5 free

Tickets

Tickets available by calling
Rev. Tracy Heilman (344-5091)
or by email at [<tracy@community-ucc.org>](mailto:tracy@community-ucc.org)

Tickets also available in the Parlor during the Coffee Hour on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

Auction Items

Goods, Services, Gift Certificates, and Community Creative Concoctions
To donate contact Rev. Tracy Heilman

Proceeds go towards raising funds to finance CUCC'S Youth Group's work trip to Alderson, WV to rehab houses in the Appalachian Region.

Community United Youth Group

We have a great group headed to Alderson, WV, in the Appalachian Mountain Region for our annual service trip. We'll head out on Sunday, June 25th, and return on Saturday, July 1st. So far, the youth participants are: Emily Ward, Jeff Offenbecher, David Burns, Jessica Bush, Sam Mate, Nathan Smith and Julia Kara. Adult chaperones are Tracy

Heilman, Paul Offenbecher and Laurence Mate. We still have room for 1 or 2 more people, but we have to know immediately if you are interested!

While in Alderson, we will be sleeping in the Alderson Community Center, the town's former High School. We will be working along side the Alderson Ministerial Association to help improve the lives of the town's elderly and low income

residents by helping with home repairs.

Medical forms, trip covenants and application forms are due in the church office by April 9th, so that we can get them mailed in to Alderson by the 17th. Watch your mail for another copy of these forms, and bring them with you to church or youth group on the 9th!

Upcoming Youth Group Schedule 6-8 pm on Sundays

April 9: Our **Lenten Discipline**—God for Beginners. We'll be meeting at Sam Mate's house (405 N. Garfield, Champaign) for dinner and discussion. Be sure to read chapter 4, "The Bible" for our discussion.

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

April 23: **Fundraising:** We'll go over the results of the Silent Auction and send out certificates to all the winners!

April 30: **Fun!** Swimming at Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center.

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 5 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!

Administrative Committee

The Administrative Committee met on March 19.

We discussed the Congregational Meeting scheduled for April 30. The emphasis of the meeting should be fellowship and education, but there are other things we want to address. In particular, we want to add two additional members to the Administrative Committee. Nominations are being solicited.

A meeting with Charlie Oewel was planned where he could present ideas for possible redevelopment of the church property. Nothing is "in the works" at this point, we're just listening to ideas.

The Administrative Committee is planning a retreat in June. The topic will be where we want to go when the 2-year interim polity period ends at the end of the year.

We agreed to remove one pew from the left rear of the sanctuary to make room for more children. The current space is getting too small.

We discussed a number of maintenance issues that we have with our building. We decided to officially form a Building Maintenance Task Group. Scott Bush will be the task leader. One issue is to have members trained as "backups" for critical Building Manager tasks who can step in in case of emergency.

The next meeting was set for Sunday, April 23 after church.

As always, copies of Administrative Committee minutes can be obtained from the church office.

David Willcox, Clerk



Call for Nominations

Your Administrative Committee has decided to expand its numbers by two "members-at-large" for the rest of 2006. You are invited to submit nominations **BY APRIL 16, EASTER SUNDAY**. You may send the church an email <info@community-ucc.org> or put a letter in my drawer in the church office describing your nominee's qualifications. Members of the Administrative Committee must be members of CUCC. You may nominate yourself.

The responsibilities of the Administrative Committee, as stated in the interim constitution, are:

Trustee for all church property
Current expense budget
Budget for benevolence programs
Authorize extraordinary expenses
Borrow < \$3,000
Keep records of all proceedings

Report to the congregation
Choose staff and additional officers if needed
Make temporary appointments to fill vacancies
(except pastor)
Authority over areas not covered by Task Leaders
Custodian of all church records

THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16. We expect to make selections at our April 23 meeting. Feel free to discuss this with any AC member.

Please call the church office (344-5091) for any questions.

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

The next Communigram
will be mailed out
on April 26.

All Church Workday



Saturday,
April 8

9:00 am—Noon

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

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

Holy Week

- **Sunday, April 9 at 10:15 am** - Palm Sunday, Palm Processional
- **Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 pm** - Maundy Thursday Service – traditional service in sanctuary
- **Friday, April 14 at 7:00 pm** - Good Friday Service – informal service in Parlor
- **Friday, April 14, 8 pm through Sunday, April 16, 8 am** - Easter Vigil in the Jack Good Library—sign up in back of sanctuary for half hour time slots—feel free to take multiple slots
- **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.**