

Communigram



COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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



VOL. 38 No. 7
APRIL 26, 2006

From the Desk of Rev. Mulberry...

My hometown church would fill the sanctuary each Palm Sunday. One church I served had two Christmas Eve services filled with about 400 people for **each** service. This same church would top out at about 175 for every Sunday's worship.

One of the most difficult parts of serving this same church was that many folks, who only attended Christmas Eve services, would expect everything to remain the same until they attended church the next Christmas Eve. Even though we had been doing something the entire liturgical year the same way (like where the pastor sat in relation to the pulpit), some folks would be livid that a change had been made since the last Christmas Eve service. These folks were not visitors from afar. These were people who lived right in the same community as the church.

Sometimes I found myself speechless trying to help the Church Council understand why complaints and criticisms from people who attended church once or twice a year should be heard but perhaps not given the same value as those who attended and participated regularly. I believe a church's education, mission, and ministry should bend toward high participation. In other words, those who teach and attend Sunday School, par-

ticipate in adult education, lead out the church's mission and ministry, participate in congregational work and activities, and attend special services should not necessarily get all the power. Those involved, however, should get more out of the church's work and, naturally, have more input into decision-making.

I work very hard to try and integrate adult education classes into our worship and community life. I believe some of the chances we took with music over Lent meant much more to those involved with the adult education offering "A Song to Sing" than it did to others who were not a part of that class. The book shared a classical organist's love for jazz and the deep meaning of Psalms within the Judeo-Christian tradition. We tried a jazz service, canted Psalms, included a jazzier Petition for Forgiveness as an overture to those studying the book. I know there were rough edges, but we gave these musical choices the old, college try.

For those children who came every week, there was the repetition Tracy offered with the different Holy Week symbols. My hope is that the great content Tracy shared with those symbols had enough repetition that the content now reverberates in our children's heads and hearts.

My hope and prayer is that those who participated in the Maundy Thursday service, the Good Friday service, the Easter vigil, and the Easter breakfast found Easter services much more meaningful than had they not otherwise attended these offerings.

All of this is to say, I hope and pray that we can have a good balance of making folks feel welcome and invited who do not or cannot regularly attend Sunday services, educational opportunities, or community events with integrated opportunities that deepen the experience and the faith of those who attend and participate. I want folks to think they have missed something if the only thing they do for Easter is the Sunday service.

My grandest hope and prayer is that we are a church that is always grounded and always on the move. So almost everyone who attends our church will know that we have spent enough time to deepen our faith and that we believe God is still speaking to continue growing and moving.

Shalom,

Mike



Moderator's Musings

Easter is a wonderful time of the year! I appreciated the worship service that the campus ministry put on for us on Sunday - it was wonderful. I also enjoyed seeing the well used children's space at the back of the sanctuary. I pray that you all agree with me that taking out the rest of the pew was an excellent idea.

Our next congregational meeting is May 21 and will include a meal after worship service. Elsewhere in this Communi-gram you will find the announcement of this meeting which includes the agenda and proposed amendment to the constitution. I look forward to seeing you there!

One of the big things that our congregation will be discussing in the next many weeks is what we will do with the information we were presented with by the Student Center Associates. There is definitely excitement coming out of the people that attended the presentation; Ken Gilbert is one of those and the Administrative Committee has approved him to be the primary "flag-waver" for this endeavor. In the following weeks, there will be more information at one of the worship services and there will definitely be information at the May 21 Spring Congregational Meeting.

Another item that I will touch on is our wonderful landscaping

work that has been accomplished. It looks great and I look forward to it coming to full glory! There is even more landscaping to be done, but in order for the dreams of the leaders of this project to be realized, more donations to this project are needed. I thank Vicky Robertson for the great energy she has put into creating a more beautiful outside of the church, and with your help, she can continue to make our wishes come true - clearly being a welcoming church (both in spirit and aesthetics)!

Peace,

David Gerstenecker

Church Structure-Where Do We Start?

Want to discuss the new permanent structure of the church with a great resource? This Sunday, April 30, begins a book study with Rev. Mulberry. We will read the book, *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, through Sunday, May 21 as a way to talk about next steps. Please read the book through Chapter 2 (p. 35) for our first

class. Questions in dialogue with the text we will discuss will be: What is appropriate planning? How much time will it take? What should we ask before we begin?

This is a great opportunity to educate ourselves and begin the process of planning for our permanent polity.

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 www.community-ucc.org.



News from the Worship Task Force

Calendar

Please mark these dates on your calendar:

- 1) **May 28th** - service outdoors at Hessel Park - 10:15 A.M. (Pavillion has been reserved in case of rain from 9:30 - noon). Bring your lawn chairs or blankets to this informal service. Communion will be served (see note from the Just Eating Group regarding the different "feast" style communion that we will be sharing). You are also invited to bring a picnic lunch following the service.
- 2) **June 4th** - we begin our Summer Worship hours - 9:30 service in the sanctuary. We will return to the 10:15 time on September 3rd.
- 3) **2 other outside services this summer** - watch for upcoming details for one outside service in July and another in August.

As always, questions, comments, suggestions are welcomed and can be made at any time to one of the Worship Task Force members: Mike Allen, Sarah Isaacs, Mike Mulberry, Elaine Peppers, Mary Ellen Schroeder, Emily Ward or Peg Wade.

4/27, Thursday

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

4/29, Saturday

- 8:30 am—Noon** New Member Class
 - 9:00 am** Women's Book Club Espresso
- Royale by Krannert

4/30, Sunday ~ Third Sunday of Easter

- 9:00 am** Sunday School (FH, R 1-5)
- 9:00 am** CODAC: Holy Conversations begins (CR)
- 9:30 am** Choir Rehearsal (S)
- 10:15 am** Worship (S)
- 11:30 am** Coffee Hour (P)
- 6:00 pm** CUCC Youth (TR)



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

Deadlines for Communigram, 2006.



April 24, May 8, 22, June 12, 26, July 10, 24, August 14, 28, September 11, 25, October 9, 23, November 6, 20, December 4, 18

Did you know?

Did you know?.....Community UCC member Neil Kelleher was recently listed on the University of Illinois website as one of four people who will change the world.

Church Women United May Fellowship Day

Church Women United May Fellowship Day meets Friday May 5 from 6:30-8 PM at Grace United Methodist church, 2004 S. Philo Road, Urbana. The program will include honoring outstanding young women of the various churches. If you need a ride, call the church office (344-5091)

Voices of Peace: Reclaiming the Christian Tradition

Dramatic Readings of Christians Advocating
for Peace and Justice from 30 CE to present Day

Starring:

Julia Ward Howe
Edith Cavell
Oscar Romero
Martin Luther King Jr
Bartoleme de Las Casas
Tom Fox
Jimmy Carter
Dorothy Day
Cesar Chavez
St. Francis

“This Madness Must Cease” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

7:00 pm

Thursday May 4, 2006

Community United Church of Christ, 6th & Daniel Champaign

Sponsored by: First Mennonite Church, Community United Church of Christ, McKinley Presbyterian Church, Friends Meeting, East Bend Mennonite Peace & Social Concerns Committee, Channing Murray Foundation, Illinois Disciples Foundation, Unitarian Universalist Church, CU-Interfaith Alliance, St. Jude Catholic Worker House, University YMCA, St. Patrick’s Social Action Committee

"Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories and Photos" Thursday, May 11 ~ 7:00 pm

AWARE is hosting Anna Balzter, a Jewish American Columbia graduate, Fulbright Scholar, and recent author of the book, Witness in Palestine: Journal of a Jewish American Woman in the

Occupied Territories. This evening slideshow and talk by Anna will be at Community United Church of Christ in the Parlor on Thursday, May 11 at 7 pm.

Making Health Care Work for All! Let the voices of faith be heard!

The United Church of Christ and the U.S. Congress are asking for the public's input on health care issues.

Congress has created "The Citizen's Health Care Working Group" to find ways to make health care work for all. The Working Group has developed 4 questions that can be answered either on paper, (see Linda Morgan or Jan Wilson for the brochure), or online at www.citizenshealthcare.gov.

The responses will be compiled and recommendations given to the President and Congress. The United Church of Christ, other mainline denominations and interfaith organizations including the Universal Health Care Action Network, are working together to maximize public input into this process. NOTE: There is an informative slide show available for more information at the above website.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED BEFORE MAY 15, 2006. Legisla-

tive proposals will be coming out in 2007.

I hope you can participate in this national dialogue and campaign to let Congress know how they should shape a health care system that would provide health care for all!! Feel free to ask friends, neighbors and co-workers to send in their responses as well.

Thank you for your help in this process.
Linda Morgan,
CUCC Parish Nurse

Carpet Cleaning Volunteers: Please Report for Duty!

We want to take advantage of all the extra hands available to help us clear the floor after the congregational meeting scheduled for May 21st. We will be cleaning the Fellowship Hall carpet after that meeting, and we will be cleaning the sanctuary carpet and upstairs hallway carpet on Saturday evening May 20th. We need a few volunteers to fill 3-4 hour slots. It is fairly heavy

work as you have to be able to haul pails of hot water to the carpet cleaning machine, and haul away pails of mucky water to dump down the toilet. But the satisfaction of seeing all that muck being dumped out, and realizing that it had been in our carpets makes it well worth the effort. See Ken Gilbert to get on the list and arrange a best time for your own schedule.



A Memorial Service

Celebrating the life of

Alice Elizabeth McClure

(mother of Caryl Henkel)

will be held on Saturday, May 6th at 11:00 a.m.

at Community United Church of Christ,

at the corner of Sixth and Daniel, Champaign, IL.

It will be followed by a community luncheon to which all attending the service are invited. For the purpose of food planning, if you are going to be able to stay for the lunch, please RSVP to the church (344-5091 or info@community-ucc.org) by May 4th.

Memorials are requested for Community United Church of Christ Memorial Fund, Olivet College (Michigan), and/or Bangor Theological Seminary.



Outdoor Ministries Summer Camp 2006 ~ Peace Talks



Illinois Conference Camps are now affiliated with the American Camping Association! Both Tower Hill and Pilgrim Park offer quality, Christian camping experiences for youth and adults.

Summer is just around the corner. Time to plan for exciting activities, fun in the sun, and learning more about God's world. Come join in the fun at Tower Hill and Pilgrim Park with our 2006 summer activities.

- * Looking for family programs? Try constellations or Grandparents and Me.
- * Is this the first time away from home? Try Tenderfoot Camp.
- * Are you in confirmation class? Try our Confirmation Camp
- * Just want to have fun and meet new friends? Come spend the week at any of our camps.
- * Looking for something that will stretch your boundaries and renew your spirit? Contact Renewal in the Wilderness, a program for teens, adults, and clergy that is endorsed by the Outdoor Ministries.

Pilgrim Park is near Princeton, IL. Tower Hill is near Sawyer, MI. Both camps have much to offer. Come and see why this summer. Scholarships are available for both camps.

For more information on all the camps offered look on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary for the camp schedule.. For registration materials, contact Tara Cade at 815-447-2390 or registrar@il-odm.org.



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*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





Youth Group at CUCC

All youth in grades 6 – 12 are invited, welcome and encouraged to attend our weekly gatherings in the Tower Room, from 6-8 pm. We snack, talk, laugh, reflect, and nurture our connections to one another and to our community. We hope you'll join us!

April 30th: We're going swimming. We'll meet at the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center at 5:00, We'll swim and "cavort" until 7 pm. Please bring \$5 for the admission fee.

May 7th: Work Trip Orientation Session 1: Why do we do mission?

May 14th: It's Mother's Day! No Youth Group so that you can spend the time pampering your Moms.

May 21st: Work Trip Orientation Session 2: Youth participants and their parents should plan to attend this meeting as we go over some of the logistics of our trip.

May 28th: It's the Memorial Day weekend, but let's have Youth Group anyway. We'll meet at a local park for a barbeque, and have a discussion of chapter 5, "About God."

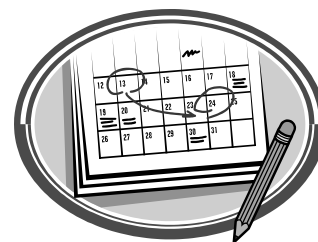
June 4: Work Trip Orientation Session 3: Bridge Builders

June 11: Let's celebrate the end of school with a trip to Harvest Moon drive in! Show time will probably be about 9 pm, so we'll plan to meet at the church at 7 pm and carpool to Gibson City. We'll return late, close to midnight. **New 6th graders are invited to join!**

June 18: Work Trip Orientation Session 4: Walking in another's shoes.

Contact for Calendar at CUCC

For scheduling events at CUCC or for anybody who has any calendar inquiries please call the church (344-5091) or email Vicky at the CUCC Website www.community-ucc.org. Thank you.

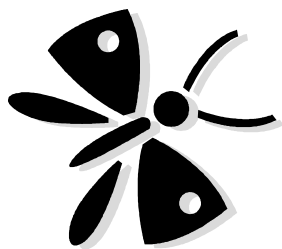


Rev. Mike Mulberry to Speak at Interfaith Alliance

Monday, May 1 at 7 pm

Monday, May 1st at 7:00 the C-U Interfaith Alliance will host a discussion about immigration issues. Rev. Mike Mulberry, from Community United Church of Christ, will lead the discussion, titled "Walking a Path in the Desert: Immigration Reform" Immigration is a complex issue... come prepared for a vigorous discussion. Interfaith Alliance meets at McKinley Foundation at the corner of 5th and Daniel on the U of I campus in Champaign.

Sunday School at CUCC

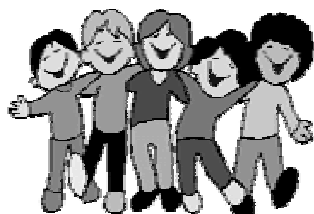


Our children and young people are finishing up their unit on Jesus' Death and Resurrection. As part of the culmina-

tion of the unit, the Level 2 students have planned a Sunday School Communion Service for April 30th. Trevor Bush will be playing the piano, Lauren Kordik will lead a group prayer, Paul Kordik will share the words of blessing, and Katie Carnahan will bless the elements. Many thanks to these young people, and their Shepherd Alicia Persigehl, for planning the service.

We hope that all of the Sunday School children will be present for the Communion Service on Sunday, April 30th, from 9:15 – 9:30. Children will then return to their classes after the service.

Big Kid's Room: Calling all volunteers



We're looking for adult volunteers in the Big Kid's Room for the month of May. The Gammie/Hoganson family, Weinhold/Kelsky family, Lanneskogs

and Kellehers have been volunteering for the past few months. We'd like to give some new families an opportunity to spend time with the Big Kids.

The adult volunteers work with our staff person, David Robertson, to present the day's message in age-appropriate ways. Stories and activities are provided to the volunteers.

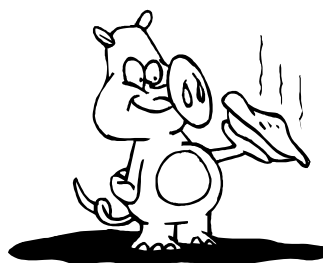
If you are willing to help, please contact Tracy (tracy@community-ucc.org)

God Makes a World

Our next unit will explore one of the familiar stories of God's creation of the world, found in Genesis 1:1 – 2:3. This creation story was probably written during the time of the Babylonian exile and would certainly have been received as a word of hope. God's words in Genesis are a litany of delight and wonder at the creation.

We are currently recruiting teachers for this session. We will be raising painted lady butterflies in the Hands On workshop. In Community Life, we will be making Creation Care Kits for the congregation. In our closing session of Sunday School, we will be taking a Cosmic Walk. If you are interested in leading one of the workshops, please contact Tracy at tracy@community-ucc.org.

Thank You



Thanks to all who ate, bid and donated to help support the Youth Group's Silent Auction and Pig Roast. With your help, we raised nearly \$2000!

CROP Update

CROP preliminary report (collection tonight so we have only partial report now), CUCC had ten walkers, including several of our High School group, and raised at least \$1,115. Total report in later Communigram. We did well! Thanks to all our faithful walkers.

Community United Church of Christ
805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Communigram

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



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 May 10.**

To the members of Community United Church of Christ:

The Administrative Committee has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 21 at noon. The agenda will be:

1. Extension of the Administrative Committee.

The Congregation will be asked to to approve the following amendment to the interim Constitution:

Moved, that two members-at-large be added to the Administrative Committee defined in Article VII (Administrative Committee), Section 1; the line "It shall consist of the Pastor, the Moderator (who shall serve as Chair), the Treasurer, the Clerk, the Internal Communications Officer, the Community Life Calendar Person, and the Financial Policy Officer" shall be modified to read "It shall consist of the Pastor, the Moderator (who shall serve as Chair), the Treasurer, the Clerk, the Internal Communications Officer, the Community Life Calendar Person, the Financial Policy Officer, and two (2) Members-At-Large."

Assuming the above motion passes, the Congregation will be asked to elect members to those new positions.

2. A report on the meeting Student Center Associates about possible redevelopment of the church property, plus other outstanding building issues.
3. A report on plans for adult education and CODAC.

Please join us then.

David Willcox, Clerk