

# Communigram



COMMUNITY  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

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



VOL. 38 No. 8

MAY 10, 2006

## From the Desk of Rev. Mulberry...

**O**n Sunday, May 28, we will share in the sacrament of holy communion during our outdoor service at Hessel Park. This sharing will not, however, have the traditional bread and grape juice. We are going to use flatbread, strawberries, and hot chocolate. The flatbread will be once again prepared by our own Pat Syoen, the hot chocolate will be fair trade, and we hope the strawberries grown will be organic and local.

Jesus used the elements at hand to make a common meal, a sacramental meal. Grape and bread were what folks had at hand. An every day meal was made meaningful because it was shared, God was seen in the sharing, and a people were sustained for their journey.

Often people share with me that their most meaningful communion was when folks had to use what was at hand: water and saltine crackers, tortillas and coffee, stale bread

and just a little fruit punch. So we hope using different elements will not lose the basic meaning of communion. We also hope using different elements opens us up to new ways of sharing in the sacrament.

In William Warren's history of the Ojibway people, Warren shares Ojibway mythology about the afterlife. After an Ojibway dies, the soul follows a beaten path that first leads them to the Heart berry, or strawberry, from which soul eats to continue the rest of the journey. In Aztec culture and mythology, chocolate was considered the food of the gods, used as a form of currency and tribute, and a cup of foaming chocolate was shared in wedding ceremonies. In our culture, chocolate and strawberries have come to represent sensuality as an aphrodisiac, a prelude to intimacy.

The participants in the *Just Eating?* curriculum put this new way of doing holy communion together asking us to

think about the food we eat, how it was grown, who receives the money for its production, and how far it has to travel for purchase. An analysis of all those questions for bread and grapes, our traditional elements, was a part of our curriculum and copies have been made of that analysis and put on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary.

So we invite everyone to our outdoor service starting at 10:15 a.m. at Hessel Park. Who knows what kind of crowd we attract if they find us sharing in a sensual, food of the gods, homemade flatbread feast?

Shalom,

*Mike*



## Celebrating the Season's Bounties Brought to you by the *Just Eating?* Gang

*Mike Mulberry, Sally and Jack Paxton, Susan Schnuer, Pat Syoen, Jeanne Ward*



Last fall the *Just Eating?* Group met several weeks in a row to study and reflect on what it means to practice our faith at the table. Together we explored issues of the health of our bodies, the access that others have to food, the health of the earth, and the ways that we use food to extend hospitality and enrich relationships.

At the conclusion of our study we decided to bring the ideas that we had discussed to the congregation in a series of events. We will start with the Communion Feast on Sunday, May 28.

Communion is an integral part of our tradition yet our current practices do not allow us to explore different approaches to celebrating this important rite nor tie us together as a community. The Just Eating group has decided to tie the communion on May 28 with our celebration of local bounties and indigenous cultures. We believe that Jesus used local produce to celebrate the last supper and we would like to explore this possibility with a feast that will offer CUCC members a communion of strawberries, flatbread, and a chocolate drink. We want to hear your reflections and thoughts as we embark on this journey. We hope that you will join us as we seek to understand our relationship to the food that we serve at our tables and our role in determining best practices for our planet.

Here is information about two other events and how you can register to participate.

### **Registration Coordinator: Pat Syoen**

Exploration of the Season's Bounties, Saturday, June 3, 9:00 – 12:00: Please join Laurence Mate of Prairieland Slow Food on a morning of exploration. First the group will head to the Farmer's market to learn how to select the best produce and food. Then they will return to CUCC to work with Laurence on a meal that features the best of our local produce. The cost of this activity is \$10 per person or \$15 per family.

UCC Community Feast, June 11, 1:00 – 5:00 pm at Prairie Fruit Farms, 4410 N. Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, Illinois: This is a wonderful family day that will feature milking of goats, bread-making, and picking of strawberries and raspberries. The day will conclude with a feast provided by our host Leslie Cooperband and Wes Jarrell. The cost is \$25 per participant.

If you are interested in either of these events, please contact the church office (344-5091).

## **"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.

# Calendar

## 5/11, Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline  
 9:30 am Preschool Play Group  
 1:00 pm Women's Fellowship at Olive Garrigus'

home

7:00 pm Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness  
 Stories and Photos (P)  
 8:00 pm AA (FH)

## 5/12, Friday

6:00 pm CUCC vs Urbana First Wesleyan, Dodds  
 Field 5

8:00 pm CUCC vs Temple Baptist, Dodds Field 7

## 5/13, Saturday

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

## 5/14, Sunday ~ Festival of the Christian Home/Mother's day

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)

No Youth Group—Enjoy your mothers!

## 5/17, Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

## 5/18, Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline  
 9:30 am Preschool Play Group  
 5:30 pm Worship Task Force  
 8:00 pm AA (FH)

## 5/19, Friday

8:00 pm CUCC vs Quest UMC, Dexter Field

## 5/20, Saturday

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

## 5/21, Sunday ~ New Member Sunday

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 (TR)

## 5/22, Monday

9:00 am *Communigram* Deadline

## 5/24, Wednesday

Noon Prayer Protest

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

## 5/25, Thursday

9:00 am Bulletin Deadline

9:30 am Preschool Play Group

8:00 pm AA (FH)

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



## CUCC Softball Schedule

May 12<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm Urbana First Wesleyan vs. CUCC,  
 Dodds Field 5

8 pm CUCC vs. Temple Baptist, Dodds Field 7

May 19<sup>th</sup> - 8 pm CUCC vs. Quest UMC, Dexter field

June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8 pm Axis Student Ministries vs. CUCC, Dex-  
 ter field

June 9<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm Vineyard Navy vs. CUCC, Dodds Field 4

June 16<sup>th</sup> - 8 pm Vineyard Yellow vs. CUCC, Dexter  
 field

June 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6 pm CUCC vs. Vineyard Green, Dodds  
 Field 7

July 7<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm CUCC vs. Urbana Assembly of God,  
 Dexter Field

A tournament will be played following the end of the regular season. Tentatively, the tournament is scheduled for the last weekend in July or the first weekend in August if there are no rainouts. If the weather is questionable, call the Champaign Park District leisure line at 398-2589 after 4:00pm to check game status. Dodds Park softball complex is located at 2001 Parkland Way (near Parkland College). Dexter field is located in Centennial Park at 710 Kenwood Road in Champaign. Hope to see you there!



## Congratulations to the Urbana High School Graduates Class of 2006



David Burns will be going to the University of Illinois

Linnea Joffe-Nelson will be attending Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin and will be running track

Emily Ward will be attending Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri.

### Graduation Party

**L**innea Joffe-Nelson and Emily Ward are graduating from Urbana High School! Time to celebrate with friends and family! The church family is invited to attend an open house

on Saturday, May 27, from Noon until 3:00 p.m. at the Ward's home. Come for refreshments and to join in the fun!

### Women's Fellowship

**W**omen's Fellowship met on April 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church basement for a tour of the Religious Education facilities and a description of the Religious Education curriculum led by Ellen Kordik, the Task Leader of the Children and Family Ministries. We explored the meeting tent and marveled at the central fire, saw the equipment in the classrooms, including the computer room, and enjoyed a complete description of the content and

methodology of the Religious Education program. The Church families are blessed to have such a complete Religious Education program led by the Rev. Tracy Heilman and Ellen Kordik.

Becky Hanson, Marianna Janssen and Elaine Peppers hosted the business meeting in the Church parlor. The members present proposed that they would write personal notes to the volunteer teachers in the Religious Education program to thank them for their participation.

Jean Creswell reported that she and Elizabeth Easley had delivered the braille books which the Women's Fellowship had ordered to the recipients, the Urbana Free Library and the Champaign Public Library. The librarians greatly appreciated the books and the Champaign Librarian had ordered additional copies. In the last item of business, Treasurer Diane Carothers was authorized to write the checks to the various groups which the members had previously endorsed.



### 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.

## Here's the Story...



Of Community United Church Youth Group's trip to Alderson, WV! We've raised the funds, reserved the van, and reflected on why we do mission. While we're in the Appalachian Region, we'll continue to think about what it means to be "repairers of the breach" (Isaiah 58: 12).

In the meantime, we'll still be meeting on Sundays from 6-8 pm in the Tower Room. All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us!

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

May 21: 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 28: 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

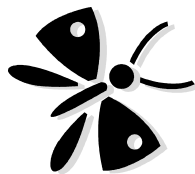
of chapter 5, "About God."

June 4: Work Trip Orientation Session 3: Bridge Builders and Session 4: Walking in another's shoes

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 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join!**

June 18: It's Father's Day! No Youth Group so that you can spend time indulging your Dads.

## Children's Ministries



We continue to enjoy the energy and enthusiasm of many children during

our Sunday mornings.

Our Sunday School program is in the midst of our last Rotation for this school year, God Makes a World.

When we gather under the tent, the children are invited to participate in a Bible Study centered around the first creation story of Genesis. We listen as the story is read, and then each person is invited to share one idea using the phrase "I like..." As we listen again, we respond with "I wonder..." And finally, after listen-

ing for a third time, we respond with "I will..." Our children seem to enjoy this opportunity to be theologians!

In the classrooms, Sophie Gerstenecker is leading the children in making "Creation Care Kits," as a way to continue our role as caretakers of creation. These kits include a litter bag, seeds to plant, a birdfeeder, and a booklet of safe cleaning options. One of the kits is on the table in the Narthex. Check it out.

You will also see a box of caterpillars on the table. Tracy and the children are raising Painted Lady butterflies! If all goes well, we'll be able to release these butterflies at our

worship service at Hessel Park.

**Our last day of Sunday School will be May 21.** All of the children will gather together to take a Cosmic Walk, similar to a labyrinth.

### **Big Kid's Room**

We'd like to give some new families an opportunity to spend time with the Big Kids.

### **Nursery Volunteers**

We need extra hands in the nursery. Sign up sheets are available in the Nursery room.

If you are willing to help with the Big Kids or Nursery, please contact Tracy (344-5091) or ([tracy@community-ucc.org](mailto:tracy@community-ucc.org))

## Prairieland Community Supported Agriculture

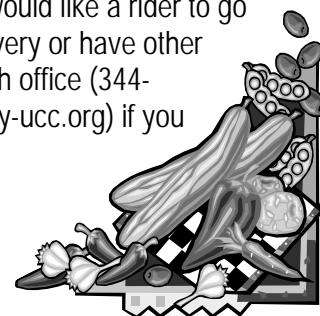
**D**id you know that PCSA is an organization in which customers buy shares in order to receive produce direct from the farm throughout the growing season? Jim and Diann Moore of Watseka practice organic farming which means that no pesticides are used on their crops. This year the shares are selling for \$410 and provide Jim and Diann with a stable income. The growing season is from May 3rd through November 15th. Produce from the Moore farm is delivered to an Urbana location every Wednesday. A sample pick-up may include green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplant, green peppers, potatoes and onions.

For the last two years Community UCC participated in the program by buying shares that were delivered to A Women's Place, Women in Transition and El Centro. We are continuing the program this year. Each Wednes-

day we will be picking up two shares and delivering them to A Women's Place, and Women in Transition. ( El Centro closed the end of July of 2005) Church members have the opportunity to take part in this project by picking up the produce and making the deliveries. It takes less than an hour of your time. This Spiritual Practice of Hospitality is a great way of practicing our Faith.

Shares are picked up every Wednesday between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet for Drivers on the Bulletin Board outside the Office Door. We have detailed directions in the Office. If you would like a rider to go along with you on your first delivery or have other questions, please call the church office (344-5091) or email ([info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)) if you are interested.

Thank you for your cooperation.  
Pat Syoen



## Parking Space Rentals Still Available

**T**here are currently 2 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](mailto:info@community-ucc.org).



## David Munson Named Dean at Michigan

Ann Arbor News, Saturday, April 29

**@** University of Michigan professor will be the next dean of the U-M College of Engineering. David Munson, Jr. will become dean on July 1, pending approval from the U-M Board of Regents. Munson came to U-M in June 2003 and has served as chairman of the Electrical engineering and Computer Science department. He is credited with increasing the department's commitment to academic programs,

planning extensive upgrades to its laboratories, increasing ties with alumni and industry and completing a strategic-planning exercise.

Before working at U-M, Munson had been on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1979. He has spent much of his career working on imaging systems, especially synthetic aperture radar, which provides high-resolution imaging during poor weather.

Munson also is a co-founder of InstaRecon, Inc., a start-up to commercialize fast algorithms for computer tomography. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at the University of Delaware and his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Princeton University.

David and his family are former members of CUCC.

## Buy Local – Be Faithful

In the recent issue of *Mother Jones* magazine, Michael Pollan talks with Christian farmer Joel Salatin about the new organic agriculture industry in an article entitled, "No Bar Code: The next revolution in food is just around the corner." Little did I know, until Miranda Dushek from the Catholic Worker House shared with me, that Wal-Mart is the greatest retailer of organic food within the United States. So not only is it important that we make faithful purchases so that the market will bend toward not using more and more poison for greater and greater production, we also need to make faithful purchases by buying local. Otherwise our food is bathed in more and more petroleum transporting those goods to market.



So we eat what is at hand. That is one of the reasons I am so excited about the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares our church buys for A Woman's Place and Women in Transition and the number of CSAs our members buy for themselves and for other local social service agencies. We buy local and we buy organic. We buy faithfully. If you would like to read the *Mother Jones* article or would like more information about local food cooperatives or CSA shares, please see Rev. Mulberry.



### Future Deadlines for Communigram

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

### Upcoming Worship Schedule

- 1) **May 28th** - service outdoors at Hessel Park - 10:15 A.M. (Pavilion 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.



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Bush, David Robertson

**UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF**

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush

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# Communigram

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

The next Communigram will be  
mailed out on May 24.

## Sunday Schedule

9:00 am ~ Sunday School  
Last Day of Sunday School  
is May 21  
9:30 am ~ Choir Rehearsal  
10:15 am ~ Worship  
11:30 am ~ Coffee Hour  
6-8 pm ~ Youth Group  
No Youth Group May 14  
Pamper your mothers!

## Summer Sunday Schedule Begins June 4

8:45 am ~ Choir Rehearsal  
Sunday School Resumes in September  
9:30 am ~ Worship  
Childcare is provided  
during the Worship Service  
10:30 am ~ Coffee Hour  
6-8 pm ~ Youth Group

## To the members of Community United Church of Christ:



**The Administrative Committee has called a  
Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 21 at noon.**

Dinner will follow immediately after worship  
down in the Fellowship Hall. Spaghetti with  
meat sauce and spaghetti with no meat sauce,  
along with salad, bread and drinks will be pro-  
vided. Please bring your own plates and utensils and a dessert to  
share.

