

# Communigram

VOL. 38 No. 12

JULY 12, 2006



COMMUNITY  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

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



## Hospitality Still Needed for

**A** number of Christian ministers and laypeople from a variety of mainstream denominations will walk 2,500 miles across the country, from Phoenix, Arizona to Washington, DC. The walk started on April 16, 2006 (Easter Sunday) and will be traveling through our area on July 22, 23, and 24. They will be carrying copies of The Phoenix Affirmations - a set of twelve theological values that clearly articulate Christianity from a progressive Christian standpoint. *Among the affirmations are some of what they believe to be some of Jesus' core values: openness to other faiths; care for the earth and its ecosystems; valuing artistic expression in all*

*its forms; authentic inclusiveness of all people - including God's lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (lgbt) community; opposing the commingling of Church and State; promoting the values of rest and recreation, prayer and reflection; embracing both faith and science in the pursuit of truth.*

This movement was founded by UCC teacher and pastor, Rev. Eric Elnes, and has received great acclaim from former CUCC member, Lanie Dickel. Elnes began CrossWalk as a response to multimedia giants Clear Channel and Viacom refusing to allow billboards that



advertised God's inclusive love. In contrast, Rev. Steve Shoemaker already

has the group scheduled for his radio program, "Keeping the Faith" on WILL AM-580 when the group rolls through town in July.

So hospitality (food and lodging) is needed for nine different people who will be in our area that weekend. Please help us give voice to this important Christian movement. Please contact Rev. Mike Mulberry (mike@community-ucc.org) or (344-5091) if interested.



## Reader's Theater, "The Two Stories of Creation in the One Bible"

Four people are needed, at least two female, to perform the Reader's Theater, "The Two Stories of Creation in the One Bible." The Reader's Theater will be performed on Sunday, September 17. We will need at least four hour-long practices. Please contact Rev. Mulberry if you are interested.

## Moderator Musings



Even though it is Summer, I am happy to see a lot of interaction and happenings with church members. Participating in the Freedom Celebration (July 4th) Parade was enjoyable again this year. The new banner was much easier to carry (at least it looked that way) and should serve us well for other opportunities. Our church softball team is doing well and celebrates at (and after) the Friday night softball games. I am happy to report

that we are undefeated. I recommend coming out to see a game; we have the tournament beginning for us in about three weeks. The excitement after is usually at Jarling's Custard Cup - fun for all ages!

As you read this, depending on how the copier was behaving at the time, it may be missing some ink. The Administrative Committee has approved a request from our Office Manager (and volunteer assistant) to purchase a new copier for the church. This is an expen-

sive item and wanted to let you know about it. Because the cost is close to \$11,000, we will be leasing the new copier in order to better budget our expenses.

As you would expect, the business of the church continues to take place - our next Administrative Committee meeting is July 16; followed by our August meeting on August 20.

Peace,

David Gerstenecker

## Discretionary Fund Depleted

The Discretionary Fund is depleted. There are many needs in the community. Please feel free to give monetarily to this fund. Please place your contribution in one of the offering envelopes which can be found in the pews and mark it for the Discretionary Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

## Prayer Protest Continues!

Each Wednesday at noon for the past two years members and friends have met at the northeast front entrance of the Church to provide campus folk with "Gorp" or "Trail Mix" containing Words of Compassion for those suffering in Iraq. Bring your sack lunch and join us in distributing "food for thought" and some lively conversation. If



you are interested in providing "gorp" or "trail mix" please drop it off in the church office. You could also make a monetary contribution to help with the cost of the mix.

## Calendar

**7/13, Thursday ~ 9:00 am** Bulletin Deadline;  
**8:00 pm** AA (FH)

**7/15, Saturday ~ 9:00 am** Women's Book Club  
Espresso Royale by Krannert

**7/16, Sunday ~ 8:45 am** Choir Rehearsal (S);  
**9:30 am** Worship ~ Childcare provided after  
Children's Time; **10:30 am** Coffee Hour (P);  
**11:00 am** Administrative Committee Meeting;  
**7:15 pm** Youth Group meet at the church to car-  
pool to the Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In to see  
"Pirates of the Caribbean"

**7/17, Monday ~ 7:00 pm** CODAC: Devils High-  
way

**7/18, Tuesday ~ 6:30 pm** Visioning/Discernment  
Task Force

**7/19, Wednesday ~ Noon** Prayer Protest; **6:30  
pm** RE Meeting

**7/20, Thursday ~ 9:00 am** Bulletin Deadline;  
**8:00 pm** AA (FH)

**7/22, Saturday ~ 9:00 am** Women's Book Club  
Espresso Royale by Krannert

**7/23, Sunday ~ 8:45 am** Choir Rehearsal (S);  
**9:30 am** Worship ~ Childcare provided after  
Children's Time; **10:30 am** Coffee Hour (P);  
**6:00 pm** Youth Group go Swimming

**7/24, Monday ~ 10:00 am** *Communigram* Dead-  
line

**7/26, Wednesday ~ Noon** Prayer Protest

**7/27, Thursday ~ 9:00 am** Bulletin Deadline;  
**8:00 pm** AA (FH)

## Meals on Wheels Needs You!

We still need help delivering Meals on Wheels **Aug. 14-18!** If you could help even 1 or 2 days that week, it would give the faithful ones a respite. Pickup is at the Union about 10:30 and you are generally finished before 12. If you can spare the time that week, we would be grateful and so would the recipients who are enabled to stay in their own home longer because volun-

teers deliver their meals. Many are getting both lunch and supper from MOW now and they are very appreciative. Contact the church office if you are interested in helping out.



## Other CODAC offerings for the fall:

**V**isiting Scholar Series: Friday, September 29, and Saturday, September 30, Jim and Kathy McGinnis, authors of *Parenting for Peace and Justice* present: "Helping Families Respond to Dr. King's Call to Challenge Racism, Materialism, and Militarism." Call or e-mail the church office for a brochure.

**Community UCC Identity Series-Open and Affirming:** Using a curriculum developed by the Reconciling Congregation Program within the United Methodist Church, "Claiming

the Promise" explores biblical authority, references, and interpretation used to understand same gender sexuality and relationship and how that reflects on our Christian discipleship. Recommended by the UCC Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Concerns will run seven weeks. Call the church office with the best day of the week and time if you are interested.

**Marriage Enrichment:** "Empowering Couples: Building on Your Strengths." This book and curriculum help a couple to identify their

strengths, help them to build and increase those strengths, identify stumbling blocks, and help couples develop a plan for building a stronger and more satisfying couple relationship. There are six sessions with each session lasting two hours. Sessions can be weekly, monthly, or bi-monthly. Please call the church office with your session interest, preference (weekly, monthly, or bi-monthly), and best day of the week and time. Priority will be given to those couples who indicate interest.

## Acolyte Training

We have a number of young people who have served as Acolytes over the past year. We now have many new children who would also like to learn to be Acolytes. I am scheduling a series of Acolyte Training Sessions in the weeks ahead. If your child is in Kindergarten or older, and is interested in learning how and why we light candles at the beginning of each Worship Service, then please sign them up for Acolyte Training.

Session will be on July 30, August 13, 20 and 27, and will be from 9:00 until 9:30. Children should attend at least 3 of the 4 meetings. To sign up, please email Tracy at [Tracy@community-ucc.org](mailto:Tracy@community-ucc.org).

## Sing with the Chancel Choir in July



During July, we invite those who wish to sing to rehearse with the choir at 8:45 am on Sunday before the 9:30 am service.

### “Adopt a Sunday”

The Chancel Choir is off during August so we invite you to “Adopt a Sunday” to arrange special music for the morning service. Please contact the church to schedule: 344-5091.

## Coffee Hosts

### July

16 ~ Martha Seif and Jack & Becky Hanson  
23 ~ Paul & Donna Offenbecher  
30 ~ Iris & Burt Swanson

### August

06 ~ Pat Syoen  
13 ~ Open  
20 ~ Ken & Ruth Gilbert  
27 ~ Donna & Paul Offenbecher

## Recovery Request

The UCC hurricane recovery efforts in New Orleans are in need of a short term loan of a pick up truck. One is needed from July 8 through August 10. Preferably it would be a full size pickup truck in good running condition. If you or a friend is willing to loan a pick up to this ministry please call Rev. Alan Coe, Minister for Disaster Recovery at 830-832-2222. It will be greatly appreciated. It is greatly needed and will be well cared for.

Peace,  
Rev. Alan Coe  
Minister for Disaster Recovery



## Volunteer Delivery of Agricultural Shares

Drivers are needed every Wednesday during the growing season (May 3<sup>rd</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>). Shares are picked up between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. and delivered to Women in Transition, and A Women's Place. It takes less an hour for pick-up and deliveries. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Office Door. You

will be provided with detailed directions. If you have any questions please call the church office 344-5091 or email: [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org).





## Community Youth Group News

We're back from the best Work Trip I have ever had the pleasure to lead. You should all be proud of the young people of this church. They worked hard on the sites, cared for each other throughout the week, and were shining examples of the very best their generation has to offer to the community and the world.

Each of the youth participants had a responsibility for the week, and they all performed to their utmost. **Jessica Bush** was our Chaplain, checking in with each of us to ensure that we were doing well emotionally, spiritually and physically. **Nathan Smith** led us in our daily Morning Watch, choosing inspirational quotes to set the tone for the day. **David Burns** was our Music Leader; he got even the most reticent among us to sing our hearts out. **Emily Ward** was able to explore her calling as our Worship Leader. Come to the Youth led service on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> and I think you'll agree that she has a calling! **Raymond Smith** was our reporter. He captured the mood of each day: the humor, the sadness, the restlessness, and wove it into a beautiful story of the trip. **Jeff Offenbecher** was our GameMaster. He helped us fill our down time with fun and games, and kept our spirits high. **Julia Kara** was our spokesperson. She was ready and willing to tell our new friends who we were, from where we came, and what we thought about everything. You'll get to hear more from Julia at the July 16<sup>th</sup> Service. **Sam Mate** was our photographer, and helped us to capture images of the trip so that you can see and experience a bit of what we did.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, these youth, with the help of other Youth Group Members, will be leading the Worship Service. Please come to hear and see more about our trip to Alderson, WV in the Appalachian region. Following the service, we will also have a Power Point Presentation showing in the Parlor.

### Sunday Night Schedule

July 16: It's back to the Drive In! Okay, so I really want to see "Pirates of the Caribbean" and you know how much I love the drive-in. Showtime is at 9 pm, so we'll meet at the church at 7:15, arrive in Gibson City at 8, watch the show (all 154 minutes!) and return to CU at about 1 am. We still need at least one more driver.

July 23: Anyone up for swimming? We have a

couple of locations possible. We'll meet at the church at 6 pm and carpool to the pool. Please bring \$5-10 to cover admission.



July 30: This will be our Senior Send-off, as it will be Emily's last day with us. I'm looking into Ballroom dancing. So, start thinking about gowns and suits; it's going to be so sophisticated!

### Yoga for Big Kid's



Many thanks to Lois and Sherri of the CU Yoga Institute for leading our Big Kids in Yoga during the month of July. They do a wonderful job of explaining how to do the different positions and what muscles these positions are working. More importantly, they are helping the children to find a quiet place inside, where they can relax, and think, and listen and hear. I'm not sure what is more fun, to watch all of them doing the tree pose or to listen to the quiet as they simply lie still.

We will be paying these women to lead our class. If your children are participating in the Yoga Class, and you would like to help defray the cost, we would welcome your contributions. Please indicate "yoga" in the memo line of your check.



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**CHURCH STAFF**

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**UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF**

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush

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# Communigram

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The next Communigram will be mailed out on July 26.

## Summer Sunday Schedule

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



## Come to the Youth Led Worship on Sunday, July 16 at 9:30 am



As Members of the 2006 Community United Youth Work Trip to Alderson, West Virginia and CUCC Youth Group Members lead worship, while others share their experiences.

Don't miss the Power Point presentation showing in the Parlor!

See you on the 16th!!!