

Communigram



COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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



VOL. 38 No. 13
AUGUST 17, 2006

From the Desk of Rev. Mike Mulberry...

August 14, 2006

In a lecture at Union Theological Seminary in New York this past March, Dr. Cornel West was asked how long it was going to be before white America learned to dismantle their own racism. West recognized the question as an ancient prophetic question: "How long?" The prophets and peoples of ancient Israel turned to God and asked, "How long, O God, how long?" Dr. West's initial response was, "I don't have an answer to that question. I don't."

But then he went on, "The great forefathers and foremothers that produced me said, 'You're just going to have to learn to love your way through the darkness.' That's what they told me. Even here at Union Seminary, I don't

have a better answer than that taught to me at Shiloh Baptist Church in Sacramento, California." West went on to talk about all the progressive white sisters and brothers in the Jim Crow South who must have had some interesting Thanksgiving dinners. Because if you are going to sacrifice and live with courage according to your convictions, in a place that does not support your views or your life, family will surely arrive at Thanksgiving dinner to tell you how crazy you are.

Progressive Christians, even mainline denominations, live in a time when our beliefs, our actions, our mission is not supported by the culture in which we live. With declining budgets and numbers in our seminaries, adjudicatories, and local churches, with the widespread fear created by terror-

ism, war, and signs that our earth is truly hemorrhaging, Tracy and I heard in this lecture a faithful response: loving our way through the darkness.

So we offer this is a faithful path, as a koan, we will use as our church life gears up as the school year approaches. If there is one thing we, as a church, can teach each other, future generations, and our community it is to love our way through the darkness. As we ask God the prophetic question, "How long?", my hope is that we will love our way through the darkness.

Grace and peace,
Mike



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

One more person is needed for the Reader's Theater "The Two Stories of Creation in the One Bible." We need **one male voice**. 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.

You are invited to attend one of two small house meetings to work on answering...

Why did you come to Community?
 Why did you stay at Community?
 Where is God leading us/Community?

Thursday, 14 September from 6:30-8 pm. Hosted by Carla Barnwell and Eileen Gebbie in Savoy (505 Van Buren St), there is room for six more attendees. Please let them know if you need child-care.

Saturday, 30 September from 10-11:30am. Hosted by Carla Barnwell and Eileen Gebbie in Savoy (505 Van Buren St), there is room for nine more attendees. Please let them know if you need child-care.

Sunday, 15 October immediately after worship downstairs. Hosted by Lisa Treul, Eileen Gebbie and Carla Barnwell, there is room for 32 attendees. Childcare and lunch provided.

Contact the church if interested. (344-5091)

CODAC Moment – Scriptural Study, “Who Wrote the Bible?”

Beginning Sunday morning, **September 24**, before worship at **9:00 a.m.** we will begin a book study on Jewish scholar, Richard Elliott Friedman’s book, *Who Wrote the Bible?* (245 pages)

Friedman’s work is foundational to understanding Scriptural study. He shares the history and the basis for Scriptural study in this work which lays out the basis for the Documentary Hypothesis. The basic premise of the Documentary Hypothesis is that five different writers were woven together to create the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch-Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). Friedman does an excellent job of sharing doublets, contradic-

tions, and choices which help us see more than one hand at work. For example, why does one telling of Noah and the ark have the animals coming into the ark two by two and another telling have seven of every animal coming into the ark? What values does each writer convey with their choices? Biblical stories open up before us as we begin to see the different writers at work.

If you are interested in the class, please order the book now from our local bookstore, *Pages for All Ages*. Our first class will discuss pages 9 through 88 (Preface through Chapter 3).

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Social Group

We are starting a LGBT Social Group at CUCC to help LGBT members, attendees and visitors to find friends and build community in our church. Our goal is to make CUCC Open and Affirming to gay and lesbian people in practice as well as in principle.

We'll meet the third Sunday of the month. The first meeting will be September 24, 4:15 pm at the church. For more information contact the church (344-5091).

Calendar

8/17, Thursday ~ 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline; 8:00 pm AA (FH)

8/19, Saturday ~ 9:00 am Women's Book Club Espresso Royale by Krannert

8/20, Sunday ~ 9:00 am Acolyte Practice (S); 9:30 am Worship ~ Childcare and Yoga (Childcare for children under five and Yoga for children kindergarten through 2nd Grade) are provided after Children's Time; 10:30 am Coffee Hour (P); 11:00 am Administrative Committee Meeting (CR); 6:00 pm Youth Group Putting School Kits together (TR)

8/22, Tuesday ~ 7:00 pm CODAC Leadership

8/23, Wednesday ~ Noon Prayer Protest

8/24, Thursday ~ 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline; 7:00 pm God is Still Speaking (CR); 8:00 pm AA (FH)

8/26, Saturday ~ 9:00 am Women's Book Club Espresso Royale by Krannert

8/27, Sunday ~ 9:00 am Acolyte Practice (S); 9:30 am Worship ~ Childcare and Yoga (Childcare for children under five and Yoga for children kindergarten through 2nd Grade) are provided after Children's Time; 10:30 am Coffee Hour (P); 6:00 pm Youth Group Sunday School Work Day

8/28, Monday ~ 10:00 am *Communigram* Deadline

8/29, Tuesday ~ 6:30 pm Visioning/Discernment Task Force Group (CR)

8/30, Wednesday ~ Noon Prayer Protest

8/31, Thursday ~ 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline; 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

One standard, all people

Lesbian, gay, straight, bisexual, transgender...

Thu, October 19 - Sat, October 21- Iowa City

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Co-Director of Faith Voices for the Common Good & Rev. Dr. Mel White, Co-Founder of Soulforce

Two general sessions, thirty workshop choices, networking, story-telling, and voluntary worship opportunities for people of faith.

For more information & to register today:
www.holyrelationships Midwest.org

Nationally co-sponsored Human Rights Campaign

The **Black Star Project** in collaboration with

Champaign Unit 4 Schools Title I Service Team

Million Man March, August 23, 2006

Men Taking Children to School on their First Day of School

We are encouraging fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, uncles, brothers, godfathers, cousins, and other significant male caregivers to bring their children to school on the first day of the 2006-2007 school year. All males are requested to sign-in at the front office in each school, as they drop off their children.

Questions? Contact Vincent Elam, Black Star Project/Central Illinois Coordinator LRC Community Outreach
217-355-2309 day or 217-766-6464

Prayer Protest

Continues!



Each Wednesday at noon for the past two years members and friends have met at the north-east 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.

The Eastern Association of the United Church of Christ and Park Street Congregational United Church of Christ joyfully request the honor of your presence at the ordination/installation of

Christie Ann Taube

September 10, 2006 at 4 pm

Park Street Congregational UCC

806 Park St, Mazon, IL 60444

In lieu of gifts, please send a contribution to:
Student Scholarship fund, Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 S. University Ave., Chicago, IL 60637

RSVP acceptances (815) 448-5514
Light Supper to follow

Rally Day is September 10th

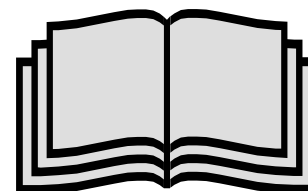
Join us at 9:00 am for an introduction to the coming year in Sunday School. We'll have a breakfast buffet to energize you, a craft station to get your creativity going, and a chance to sample the stories for the coming year. **We hope that all children and young people, parents and seniors, middle-agers and teens will join us for the morning!**

Bible Sunday is September 10th

During the Worship Service, we will be presenting Children's Bibles to our new Kindergarten students, and Youth Bibles to our new 6th grade students. In addition, we will present Bibles to children and youth who have joined our community over the last year and have not already received a Bible.

Currently, we are planning to present Children's Bibles to:

Katie Bell	Sophia Heilman
Annemily Hoganson	Sieji Iwata
Georgia Kundrat	Blake Lannesskog
Orion Myers	Sydney Reilly-Treat
CeCe Allan	Aidan Reilly-Treat



And Youth Bibles to:

Paul Kordik	Melissa Melvin
Kaila Simpson	James Boyle
Trevor Bush	Julia Kara
Raymond Smith	

If your child would like to receive a Bible, and they are not on this list, please contact Rev. Tracy Heilman.

Youth Group

From Ballroom dancing to Kickball, we've had some great fun the past few weeks! We have more in store in the weeks ahead. Plan to join us on Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm in the Tower Room. All 6th-12 grade youth are welcome!

August 20: We're going to be putting together school kits for children in Champaign-Urbana, and around the world.

August 27: You will be joining with other members of the church to get the Sunday School rooms cleaned up and ready for the school year. We'll be clearing out the rooms, wiping down tables and chairs, bleaching toys, sorting through supplies, etc. We could really use your help!

Sept. 3: Labor Day weekend – No Youth Group

Sept. 10: Let's celebrate fall by heading over to Hardy's Reindeer Ranch. We'll meet at the church at 5:30 to carpool over. Once there, we're going to do the corn maze, go carts, and hayride. The cost is \$8 per person. You can

bring a little extra if you want to buy a hot cider or a soda. We'll leave there at 8 pm, and return to church by 8:30.

Sept. 17: Pizza and Planning. Bring your school calendars and let's get a plan for the coming year. I'd like to think about doing an overnight retreat at Pilgrim Park, and I know that some of you would love to have a Lock-in. We also need to be thinking about service projects and fundraising. What about reading another book for discussion, or starting a Bible study? The youth groups at McKinley and Urbana First Presbyterian are interested in getting together sometimes for joint activities. What do you think?

Sept. 24: Let's plan a Harvest Festival for the children and families of the church!

Don't forget, 6-8 pm, 6th-12th graders, Tower Room, Sundays.

2006 UCC Women's Retreat

September 29 - 30, 2006 at Pilgrim Park

**"SPEAK TO MY HEART, LORD ---Messages of Healing, Wholeness and Abiding Love---
FOR THE FEMININE SPIRIT"**

led by Rev. Marsha Thomas, UCC Minister and Holistic Life Coach

Early Registration (\$65) Deadline: August 15th, Late Registration (\$70): After August 15th

More information contained in brochures can be found at the back of the sanctuary.

CWS EMERGENCY APPEAL: LEBANON CRISIS

Appeal #6820 ~ Amount: \$1 million

SITUATION: The humanitarian crisis in Lebanon remains critical after weeks of bombing, report several Church World Service partners in the region.

The most pressing concern is the lack of safe passage to deliver humanitarian aid to the affected population as communication and transport routes between the different Lebanese regions are hindered, the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) reports. UN agencies have been advocating for the opening of humanitarian corridors but those have not yet materialized.

Bridges have been destroyed and many roads are impassable. Airports and power supplies have been bombarded. Civilian casualties have inundated hospitals; with children being disproportionately affected. Of particular concern to the humanitarian community are those displaced from their homes, estimated by the Lebanese government and United Nations to exceed 500,000 persons, who are in need of shelter,

food, safe drinking water, sanitation, and medical assistance. Approximately 140,000 of these have taken refuge in Syria and other neighboring countries.

In support of the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) response, CWS is providing 5,000 CWS Health Kits, 500 water containers and a large supply of wool blankets. The IOCC response includes delivery of food, water, bedding, hygiene parcels and medicines.

Contributions to support these efforts may be sent to your denomination or directly to:

Church World Service, LEBANON CRISIS, Account #6820, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515

Contributions may also be made by credit card by calling: (800) 297-1516, ext. 222, or online at www.churchworldservice.org.

For further information about disasters to which Church World Service is responding please visit us online or call the CWS Hotline, (800) 297-1516.

"Eyes Wide Open Illinois"

The **American Friends Service Committee's exhibit "Eyes Wide Open Illinois" will be shown on the UI Quad on Tuesday, September 5th.** The Eyes Wide Open exhibit has two parts - a display with a pair of boots tagged

with the name of every Illinois soldier who has died in Iraq (now up to 101 people) & secondly, a newly revised memorial to Iraqis who have died, which consists of several panels of photos and information about the war's devastation

(www.afsc.org/eyes/) The exhibit will be traveling to several Illinois towns in late August and early September, including Bloomington and East St. Louis.

Just Eating Group Keeps You Informed



As residents of this wonderful community and God's world we need to treat ourselves and God's world better. This **starts** with being better informed.

I suggest you read "Old MacDonald's Factory Farm" by C. David Coats and available at the Urbana Free Library.

To give you a flavor of this book I quote "They are called factory farms because they have adopted mass-production techniques and modern business efficiency programs; the objective is to turn out high volumes of standardized product at minimal cost per unit In concept factory farming is intrinsically inhumane, because it denies animals their most basic rights as living beings. Old MacDonald certainly aimed to make a living on his farm, but he did not sacrifice his pride in animal husbandry to coldly efficient and single-minded business principles. Now, humane treatment is seen as unnecessary, irrelevant, and in conflict with the maximization of profit. ... From the environmental point of view, domestic animals destroy the lands they graze on and are a chief cause of the devastation of rain forest areas around the world. Indirectly they consume irreplaceable fossil fuels and water resources. When alive, factory animals' concentrated body wastes, laced with chemical residues, run off untreated into rivers and ground waters...Ultimately, the causes of this agricultural pollution are to be found not in the relatively few acres of cabbages, carrots, apples, and oranges, but in the intensive raising of grains and crops fed to intensively farmed animals. This rape of the land is a cost that will be borne by our children and their children."

Another good read is "the Omnivore's Dilemma"

by Michael Pollan. To give you a flavor of this book I quote "One of the key innovations of organic food was to allow some more information to pass along the food chain between the producer and the consumer—an implicit snatch of narrative along with the number. A certified organic label tells a little story about how a particular food was produced, giving the consumer a way to send a message back to the farmer that she values tomatoes produced without harmful pesticides or prefers to feed her children milk from cows that haven't been injected with growth hormones. Yet the organic label itself—like every other such label in the supermarket—is really just an imperfect substitute for direct observation of how a food is produced, a concession to the reality that most people in an industrial society haven't the time or the inclination to follow their food back to the farm, a farm that today is apt to be, on average, 1,500 miles away. Supermarket Pastoral is a most seductive literary form, beguiling enough to survive in the face of a great many discomfiting facts. I suspect that's because it gratifies some of our deepest, oldest longings, not merely for safe food, but for a connection to the earth and to the handful of domesticated creatures we've long depended on."

Please join the Just Eating group at CUCC and their effort to encourage more thoughtful production and consumption of your food, by purchasing Community Supported Agriculture farm foods grown locally without pesticides. Lawrence Mate of Slow Food will help us in this endeavor.

Finally I urge you to view "The Price of Bounty" produced by the University of Illinois, for insights into how AgriBusiness impacts our local environment in order to bring you "cheap" food. This 60 minute video is available from libraries at the University or Jack Paxton.

Volunteer Delivery of Agricultural Shares

Drivers are needed every Wednesday during the growing season (May 3rd to November 15th). 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.



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Parish Nurse: Linda Morgan

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dtown34@sbcglobal.net

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Bush, David Robertson

UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

Campus Minister: Rev. Karen Bush

Karen@community-ucc.org

Communigram

Non-Profit Organization
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The next Communigram will be mailed out on August 30.

Summer Sunday Schedule

Sunday School Resumes in September

9:30 am ~ Worship

Childcare for Nursery and Yoga for the Big

Kids is provided following Children's Time

during the Worship Service

10:30 am ~ Coffee Hour

6-8 pm ~ Youth Group



Regular Sunday Schedule Resumes September 3

Worship ~ 10:15 am

Coffee Hour ~ 11:30 am

Rally Sunday September 10

Sunday School Resumes September 17

Sunday School ~ 9:00 am



CODAC Moment – Scriptural Study, “Who Wrote the Bible?”

Begins September 24 ~ 9:00 am