

COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 15 AUGUST 29, 2007

THE NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

(www.newsanctuarymovement.org)

I am so very thankful for incredible hospitality and meal put forward by Becky Duffield and Pat Syoen for the Roots of Migration House Party this past Sunday. Also, thanks to Sophie Gerstenecker for helping to set up. I appreciate all who attended, listened, asked so many insightful questions, and stayed to clean up. Heck, I was so energized by the event that I pushed Becky Duffield out of the way to wash dishes. (My energy for washing dishes came as a big surprise to Tracy.)

Learning the roots of migration on our southern border is important for knowing the broader context of our current national immigration crisis. If we believe that broader context is about illegal aliens trying to get

their piece of the American dream, perhaps at the expense of American workers, then stronger law enforcement is necessary to keep scarce resources available to those who are here legally. If, however, many of those undocumented workers have been forced into life or death choices for themselves and their families which, if we had the same choices, we would make the same decisions, then maybe we need to ask about an even broader context.

I am facilitating a movement in Champaign-Urbana begun by Interfaith Worker Justice in Chicago and gaining momentum in cities like San Diego, New York, Kansas City, and Miami. The New Sanctuary Move-

ment (NSM) is a national effort by religious leaders and congregations of all faith traditions to respond to the crisis of families being broken by an ineffective and unjust immigration system. The NSM engages congregations in accompanying, supporting and hosting immigrant families facing deportation while publicizing their stories.

Sanctuary and hospitality are ancient spiritual acts. They have the power to transform the individuals, congregations, communities and nations who both offer and receive them. This congregation has a long history of offering them.

My hope and prayer is that we will once again.

Shalom
Mike

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Cindy Dodd,
Office Manager for CUCC,
will be out of the office
until Monday,
September 10th.
To place information into
the September 9th bulletin
please email it to
mike@community-ucc.org.

CHANGES TO FINANCIAL POLICIES

At the Church Life Board meeting on August ninth, a few changes were made regarding CUCC financial policies.

- Donna Offenbecher was confirmed as a member of our Financial Secretary's Team with permission to access the contribution records of members as needed. Donna will join Mary Ellen Schroeder as an Assistant Financial Secretary to Financial Secretary Tom Watembach. Donna will be helping Tom prepare quarterly reports, and stepping in for him as needed in recording contributions.

- The Sound and Ethical Practices Coordinators were also given permission to view the contribution records of members as needed. This was done in the event that they would need to assist the Financial Secretary in the preparation of reports. The S & EP Coordinators are the immediate supervisors of the Financial Secretary.
- The Financial Development Ministry Team was given authorization to publicize with permission the names of those who have made contributions to the church and its missions.



A CALL FOR HELP

If you have any old dish towels or dish cloths that you are not using anymore and would like to donate to the Church, you can leave them in either of the kitchens. Our supply has been depleted and we are in need.

Thank you,
Becky and Pat



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Members of Community UCC Women's Fellowship will meet on Friday, September 14, 2007, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Hall for a potluck salad luncheon with members of Church Women United. Becky Hanson is our representative on the planning committee. Following

the luncheon will be a program honoring early leaders in Church Women United, including Mary Forbes and her mother. A \$5.00 per person donation will be collected for the Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund. Check with Becky Hanson or Jean Creswell for further details.



SEPTEMBER 2007

I love my church because the Sunday school teacher gives out prizes to the kid who asks the best questions.

Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>*Sunday Schedule 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 6 pm CUCC Youth Group</p> | <p>3 Labor Day Office Closed</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 11:45 am Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>**Thursday Schedule 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Playtime Preschool 8 pm AA</p> | <p>7 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> | <p>8 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> |
| <p>2 *See Schedule Above 11:30 am Blood Pressure Checks 6:30 pm CUCC Youth Group Harvest Moon</p> | <p>Office Manager on Vacation</p> | <p>6 **See Schedule Above 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens</p> | <p>6 **See Schedule Above 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens</p> | <p>7 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> | <p>8 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> | <p>9 9 am Rally Day</p> |
| <p>9 *See Schedule Above 9 am Rally Day</p> | <p>10 10 am Communion Dead-line</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12 11:45 am Prayer Protest 6 pm Chime Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>13 **See Schedule Above Monthly Church Meeting Night</p> | <p>14 11:30 am Women's Fellowship Potluck at St. Mary's Parish Hall</p> | <p>15 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> |
| <p>16 *See Schedule Above Campus Ministry Led Worship</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19 11:45 am Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>20 **See Schedule Above</p> | <p>21 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> | <p>22 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> |
| <p>Eastern Assn. Youth Event</p> | <p>23 *See Schedule Above 3 pm Service of Ordination for Jennifer Little at CUCC CUCC Youth will attend the ordination</p> | <p>24 10 am Communion Dead-line</p> | <p>25 11:45 am Prayer Protest 6 pm Chime Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>26 **See Schedule Above</p> | <p>27 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> | <p>28 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> |
| <p>30 *See Schedule Above 11:30 am Liturgist Training Session</p> | <p>CUCC Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm</p> | <p>29 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> | <p>30 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> | <p>31 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> | <p>1 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> | <p>2 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krant</p> |

ACOLYTES NEEDED!



As we begin the new school year, we also begin the new Acolyte schedule. We welcome all children in Kindergarten and older to serve as Acolytes. Our acolytes are worship leaders. They signal the start of the service by bringing in the light, and they lead us out, encouraging us to carry that light to the world.

If you would like to serve as an acolyte, please complete this form and return it to church by Sept. 9. A training session will be scheduled for all new Acolytes.

Name: _____ Age/Grade: _____

Email contact: _____ Phone number: _____

INTRODUCING A NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR AT CUCC



We are very excited to offer a children's choir for the children at CUCC ages kindergarten through 5th grade. Audrey Vallance has offered to lead this choir. Below you will find a registration sheet. Please be sure to let us know which time is best for rehearsal for your child. **Turn this form in by September 9.**

Registration Form K-5 Children's Choir

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____ City & Zip _____

Phone Number(s): _____ Email Address _____

Name of Parent or Adult Contact: _____

Please pick one of the following times that is best for the weekly Children's Choir rehearsal:

_____ Sundays following worship 11:45 am until 12:30 pm

_____ Sunday evenings 5 until 6 pm.

2007/2008 Sunday School Registration for Community United Church of Christ

(Turn this form in by September 9.)

Family Name: _____

Address: _____ City & Zip _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address _____

Name of Parent or Adult Contact: _____

1. Child's Name: _____

2. Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade Entering _____

Age: _____ Grade Entering _____

Birth Date: _____

Birth Date: _____

Allergies or Medical Issues:

Allergies or Medical Issues:

3. Child's Name: _____

4. Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade Entering _____

Age: _____ Grade Entering _____

Birth Date: _____

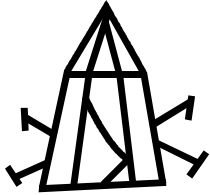
Birth Date: _____

Allergies or Medical Issues:

Allergies or Medical Issues:

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKS OFF ON SEPTEMBER 9TH!

Children and parents are invited to join the celebration as we kick-off a new year of Sunday School. Parents, bring your favorite cup of coffee and join us under the tent on Sunday, September 9, at 9:00 am.



Parents will have time to complete and turn in the Sunday School Registration Form while the children gather to light our candle and sing our opening song. Then, families can move between the three different activity centers to prepare for the coming year.

At station one, children will be given a canvas back-pack with the Humane Borders logo on it. Children can then use permanent markers, ribbons, beads, etc. to personalize their back-pack. We encourage Sunday School students to use this bag each Sunday to bring their Bible, their offering, and other items they may want during the Worship Service.

Station two will give families a chance to be stars! We'll have a digital camera ready to capture your family's image. We'll print it out for you to place on a star to add to our "Family Ties" bulletin board.

Station three will have canvas Bible covers for kids to decorate. We will have felt shapes, needles and thread, as well as fabric paints available.

Finally, we'll gather again to share our hopes for the coming year as we ritualize this new beginning.

We hope that all of our children and their parents will participate in this Sunday School Kick-off Celebration!



CUCC YOUTH GROUP

Calling all 6th – 12th graders! We hope that you will join us each week as we gather. Typically, we gather from 6-8 pm in the Tower Room, although we do have some special events coming up.

We have good things in store for the fall, and we hope you'll put us on your calendar and make a commitment to join us!

Sept. 2: Sounds like many of you are going to be in the area, so let's head to Harvest Moon Drive-in. We'll meet at Rev. Tracy Heilman's house at 6:30 to carpool over.

Sept. 9: Our New Year Kick-off. Have we got fun in store for you! 6-8 pm at church.

Sept. 14-16, Eastern Association Youth Event!

Sept. 23: Our own Jennifer Little will be ordained at 3 pm. I'd like for us to be present to support her and celebrate with her.

Sept. 30: Expectations, communication, and surviving! 6-8 pm in the Tower Room

We have
good things
in store for
the fall...



TRIP TO AFRICA

How long Oh Lord?!
How long will it be Oh Lord before the continent of Africa is able to rise up and move in creative ways to feed its people, be at peace, and participate energetically in the world economy?

I just spent a week in Zimbabwe. It has been 17 years since I lived in Africa and this was my first time down in southern Africa. It was refreshing to enter into the liveliness of this country and learn about its successes and its current needs.

I participated in a team of seven people gathered from across the US and the local Zimbabwe local staff of four people. This is the third phase of an HIV/Aids initiative taking place in six nations of Africa in collaboration with national offices of the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

Our objective for the week was to create a

Needs Assessment in preparation for submission of a major grant and to celebrate the opening of a Youth Friendly Corner. We worked in five high-density urban communities that are part of the city of Harare. These communities are undergoing social and economic transformations as a result of HIV/Aids. They have groups of women working together in micro-credit schemes and groups of youth engaged in artistic, dramatic, and educational activities. Pensioners and other leadership are making efforts to respond to the large number of orphans. Families with limited resources are stretching to feed more mouths even as its working members cope with illness and frailty.

Since all of this takes place in the presence of devastating, runaway inflation, much of people's daily energy is spent on securing the basics of daily living. For the poor this is obtaining food for

the day. For the middle class, this is obtaining fuel for the car, locating food stuffs, and living with interruptions of water and electricity.

In the midst of all of this, daily life goes on in Zimbabwe. People go to work, shop, play, mourn and celebrate. In the midst of Africa's need, there are profound riches of community life, vitality and resiliency from which our country could learn.

I hope that as we live our daily lives in Champaign Urbana, we keep our eyes open to this part of the world. And don't forget the beauty!!! I did have one day free to be a tourist and got myself down to Victoria Falls. It is a witness to the majesty and wonder of God's creation!

Ruth Gilbert



“These communities are undergoing social and economic transformations as a result of HIV/Aids.”

COMMUNITY UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The next Communion will be mailed out on September 12.

Sunday Schedule Begins September 2

9:00 am Sunday School (9/09/07)
10:15 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group

Information for Any Scheduling at CUCC

To schedule any meetings or events to be located at CUCC please contact Jennifer Kelleher at jlk208@gmail.com.



Rally Day 2007



Sunday School Kicks Off on September 9th

9:00 am until 10:00 am



Children:

- Bring your Bible
- Bring your enthusiasm & sense of adventure
- Bring your parents (Meet under the Tent.)



Join us down in the Fellowship Hall as we go through the different stations on Rally Day!

