

COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 17 SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

LIVING THE QUESTIONS SIGN UP AND CURRICULUM BEGIN THIS WEEK!

This next week we will begin an educational curriculum promoted by The Center for Progressive Christianity entitled *Living the Questions*. As a local church that has decided to be progressively Christian, this curriculum offers us an opportunity to learn more about the necessary questions for and content of our faith.

Three different small groups meeting at three different times of the month will meet once a month to go through a section of the curriculum. The maximum number for each of those small groups will be twelve people and will be received on a first come, first serve basis. Please call the church office (344-5091) or sign up in the parlor this Sunday. The three small groups include:

Invitation to the Journey

(Includes Sessions: "Invitation to the Journey"; "Taking the Bible Seriously"; "Thinking Theologically"; "Stories of Creation"; "Lives of Jesus"; "A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle"; "Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians")

**Invitation to the Journey Meeting at Clark-Lindsey Village
First Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.
Beginning Thursday, October 4**

Reclaiming the World

(Includes Sessions: "Restoring Relationships"; "The Prophetic Jesus"; "Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love"; "The Myth of Redemptive Violence"; "Debunking the Rapture"; "Practicing Resurrection"; "Reclaiming the World")

**Reclaiming the World Meeting at the Home of Ellen Kordik and Tom Watembach
Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. ~ Beginning Sunday, October 14**

Call to Covenant

(Includes Sessions: "A Kingdom without Walls"; "Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision"; "Incarnation: Divinely Human"; "Prayer: Intimacy with God"; "Embracing Mystery"; "Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry"; "Creativity and Transformation")

**Call to Covenant Meeting at the Home of Jeanne and Tom Ward
Second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.
Beginning, Monday, October 8**

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**Living the
Questions
Sign Up and
Curriculum
Begin this Week!**

(Continued from page 1)

DESCRIPTION OF LIVING THE QUESTIONS

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer humanity. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.

Living the Questions is a source of curriculum and media for both seekers and "church alumni/ae" convinced that Christianity still has relevance in the 21st Century.

Living the Questions is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and

instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity.

Living the Questions is a video & internet-based small group exploration of progressive Christianity featuring premier religion voices of our day: Nancy Ammerman, John Bell, Marcus Borg, Minerva Carcaño, John B. Cobb, Jr., John Dominic Crossan, Lloyd Geering, Culver "Bill" Nelson, Siyoung Park, Stephen Patterson, Tex Sample, John Shelby Spong and Emilie Townes, Rita Nakashima Brock, Walter Brueggemann, Ron Buford, Yvette Flunder, James Forbes, Matthew Fox, Hans Küng, Amy-Jill Levine, Meagan McKenna, Rebecca Ann Parker, Helen Prejean, Barbara Rossing, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Bernard Brandon Scott, Rick Ufford-Chase, Winnie Varghese and Mel White.

GENERAL SYNOD LIGHT SHINES!

Sunday, September 30—Sign the petition, Surf with Tom

Sunday, October 4--Be inspired by Bill!

On the War! Will you be counted as one of the 100,000? Sign up by this Sunday!

This October, the Rev. John H. Thomas -- the UCC's General Minister and President -- will travel to Washington, DC, along with other church leaders, to call on the US government to end the war in Iraq. He intends to carry with him the names of 100,000 people for peace, those who stand in solidarity with the UCC's Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War. Will you be listed among the 100,000?

During this year's General Synod, the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ published a Pastoral Letter on the War in Iraq, calling for the end of death and violence and the beginning of lasting peace through diplomacy in the Middle East. The full content of that letter can be found on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary or at <http://www.ucc.org/news/significant-speeches/a-pastoral-letter-on-the-iraq.html>. You may sign the petition found online (<http://www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/>) or add your name to the growing number of signatures (over thirty now) found on petition placed on our credenza at the back of the sanctuary. **That petition will be mailed after this Sunday, September 30.**

Surfin' with Tom! September 30 at 9 am (See page 8)

After Worship this Sunday!

Bill Moyers' Presentation!

Sunday afternoon, October 7

Almost every one of the adults from Community UCC agreed that one of the highlights of the UCC General Synod was the presentation/speech/sermon given by Bill Moyers. He knocked our socks off! He was brought back to the stage by thunderous applause. This presentation was not the genteel, measured, sober Bill Moyers. This was a man with fire in his belly!

On Sunday, October 7, at 3:00 p.m., join us in the parlor for that same presentation. Discussion will follow. Many of those who attended General Synod will also be present to share their reflections on Moyers' speech and encourage you to attend the next General Synod in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2009.

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

I really haven't been musing about much lately, but I have been trying to check things off my list. As I said earlier this year, my goal as moderator is to get the new polity up and running before the end of the year, and to that end I think things are going great. All of our different teams are making plans, doing good work, and seem very excited about the future.

We do however still have a few positions left to fill. I'm sure that the Community Building Identity Team would be thrilled to have a Coordinator to help them coordinate and I know that our Financial Development Team Leader, Kellee Weinhold, would love to have a team. I have been trying my best to get these positions filled, but I could use a little help particularly with the Financial Development Team positions.

I know how hard it is to talk about money and most people don't like to ask others for money, but this is vitally important to the life of our Church. If you have a little time, please make the effort to contact Kellee and find out what her plans are and how you might fit in.

In happier news, we are all anxiously awaiting the results of the feasibility studies. Howie Guenther

and the Building for the Future Ministry Team have been working with those who are doing the studies and we hope to have the results back soon, so that we can have a Congregational Meeting to discuss them late this fall.

Also this fall, members of the Sound and Ethical Practices have been working to get our financial reports and future budget to reflect our new polity. This is a huge job that has been complicated for our Treasurer and our Financial Secretary by a change in software. If you are interested in knowing more about the changes, please talk to Richard or Susan Schnuer. And if you see any of our financial gurus, please, tell them thank you.

And just so this entire message won't be about money, the Worship Identity Team has decided to bring back the Advent Workshop. HURRAY! I'm sure that Peggy Wade will be offering more information as the time draws closer, but mark your calendars for December 1st and come help prepare for the Advent season.

Victoria Robertson
CUCC Moderator



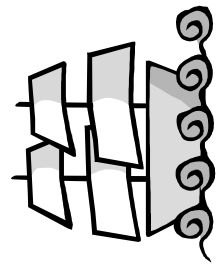
Saturday, November 3 ~ 9-Noon

All Church Workday

Please mark your calendars and plan to help. **Please bring cleaning supplies and equipment. If you have any questions or know of some cleaning task that needs to be done please contact the church office (344-5091).**



"Many hands make light work!" John Heywood



OCTOBER 2007

Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 *Sunday Schedule 9 am Sunday School 9 am CODAC 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 6 pm CUCC Youth Group</p>	<p>2 10 pm Campus Ministry Choir</p>	<p>3 11:45 am Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 **See Schedule Below 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens 2 pm Invitation to Journey at Clark Lindsey 7 pm Kathy Kelly Voices with Voices for Non Violence</p>	<p>5 **See Schedule Below 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens 2 pm Invitation to Journey at Clark Lindsey 7 pm Kathy Kelly Voices with Voices for Non Violence</p>	<p>6 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	
<p>8 *See Schedule Above Worldwide Communion 11:30 am Blood Pressure Checks 11:30 am Communion Servers training session</p>	<p>9 Indigenous People's Day 10 am Communion Deadline 7 pm Call to Covenant at the home of Jeanne and Tom Ward 10 pm Campus Ministry Choir</p>	<p>10 1:00 pm Women's Fellowship at Clark Lindsey 11:45 am Prayer Protest 7 pm Sanctuary Movement 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 **See Schedule Below 5:15 Dinner 6 pm Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet 7 pm Chairs of Ministry Groups meet with CLB Co-coordinators 7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting</p>	<p>12 **See Schedule Below 5:15 Dinner 6 pm Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet 7 pm Chairs of Ministry Groups meet with CLB Co-coordinators 7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting</p>	<p>13 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	
<p>14 *See Schedule Above 11:30 am Ushers & Greeters Training Session 6 pm Reclaiming the World at the home of Ellen Kordik and Tom Waterbach</p>	<p>15 10 pm Campus Ministry Choir</p>	<p>17 11:45 am Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>19 **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>20 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	
<p>21 *See Schedule Above</p>	<p>22 10 am Communion Deadline 10 pm Campus Ministry Choir</p>	<p>24 11:45 am Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>26 **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>27 Eastern Association Fall Meeting / Decatur 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	
<p>28 *See Schedule Above</p>	<p>29 10 pm Campus Ministry Choir</p>	<p>31 11:45 am Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>***Thursday Schedule 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Play Group 8 pm AA</p>	<p>CUCC Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm</p>		

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Our Sunday School is off to a great start this year. We have classes for 3 year olds through 6th graders, with wonderful teachers and shepherds for all. We have a new Children's Choir. We continue to offer a yoga class for young children. We have families who are committed, and children who are learning. It is a joy to be part of this ministry at Community!

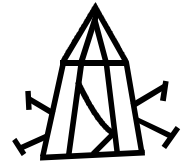
This Sunday we will complete our lesson from "Family Ties: The adventures of Abraham, Sarah and their descendents" and we will move into a 6 week rotation from Come Join the Circle's "God Calls Abraham and Sarah." We are currently recruiting leaders for the following sessions:

October 7, 14, and 21:
Community Life
Hands On
Brain Teasers

October 28, November 4 and 11

Food & People
Time Out
Show and Tell

Do you want to be part of this exciting ministry? We have the curriculum, supplies and all the help you need to be a great teacher!



Is anyone interested in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF? We need two coordinators. If

interested please contact Rev. Tracy Heilman (tracy@community-ucc.org).

Parents, don't forget to have your children bring their Bibles each week to Sunday School. We are working with the children to learn how to find books, chapters and verses in their Bible.

CUCC YOUTH GROUP

All youth in 6th—12th grade are welcome! We gather to have fun, to support each other and to learn about God's world. Please join us!

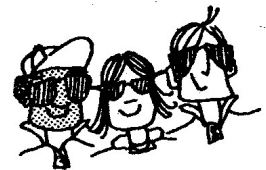
Sept. 30, 6-8 pm:
Trust is our theme for the evening!

Oct. 7, 6-8 pm: We're going to celebrate Indigenous People's Day. More info to come.

Oct. 14, 6-8 pm:
Preparation for the corn maze..."Children of the Corn" movie night!

Oct. 21, 4-8 pm:
Hardy's Reindeer Ranch! We'll have a weenie roast, conquer the corn maze, go on a hayride and race the gocarts.

Oct 28, 6-8 pm: We're having an All Hallow's Eve party. Details to come...



WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY



Sunday October 7th is *World Wide Communion Sunday* and we will be celebrating with breads from other countries. We are looking for volunteers to bake or buy a loaf of bread from

another country. If you are interested and willing to help, please contact either the church office if you are interested (344-5091).

FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

September 30: Liturgist training after worship - all interested are invited to attend. Please bring your calendar!

October 7: Worldwide Communion Sunday - Breads of the world
Communion servers training after worship

October 14: Baptism; Usher training after worship

October 28: UCC Higher Education Sunday - Campus Ministry leading service

JOIN CUCC CHOR FOR CHRISTMAS OPERA

We would like to invite singers to join us for the "Amahl" choruses as we need lots of Shepherds. Families are particularly encouraged as we need some different ages including children.

The follow rehearsals are scheduled to rehearse to choral parts:

Wed., Oct. 24th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Wed., Nov. 7th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Wed., Dec. 5th ~ Final Dress Rehearsal ~ 6:30-9:00 pm

Sat., Dec. 8th ~ Performances ~ 1:30 pm & 4:00 pm

Sun., Dec. 9th ~ Final Performance ~ 10:15 am



Please contact Bob Smith by Sunday, Oct. 14th so that we can get music to you ahead of time (352-2638) or smithrob@champaignschool.org

5 for **5** Neighbors in Need

On our journey to become a 5 for 5 church we've got 1 down, 4 to go

October 7th marks a new opportunity to give!

October 7th, we will be kicking off collecting for Neighbors in Need!!! Since this ministry covers many exciting topics, we will give you the opportunity to make a gift all through the month of October.

So what exactly does this Neighbors in Need collection go to?

One third of it goes to the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). This summer I was given an amazing opportunity to go visit a Navajo school in Rock Point Arizona. The school used to serve to teach the Navajo children English, but today Rock Point Community School strives to teach the kids Navajo as well as their culture and history. I fell in love with the school, the area, everything.

We met with the director of the school one night. She had also been the director of an Indian school in North Dakota, where the CAIM does much of their work. One thing was clear across the country- no school was getting enough funding. Even though part of the "deal" struck with the Navajos was that our government would provide free public education for as long as the United States existed in exchange for the many Navajo lives lost, Rock Point was being hit hard with funding cuts due to No Child Left Behind standards.

I walked into a school struggling to balance resources between teaching their culture and teaching the test. The UCC, through CAIM, can do something to help.

Campus Ministry Events

Campus Ministry Choir

Mon 10 pm

Rev. Bush's Drop In Hours:

Mon and Thurs 11-noon

Tues and Wed 11-1 pm

Sanctuary

Wednesdays 9 pm

Open House

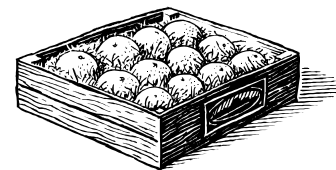
Thursday 2-4 pm

Chapel & Program

Fridays: Chapel 5 pm ~ Program 6 pm

For further program or other information please email Rev. Karen at ks-bush@uiuc.edu

Coming Attractions!!



The Campus Ministry will bring to your church parlor....

Texas Grapefruit and Oranges from the Red River Valley.

Sales begin in October

Tell all your friends and family

Fruit that tastes

the way nature intended!

WE NEED A BIG ROCK

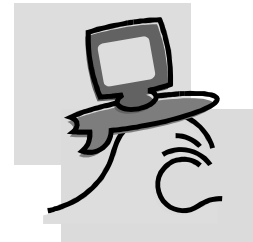
Seriously, we need a big rock. After months of trying and failing to find a plant that will withstand the foot traffic on the southwest corner of our building, Jim Carnahan and I have decided that what we need is a boulder; a boulder small enough that it can be moved by 2 or 3 sturdy people and a cart, but large enough that it can not be thrown by 2 or 3 alcohol impaired people with dubious intent. If you have a boulder that you would like to donate, please let me know. We've already figured out how to move it!

Victoria Robertson



SURFING WITH CUCC

Would you like to know more about the resources available on the UCC website? Tom Ward will be offering you the opportunity to ride the waves on UCC.ORG. On Sunday, September 30 at 9:00 AM and immediately following the service, Tom will be surfing the UCC website in the parlor. If you would like to learn how to surf, bring your board and join Tom in the parlor.



MERGER ANNIVERSARY

This year we have been celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ, culminating in the General Synod Meeting in Hartford that a number of our members and youth attended. This month marks the 40th Anniversary of Community United Church of Christ. On Sept. 10, 1967, the three congregations, First Congregational Church, UCC, of Champaign, the First United Church of Urbana, and St. Andrew's United Church of Christ of Urbana, worshipped together for the first time in our present building. The ministers were Harry Applewhite and Jim

Jackson. The Committee of Nine, which had managed the merger, continued as the Executive Council of the Cooperative Ministry of the UCC. The official votes on the merger occurred on Jan. 14, 1968. After the two ministers left in early 1968, the church worshipped with Rev. Arthur Gerhold at interim until Lionel Miles became the minister on Jan. 1, 1969. The name Community United Church of Christ of Champaign-Urbana was chosen at the First Annual Meeting in January 1970.

This brief history may be news for the majority of our present members who have joined since 1970. We still have members who had belonged to the three merging congregations. Additional stories on the events leading to the merger and other stories about the 157 year history of our church are found in "Cherishing the Past, A History of Community United Church of Christ" published in 2005. See Curt Wilson if you would like to buy a copy.

JUST PEACE IDENTITY TEAM

Kathy Kelly with Voices for Creative Nonviolence
"BATTLEFIELD WITHOUT BORDERS,
CONSEQUENCES WITHOUT END"
Thursday, October 4 - 7:00 p.m.
Community United Church of Christ

Kathy has just returned from spending two months in Amman, Jordan, living amongst Iraqis who have fled the violence in their country. During her talk in CU she will focus on the consequences of war for displaced Iraqis, Americans who suffer neglect because of our bloated military budget, and our nation's failure to address the planet's growing environmental problems.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

The New Sanctuary Movement
Wednesday, October 10 - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Community United Church of Christ

The New Sanctuary Movement is a coalition of interfaith religious leaders and participating congregations, called by our faith to respond actively and publicly to the suffering of our immigrant brothers and sisters residing in the United States.

We acknowledge that the large-scale immigration of workers and their families to the United States in a complex historical, global and economic phenomenon that has many causes and does not lend itself to simplistic or purely reactive public policy solutions.

Channing-Murray Foundation
1209 W. Oregon, Urbana

Wednesday, October 3rd - 7:00 p.m. Screening of

**** Fast Food Nation ****

S-L-O-W F-O-O-D REFRESHMENTS & DISCUSSION FOLLOWING!

We'll talk about how the immigration issue comes straight to our kitchen tables and talk about the means of food production and the costs & consequences of *fast food* in the U.S.

Fast Food Nation is a fictional film based on the bestselling book. An executive investigates where the meat for his fictitious burger chain comes from. The film explores the exploitation of immigrant workers, as well as the hard reality of life working in a meatpacking plant.

Viewing Guidelines! Rated R--A film for "mature audiences"
Some graphic images make this an inappropriate film for children.

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
JUST PEACE, LGBTQ OPEN AND AFFIRMING

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Church Staff

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Community Life Calendar Keeper:
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jlk208@gmail.com
Child Care Providers: Laura Czopek,
Jessica Bush, Julia Kara

UCC Campus Ministry Staff

Campus Minister: Rev. Karen Bush
karen@community-ucc.org

The next Communigram will be mailed out on September 26.

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.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 am Sunday School

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:15 am Worship

After the Children's Time, children up to four years old are welcome in the nursery.

Children in first grade and younger are invited to attend our yoga class.

During Closing Hymn the children are dismissed to go with Audrey Vallance for children's choir

11:30 am Coffee Hour

6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group