

# COMMUNIGRAM

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VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1      JANUARY 9, 2008

## MODERTATOR'S MUSINGS

My family had a terrific holiday season. We spent a lot of time together relaxing, eating, and catching up on some much needed sleep. I hope that everyone had at least some of their wishes fulfilled.

Unfortunately the holidays are over now and we are left with January. I have never cared much for January. It is cold and dark and if its 31 days were not needed to get us around the sun I would just advocate cancelling it completely. Nothing much ever happens in January. There used to be the Superbowl, but now it has moved into February, probably in despair. In fact the only really fun thing happening in January this year is the CUCC Congregational Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

All of the Polity Team Leaders and Church Life Board Members will have their annual reports in to Cindy by the 14<sup>th</sup>, so you will be able to read and enjoy them before the meeting and then on the 27<sup>th</sup> we will meet to elect new Church Life Board Members and approve the budget.

We will be trying something new this year with the meeting format. In order to make it easier for everyone to attend, the meeting will be held as part of the worship service and will start at 10:15 am. There will be coffee and bagels beforehand to wake everyone up and as per usual lots of good discussion to help us all make the important decisions necessary to keep us running for another year.

I hope that everyone will plan to attend. Although only members are allowed to vote, friends are always welcome.

Vicky Robertson

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## MANY THANKS

Thanks to all of those who provided leadership for our holiday worship services. Special thanks to Bob Smith and Linda Vaughn and all of the choir for the wonderful and important story of "Amahl and the Night Visitors." The idea that by granting hospitality we receive divine gifts is found in Hebrew Scripture beginning

with Abram and Sarai's visitors to the gospels with the road to Emmaus to early church teaching in the book of Hebrews. The children continued that story with "The Unfriendly Beasts." Thanks to all of them! Thanks to Audrey Vallance for all of her direction and Karen Kelsky for her work with the costumes.

I so appreciated Jean Nanney taking time out of her pastorate to play piano for our Hanging of the Greens hymn sing. Thanks again to Audrey Vallance for playing piano for our early Christmas Eve service. Thanks to Isabella Solis and Lauren Kordik for their special music during the early Christ-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Many individuals have contributed to the current stewardship drive. We want to thank them and acknowledge the importance of their gifts. Their pledges will form the foundation of a 2008 budget that will support children and youth activities, salaries for our hard-working church staff, Just Peace-Open and Affirming-Progressive Christianity activities, heat and maintenance of our building, and many other CUCC events. On behalf of the Church Life Board and the congregation, thank you for your generous support.

Please note that the names listed below reflect pledges received by January 6, 2008. We are still delighted to accept pledges and will recognize donors that pledge this month in the next Communigram.

### --Susan Schnuer on behalf of the Church Life Board

Mike Allen; Mary Andersen; John Bandy; Pat Barnhart; Christy Brinkley; Scott & Karen Bush; James Carnahan; Jean Creswell; Brian & Becky Duffield; John & Jean Due; Jan & Wallace Dobson; Elizabeth

Easley; Ralph & Ruth Fisher; JoAnn Fley; Mary Forbes; June Foster; Margaret Frampton; Charles Gammie & Kristin Hoganson; David & Sophie Gerstenecker; Ken & Ruth Gilbert; Alice Gillies; Howard Guenther & Lisa Treul; Rebecca Hanson; Roger & Marjorie Harlan; Kent & Caryl Henkel; Russ Hougland; Todd Isaacs; Marianna Janssen; Neil & Jennifer Kelleher; Edie Knippel; Susan Kundrat & Vicki Burkhalter; Touby & Frances Kurtz; Stig & Deidre Lanesskog; Wesley & Corrine Lindstrom; Patricia McQuillen; Linda Morgan; Mike Mulberry & Tracy Heilman; Ann Mullins; David & Jean Nanney; Paul & Donna Offenbecher; Tony & Denise Oligney-Estill; Jack & Sally Paxton; Russ & Elaine Peppers; Grant & Jennifer Robbennolt; Victoria Robertson; Richard & Susan Schnuer; Bob & Mary Ellen Schroeder; Martha Seif; Rebecca Sheridan; Dolores Shumway; Tim & Dawn Smith; Robert Smith; Jodie Steggerda; Burt & Iris Swanson; Patricia Syoen; Deborah Townsend; Linda & Charles Vaughn; Roger & Peggy Wade; Ron & Martha Wagner; Tom & Jeanne Ward; Tom Watembach & Ellen Kordik; David Willcox; Sheldon Williams; Curtis & Janice Wilson

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*(Continued from page 1)*

mas Eve service and to Jeanne Ward for playing guitar for the early Christmas Eve Service. Also, I want to thank Jeanne Ward and Audrey Vallance for playing guitar and Trevor Bush for his piano music during the late Christmas Eve Service. Thanks to Bob Smith, Linda Vaughn, the chimers, and the choir for their music during the late Christmas Eve service. And, finally, thanks to Iris Swanson for continuing the tradition of singing *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* during the presentation of the Christ candle.

I did not get out for the worship experience led by Eileen Gebbie on Christmas Day but thanks to her for offering an alternative spirituality on that special day.

Also thanks for all of those who volunteered to usher, lead crafts, recruit others, greet, light candles, help with the lighting, worked the sound board, or read as liturgists during these special services. Special thanks to Peg Wade and Michael Allen for all of the organization and preparation they provided for these worship services.

## PARISH NURSING AT CUCC ~ NEW FACES, A NEW NAME, AND NEW DIRECTIONS

Have you heard rumors about an influx of parish nurses in our midst?? It's true--Community UCC is now blessed to have three nurses volunteering our time to our members: Linda Morgan, Jennifer Keller and Faith Roberts. Our roles are evolving, but our initial goals are to provide resources and support to: 1) parents with new babies, 2) families making long term care decisions for loved ones, and 3) persons who are in the grieving process. We also will be making periodic visits to members/friends in the hospital, long term care and assisted living facilities, and will be presenting health and wellness programming as our time allows.

The name Parish Nursing was created by the founder of the movement for preventive and whole person health, the Rev. Granger Westberg. That name continues to be used internationally to describe the work done by nurses in their own faith families.

Whole person health remains one of the focuses of health ministry efforts for the UCC. Over the past decade however there has been a stronger movement for groups sharing similar beliefs and faith to see themselves as reaching outside the walls of a building. Social justice issues, work with shelters, soup kitchens etc. could not be confined within one structure. A group concerned with the term "parish"

as too limiting began to discuss finding a name that would more fully encompass our work. To its critics the term parish had a "catholic" feel, was Christian centric, and for colleagues in LA where the word replaces the term county, it was a cause of confusion.

In the most recent (2007) Scope and Standards from the American Nurses Association the title of our work was changed to Faith Community Nursing (FCN). We are free to continue to refer to ourselves as a parish nurse, church nurse, or whatever term best fits with the group that we serve. Locally, our educational resource (the training program for parish nurses) will retain the title of Community Parish Nurse Program with the decision to use FCN left up to the individual congregations.

Our decision here at Community, has been to follow the direction of the UCC and utilize the term faith community nurse. Please know whether you call and ask to see a parish nurse or a faith community nurse that we will respond. And don't be surprised if you see us also working in the community setting with migrant workers, the homeless or those without health care.

Your new Faith Community Nurse (FCN) team,  
Linda, Jennifer and Faith

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## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2008

It's time to sign up for altar flowers. There's a sign up sheet in the Parlor if you would like to sponsor altar flowers for a particular Sunday in 2008. Cost is \$25 per Sunday. A check can be dropped into the offering plate or sent to the church office. Be sure to put flowers in the memo section of your check. Thank you.

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## COMMUNIGRAM CHANGE

Beginning in February we will have a monthly newsletter instead of a bi-weekly newsletter. Deadlines will be on Thursdays and the first one will be February 21, then March 20, April 24, May 22, June 19, July 24, August 21, September 18, October 23, November 20, and finally December 11. Thank you.



# JANUARY 2008



## 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 Sr &amp; Jr High Youth</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day                      Office Closed</p>	<p>2 Noon Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>3 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens                      9:30 am Preschool Play-group                      8 pm AA</p>	<p>4 9 am Women's Book Club                      Astonishing Splashes of Color at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>5 9 am Women's Book Club                      Astonishing Splashes of Color at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>6 *See Schedule Above                      Free Blood Pressure Checks</p>	<p>7 10 am Communion Dead-line</p>	<p>8 Noon Bulletin Deadline                      Noon Prayer Protest                      6 pm Chimers                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal                      7 pm New Sanctuary Movement</p>	<p>9 9:30 am Preschool Playgroup                      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                      8 pm AA</p>	<p>10 9 am Women's Book Club                      Astonishing Splashes of Color at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>11 9 am Women's Book Club                      Astonishing Splashes of Color at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>12 9 am Women's Book Club                      Astonishing Splashes of Color at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>13 *See Schedule Above                      5:30 pm GCAP                      7 pm Call to Covenant at Jeanne &amp; Tom Ward's home</p>	<p>14 9:30 am Preschool Play-group                      8 pm AA</p>	<p>15 9 am Women's Book Club                      Born on a Blue Day at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>16 9 am Women's Book Club                      Born on a Blue Day at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>17 9 am Women's Book Club                      Born on a Blue Day at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>18 9 am Women's Book Club                      Born on a Blue Day at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>19 9 am Women's Book Club                      Born on a Blue Day at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>20 *See Schedule Above</p>	<p>21 Martin Luther King                      Office Closed</p>	<p>22 9:30 am Preschool Play-group                      8 pm AA</p>	<p>23 9:30 am Preschool Play-group                      8 pm AA</p>	<p>24 9:30 am Preschool Play-group                      8 pm AA</p>	<p>25 9 am Women's Book Club                      Born on a Blue Day at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>26 9 am Women's Book Club                      Born on a Blue Day at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>27 *See Schedule Above                      10:15 am Congregational Brunch and Meeting</p>	<p>28 10 am Communion Dead-line</p>	<p>29 Noon Bulletin Deadline                      Noon Prayer Protest                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 9:30 am Preschool Play-group                      8 pm AA</p>	<p>31 9:30 am Preschool Play-group                      8 pm AA</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>CUCC Office Hours</b>                              Monday-Thursday                              9 am-3 pm</p> </div>

## NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Worship Leadership Team is asking for your assistance on the following 2 items:

1) In order to start our Sunday Morning Worship on time at 10:15 A.M., we have asked Linda Vaughn to play a series of chimes at 10:10 A.M. This will be the signal for Mike, the liturgist and the acolyte to be ready to start walking down the aisle. This will also be the signal for the congregation to please be seated. We have asked the ushers to help by strongly encourag-

ing everyone to take their seats. We understand that occasionally everyone runs late, but we are hoping that the majority of the congregation will be in the sanctuary and by this time. This should allow Mike to begin the service promptly at 10:15 A.M.

2) Worship Leadership Team is putting together a survey to ask the congregation their opinions on various aspects of the worship service. We hope to have surveys available on Sunday mornings beginning mid January thru

the end of January. We would appreciate your assistance in helping us by filling out a survey.

We thank you in advance for your assistance with both of these items.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact one of the Worship Leadership Team members: Mike Allen, Colie Huppertz, Sarah Issacs, Pat McQuillen, Elaine Peppers, Mary Ellen Schroeder, Raymond Smith or Peg Wade.

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## TEACHING SERVICE

Two years ago we held a teaching service that we recorded for public access television. The teaching service shared what I considered to be the meaning for each part of our worship service. That service was received so well that Worship Ministry Team decided to have one this year in January as well.

But as the service moved closer, I realized that knowing what parts of the liturgy and worship ser-

vice meant to the pastor had limited meaning for all of us. What does all that worship and liturgy mean to *you* is much more important than what it means to the pastor. So Worship Ministry Team and I have decided to reschedule the teaching service to a Sunday in April believing that will give us time to develop a format that will help all of you state what worship and the liturgy means to you.

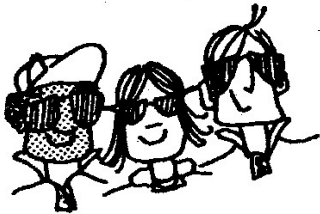
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## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Questions about the church or new membership classes? Please call:

- Anna at 217-493-8847
- Jeanne at 217-344-1619
- Becky at 217-344-3977

## COMMUNITY UNITED YOUTH GROUP



We were very sorry to have to cancel our Annual 12<sup>th</sup> Night Feast due to dismal ticket sales. Many thanks to Caryl Henkel for her help with costumes, to Rev. Mike for writing a new script, and to Pat Syoen and Becky Duffield for their preliminary work in tracking down great deals on the ingredients. Perhaps we'll be able to try it again next year.

In the meantime, the Youth Group and parents are going to be busy with some new fundraisers! In the works are:

**Super Sub Sandwiches for the Superbowl!** We'll be taking orders on Jan. 13, 20 and 27<sup>th</sup> for pick up on February 3.

**The Body Shop for Valentines!** Anita Stein will once again take orders for the Body Shop, with her profits going toward the Youth Group Service Trip. Orders will be taken on January 27<sup>th</sup> with delivery in time for Valentines Day. If you are not familiar with the Body Shop or its products, you should know that these are nature-based skin care products from a company that is committed to community trade, human rights and environmental responsibility. They are also against animal testing. For more information, you might want to refer to the October 22, 2007 broadcast on Democracy Now concerning this company and its founder Anita Roddick. <http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=07/10/22/1415259>.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

We'll be celebrating the end of our rotation by taking a field trip! We recently collected nearly 150 pounds of food for Eastern Illinois Food. Now, let's go see what they do with the food. We will meet at the Food Bank on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am for a tour. We'll finish up and head back to church at 10 am.

Look for more information to come home with the Sunday School Children.

Our next Story will begin soon. Would you like to lead a rotation? Please see Tracy.

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## THANK YOU FROM EASTERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

On behalf of the Food For Families committee, our member agencies, and those they serve, I would like to thank you for your donation. Your contribution of 144.00 pound received on November 29, 2007 will directly benefit those at hunger risk through area food pantries, residential facilities, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other non-profit community food programs. Your support allows us to assist almost 34,000 individuals and families that rely on food provide through our nearly 200 agencies and programs each month.

Sincerely,  
 Jim Hires  
 Executive Director

# ANNOUNCING..

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of CUCC will be Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am. This year the meeting will take place as part of the worship service. The meeting will still be held in the Fellowship Hall, but will be integrated into the service, so that all members will have the opportunity to attend. A light brunch of breakfast items and coffee, etc. will be provided before the meeting beginning at 9:45 am, so that everyone will be energized and ready to go. The meeting is planned to adjourn by 12 pm. If you have any questions, please let me know.

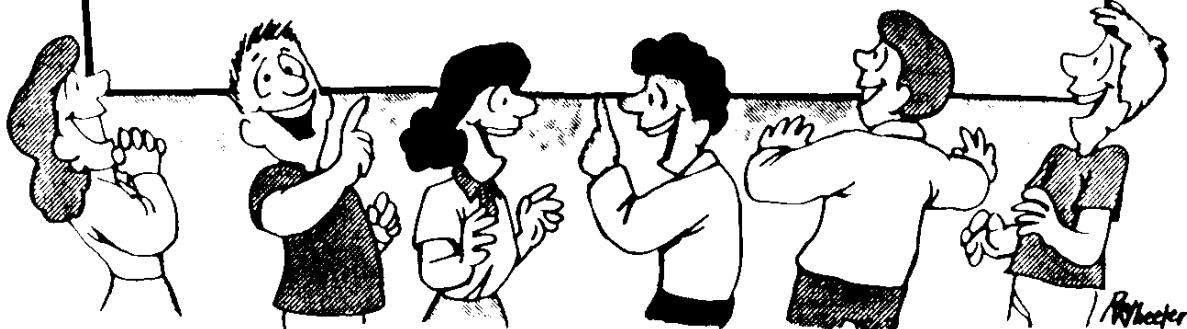
At this time the agenda for this meeting is approval of the 2008 fiscal year budget and the approval of new Church Life Board members.

Vicky Robertson

Moderator

398-8932

[victoriarobertson@insightbb.com](mailto:victoriarobertson@insightbb.com)



**Glory to God in the highest and on earth PEACE.**



Dear friend,

Today Orthodox Iraqi Christians, including those who have remained in Iraq and those who have been forced to leave, are celebrating Christmas. In the words of the Syrian Orthodox Christmas Liturgy used in Iraq, we pray with them,

*Make us worthy, O Lord God, to hallow You. . . to bless You. . .*

*to glorify You. . . to adore You. . .*

*to exalt You with the innocent shepherds unceasingly;*

*to worship You with the discerning wise men steadfastly;*

*and to rejoice in You.*

*Make us worthy, O Lord, to honor Your birth.*

*We beseech You to regenerate us, spiritually, in daily fruitful works  
that are pleasing unto You.*

*Make Your light to shine forth in our souls.*

*Grant us, our Lord, that we may rejoice in Your feast*

*to recognize without any doubt that You are the true God.*

From Advent through Epiphany members of the United Church of Christ have observed the incarnation in many ways through fruitful works pleasing to God. I am particularly grateful for the generosity that has surpassed our \$100,000 goal of support for Iraqi refugees forced to flee their homes by sectarian violence. **To date we have received \$141,594, which will be shared through our ecumenical partners to help provide humanitarian aid to these displaced persons.** [Contributions can still be made online](#) if you still wish to make a gift. Our members have also been generous with their prayers for U.S. servicemen and service women, many of whom face danger and were unable to be with family and friends during the holiday season. You may [read some of those prayers posted online](#).

Bringing the war to an end and restoring health and wholeness to Iraq remains our urgent goal. To that end, many UCC members have visited their Congress persons or senators in district offices during the recess, delivering the Pastoral Letter on Iraq. That advocacy effort continues and I urge you to join your fellow members in scheduling these visits. [A step by step information packet is available on-line](#) and you can share your visit on [the on-line schedule of visits](#).

**Make us worthy, O Lord, to honor Your birth.** Through our generosity, our prayers, and our protest for peace, may Your light shine forth in our souls. And may the prayers of all our Iraqi sisters and brothers, of whatever faith, be met by the One who has come among us to make this world worthy of its Creator.

God Bless You,

The Rev. John H. Thomas

General Minister and President

United Church of Christ



**COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

JUST PEACE, PROGRESSIVE  
LGBTQ OPEN AND AFFIRMING



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**Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Michael Mulberry  
mike@community-ucc.org

**Religious Education Director:**  
Rev. Tracy Heilman  
tracy@community-ucc.org

**Choir Director:** Robert Smith  
smithrob@champaignschools.org

**Organist:** Linda Vaughn  
lindavaughn@community-ucc.org

**Office Manager:** Cindy Dodd  
info@community-ucc.org

**Faith Community Nurses:** Linda Morgan,  
Jennifer Kelleher, Faith Roberts

**Community Life Calendar Keeper:**  
Jennifer Kelleher  
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

**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.

Has your address changed?



Keep us posted!

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The next Communion will be mailed out on January 30.

**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.

11:15 am Children dismissed for children's choir

11:30 am Coffee Hour

6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group



**CHURCH MEETING NIGHT**

Thursday, January 10

5:15 Dinner

6:00 pm Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet

7:00 pm Chairs of Ministry Groups meet with CLB Co-coordinators

7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting