

COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 2 JANUARY 23, 2008

MODERTATOR'S MUSINGS

With this *Communigram* article it seems that I have come to the end of my time as Moderator of our Church. On Sunday, January 27th, I will be turning everything over to Stig Lanesskog. Months ago when Stig and I were talking about his becoming Moderator-Elect, I told him that even though ours is a congregation of strong personalities and strong opinions, no one had ever been unkind or unhelpful to me. That statement has held true throughout the year.

Since becoming Moderator in May, I have encountered numerous questions, some confusion, lots of suggestions, some really good advice, a little bit of criticism, and once or twice some anger, but nothing said was ever meant to be hurtful to me or to the Church Life Board. For that, I would like to thank the entire Congregation. I know that we are all working to build a better community and that makes me very proud of all of us. I have never known such an extraordinarily talented and admirable group of people and it has been a privilege to be able to serve with you in the work of our Church.

I would also like to thank everyone on the Church Life Board, the Personnel Committee, and all of the Team leaders for the work they have done this year trying to figure out how this new polity is supposed to work. I know that it has not always been easy. I would also like to thank all of our Past-Moderators for the helpful advice that they offered while always ignoring my look of stunned amazement as I realized that I had forgotten to do something important.

I know that Stig is going to be a great leader for our Church and I know that you will continue to give him all the support that you have given me as we go on together. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be Moderator of CUCC.

Vicky Robertson

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

MOVING THROUGH EPIPHANY AND LENT

From January to February we move from Epiphany to Lent. Epiphany is the second oldest liturgical season in the Christian liturgical year (Easter is the oldest). Epiphany is a season of mission and evangelism, of growth and light. So we celebrate that season with green (for growth) and white (for light on Sundays like Epiphany Day and



Transfiguration Sunday). Lent begins early this year with Ash Wednesday falling on Wednesday, February 6. We will hold an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 a.m., February 6. All who wish may receive the imposition of ashes on their forehead or on the back of their hand.

On the last Sunday of Epiphany, Transfiguration Sunday which falls on February 3, Pat Syoen and Becky Duffield will share their experiences from their presence at the School of Americas Vigil in Columbus, Georgia. The congregation surrounded Pat and Becky with their financial support so that they might be our presence and missionaries in that place. We look forward to hearing how this experience has shaped their lives and what, as our missionaries, they now call us to do.

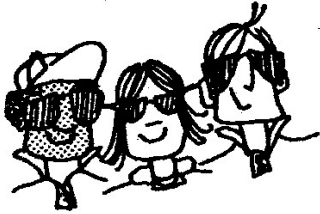
The color for Lent is purple or violet, **Pastor's Article** symbolizing royalty and repentance. The name Lent comes from the "lengthening" of days that becomes noticeable as we move through March. Several special Sundays will occur at Community United Church of Christ during Lent. On Sunday, February 10, we will celebrate our identity as an Open and Affirming congregation and serve communion. Following that service we invite any and all couples who wish to renew their vows to do so.

Sunday, March 2, is the Sunday generally designated for receiving our One Great Hour of Sharing Special Mission Offering. One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Presently, our Children's Choir is scheduled to sing on this Sunday.

On Sunday, March 9, Amistad Sunday, we welcome Rev. Linda Jaramillo, the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ, to our pulpit. Rev. Jaramillo was recently imprisoned with our General Minister and President, Rev. John Thomas, for protesting the war in Iraq. We look forward to her presence among us. A slide show of the Amistad celebration this summer in New Haven, Connecticut to mark the end of the slave trade will also be shown. We will share in special music from the choir on that Sunday. Our liturgical color moves to red to remember the Spirit moving among us through the Amistad event.

We will begin Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 16, with the Trial of Christ and a palm processional which will lead us inside the church building. Palm Sunday now also incorporates Passion Sunday, recognizing that many folks do not attend church until Easter Day the following week. For that reason, with Amistad preceding, we remember the passion with the color red.

COMMUNITY UNITED YOUTH GROUP



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

Super Sub Sandwiches for the Superbowl!

Orders Blanks will be available **Sunday, January 27 for Super Subs**. You can pick up your sandwiches on February 3 following the worship service. All proceeds to benefit Community United Youth Service trip to Re-Member in South Dakota. Pick from the offerings below: Patriots/Giant -East Cost Grinder: ham, provolone, bell peppers & tomato; The Dallas Cowboys - A Lone Star favorite: roast beef, piled high!; San Diego Chargers—A Seafood Special - Our own blend of tuna & special seasonings, topped with lettuce & tomatoes; Indy Colts - Peyton's Favorite Club: Ham, salami, cheese topped with lettuce, & tomatoes; Green Bay Packers - It's a Cheesehead!: We'll start with cheese, and then layer on avocado, tomatoes, peppers, olive. All made on 6 inch Avanti's Bread. Cost = \$6 each!

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 27th 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>.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2008

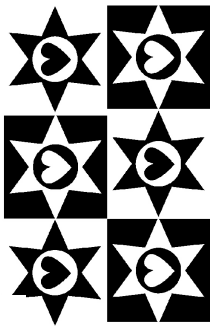
It's time to sign up for altar flowers. There's a sign up sheet in the Parlor if you would like to sponsor altar flowers for a particular Sunday in 2008. Cost is \$25 per Sunday. A check can be dropped into the offering plate or sent to the church office. Be sure to put flowers in the memo section of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



2008 COMMUNIGRAM DEADLINES



Beginning in February we will have a monthly newsletter instead of a bi-weekly newsletter. They will be mailed out the last Wednesday of each month. **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.



FEBRUARY 2008

Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>*Sunday Schedule</u> 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 6 pm Sr & Jr High Youth</p>		<p>CUCC Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm</p>		1		2
<p>3 *See Schedule Above Blood Pressure Checks Pick up Super Sub Sandwiches</p>		5	<p>6 Ash Wednesday 7 am Ash Wednesday Service Noon Bulletin Deadline Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	8		<p>9 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>10 *See Schedule Above Communion</p>	<p>11 5:30 pm GCAP 7 pm Call to Covenant at Jeanne & Tom Ward's home</p>	12	<p>13 Noon Bulletin Deadline Noon Prayer Protest 6 pm Chimers 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm New Sanctuary Movement</p>	<p>14 1 pm Women's Fellowship at Clark Lindsey 5:15 Dinner ~ 6 pm Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet ~ 7 pm Chairs of Ministry Groups meet with CLB Co-ordinators ~ 7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting 8 pm AA</p>	15	<p>16 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>17 *See Schedule Above</p>		19	<p>20 Noon Bulletin Deadline Noon Prayer Protest 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	21	22	<p>23 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>24 *See Schedule Above</p>		26	<p>27 Noon Bulletin Deadline Noon Prayer Protest 6 pm Chimers 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	28	29	

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 Isaacs, Pat McQuillen, Elaine Peppers, Mary Ellen Schroeder, Raymond Smith or Peg Wade.

THE FOLLY OF ATTACKING IRAN: TIME FOR REAL DIPLOMACY

STEPHEN KINZER, award-winning foreign correspondent and author, is coming to Champaign-Urbana on Sunday, February 17. He will be speaking at 3:00 pm in Latzer Hall at the University YMCA, 1001 S. Wright St. Champaign.

This event is part of a nationwide tour entitled, "The Folly of Attacking Iran: Time for Real Di-

plomacy." The tour is designed to appeal to the American public and elected officials through events and news media in support of serious and effective diplomacy to resolve all issues between the U.S. and Iran without military conflict or threats of military conflict.

UNITED CHURCH FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING

January 31, 5:30, UCF Board meeting at the Henderson's, 1107 Silver St., Urbana.

CAMPUS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Mon 10 pm ~ Campus Ministry Choir

Thurs 11-noon & Tues and Wed 11-1 pm

Rev. Bush's Drop In Hours:

Wednesdays 9 pm ~ Sanctuary

Thursday 2-4 pm ~ Open House

Fridays: Chapel 5 pm ~ Program 6 pm

Chapel & Program

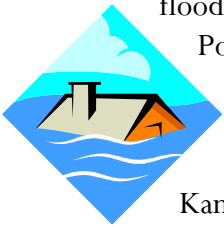
For further program or other information

please email Rev. Karen at

ks-bush@uiuc.edu

Dear Eastern Friends:

I have delivered 50 clean up kits and 24 school bags, 25 hygiene kits to Pontiac Il where there has been severe flooding. Very few homes were unaffected. It is urgent that we respond to our neighbors in both Pontiac and Watseka. Many houses or trailers are unlivable. Your help is urgently needed!



Many of you have heard and seen the plight of Watseka, Illinois - located about 30 miles south of Kankakee in Iroquois County. and Pontiac located in Livingston County 30 miles west of Kankakee. Many people of our community have family and friends there. Some people work there and shop there. Now ...FEMA is on the scene and is slowly evaluating the situation. The governor has now declared Watseka and Pontiac to be a disaster areas and has promised funds. But the help is not coming soon enough. The area looks a lot like New Orleans and there are homeless and hungry people who need assistance now. It is likely that this effort will go on for several weeks - the clean-up, the emergency shelter, the emergency pantry and soup kitchen.

If you have any of the following items, please collect them and let me know so we can make arrangements for them to be delivered to the affected areas. **(Please bring donated items to the church and Rev. Mike Mulberry will see that they get to Rev. Pat Morton.)**

Here is a list of supplies that are specifically needed by the pantry and soup kitchen:

5 lb. bags of sugar, 5 lb. bags of flour, Cereal, Maple Syrup
 Canned anything - veggies, stew, soup, meat, potatoes
 Pancake mix, Mac and cheese, Noodles, Pasta, canned tuna, bread,
 Non-refrigerated side dishes, Ramen noodles, Spaghetti sauce,
 Instant Mashed Potatoes, beans, Gravy in jars or packets, Corn Bread Mix,
 Instant Pudding, Hot chocolate, tea, coffee, Mayo, dry cereal, oatmeal, grits



Other Items needed:

Pillows and cases, Linens (all sizes),
 Baby wipes . Baby formula (ONLY the individual packets or bottles, please), diapers, Baby cereal
 Toothbrushes. Toothpaste, Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant
 Brushes and large combs

Supplies are literally going out as fast as they are being brought in, so there is no need to worry about waste or to worry whether you can do enough. Literally, we can use anything at any time. You may contact me via email or by calling me at 815-277-7258/ 708-534-6341 /to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery. We need drivers, we need volunteer to help distribute items.

At this point, there is no need for clothing or toys. While volunteers are needed, there doesn't seem to be an organized effort, yet. So work crews who are showing up are basically on their own to find work to do.

Thank you for reaching out to a local community in need.

Grace and Peace,
 Rev. Pat Morton

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT COMMUNITY



What a turnout! The temperatures couldn't have gotten much worse in East Central Illinois. Both Champaign and Urbana school districts, as well as many private schools, were in the midst of a long week-end. In spite of this, 35 Sunday School kids and their parents showed up for our Field Trip to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank.

Andrea Rundell, Director of External and Agency Relations, was a great tour guide. She kept the kids interested and engaged. They loved going into the "small" refrigerator, which doubles as their storm shelter. Even more fun was to venture into their large freezer!

The adults also had the chance to learn more about the issues of hunger in our area, and the setbacks that our food bank and others like it face. Our food bank has about ½ as much food as it had last year at this time. Many factors contribute to this problem. Two of the most startling were Rundell's explanation of food bar codes as her enemy. The bar codes that are used to ring up our groceries enable manufacturers to very accurately plan how much of their goods to produce. There are far fewer "overruns". These overruns used to go to food banks. The second problem is that not only are there fewer overruns, but there is now a secondary market for these overruns. The dollar store. Dollar General, Dollar Store, Dollar Tree, Big Lots, Aldis, and other stores like this now compete with the food banks for the overruns.

But there is good news. Our contributions help. In fact, for every \$1 that is donated to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, they are able to purchase \$10 dollars worth of food. As Andrea said, "it's magic!" And our kids agreed.

So, in the weeks ahead you can expect to see a large jar or can sitting out. Feel free to drop off your extra change on Sunday morning. Let's see what kind of magic we can do!





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?



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posted!

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The next Communigram will be mailed out on February 28.

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of CUCC will be Sunday, January 27th 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