

COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 3 FEBRUARY 28, 2008

EASTER VIGIL

At Community United Church of Christ

In keeping with a tradition we have been practicing the last three years, we will celebrate the Easter Vigil beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Good Friday, March 21 until Easter Day, Sunday, March 23 at 8:00 a.m. in the Jack Good Library just off the Parlor. Each year more and more people have signed up to keep vigil throughout this time.

Devotional material is provided by Rev. Mulberry in the form of "An Order for Easter Vigil Prayer and Devotion", books, music, votive candles, and charitable donations to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please feel free to sign up for multiple times or to sign up with a friend or partner who might enrich your experience in deep and thoughtful conversation and devotion.

Sign up sheets will be found on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary. We hope this time of personal devotion and contemplation will enrich your celebration of this important liturgical season.

History of the Easter Vigil

The celebration of *Pascha* (literally meaning "Passover") was the earliest celebration of Christ's crucifixion, death, and resurrection. The Easter Vigil is the earliest core of Christian liturgical celebration. In the third century, Christians practiced a strict fast which ended after sundown on Saturday evening before Easter. One of the early controversies in the Christian Church was whether this celebration centered in Saturday (based in Jewish worship celebrations) or Sunday. Though the tradition varied based on geographical location, as we know, Sunday eventually became the dominant tradition. After 313, the Vigil was the time for catechumens to be baptized. As such it also ushered in Christ's resurrection following Paul's association of baptism with Christ's resurrection and rebirth (cf. Romans 6:1-5).

In the earliest years of the Christian Church, the Easter Vigil was the only liturgy of the year in which people joined the Church. The Easter time is all about celebrating Christ's triumph over injustice, sins and death and our sharing in that victory through baptism. At the Easter Vigil, catechumens are baptized and confirmed.

The observance of Easter vigil dates back to the Roman times as the official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the Roman Catholic Churches, the vigil opens with the service of light (a practice introduced during the early Middle Ages); the lighting of the Paschal candle (Light conquers night); a service of lessons which is followed by the blessing of the font and baptisms and then comes the eagerly awaited mass of Easter.

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Having just recently taken on the role of Moderator, I am already struck by the amount of activity that is ongoing throughout the church.

As you know, we are still in the first year of the new polity structure. We are all continuing to learn our roles and how best to take advantage of the diversity of skills, experiences and knowledge that we all possess. The entire Church Life Board seeks your input on how to continue to make the polity work best for our church.

I would like to thank Vicky Robertson for her wonderful job as Moderator this past year. Building

upon her efforts, I am looking forward to assisting the church achieve its aspirations.

If you have comments, issues and/or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. A simple phone call can often work better than email. You can also find me before or after the church services. Look for parent chasing one or more of his four kids!

Thanks in advance for making this another wonderful year at Community United Church of Christ.

Stig Lanesskog

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Many individuals have contributed to the 2008 stewardship drive. The Financial Resources Ministry Team (FRMT) and the Church Life Board would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have pledged since the list was last published on January 9, 2008: Paul and Donna Hanke, Michelle Chappell and Michelle Franke, Paul Eubig, and those who wished to remain anonymous. These pledges will go to support our annual operational budget which includes funds for children and youth activities, salaries for church

staff, Just Peace-Open and Affirming-Progressive Christianity activities, heat and maintenance of our building, and many other CUCC events.

When combined with the pledges already received as well as those pledges that were increased after the annual meeting, we have been able to cover the budget deficit with an overage of approximately \$950. In the coming weeks FRMT will be meeting with other members on the Sound and Ethical Practices to make a recommenda-

tion to the Congregation on how the overage will be allocated.

If you would like to make a pledge to the 2008 operational budget or to any of the allocated or endowed funds, please contact FRMT Co-chairs: Michelle Franke or Vicky Robertson.

Thank you all for your generosity,

Vicky Robertson and Michelle
Franke
Financial Resources Ministry Team
aka Stewardship

UCC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Members of Community United Church of Christ Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Clark Lindsey Village. Jan Wilson will discuss her experience with Medical

Tourism in Bangkok, Thailand. Frances Kurtz is hostess, and Marianna Janssen will lead the group in devotions.

NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a Worship Survey. We will be presenting the results and our suggestions to the Church Life Board in April.

We are still looking for someone (or multiple people) who is interested in taking on the positions of usher and greeter leader. If you are interested, please contact the church office (344-5091).

We will again be hosting an Easter Vigil from Friday, March 21 at 7PM until Sunday, March 23 at 7AM in the Church Library. The Vigil provides time for quiet meditation and reflection during Holy Week. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Upcoming events:

March 9: Amistad Sunday - Rev. Linda Jaramillo

March 23: Easter Sunday and Trial of Christ (immediately prior to worship on the steps facing Daniels)

March 30: Rev. Karen Bush Preaching

April 6: Communion during worship (Intinction)

For details on these services see article below.

WORSHIP FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 2, 2008

Fourth Sunday in Easter/One Great Hour of Sharing

The children's choir will return to offer their gift of music for this Sunday. This Sunday is also the traditional Sunday for receiving our special mission offering, One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the relief, refugee and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It is one of the Special Mission Offerings received by the United Church of Christ and is a part of Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM).

Scripture for that Sunday: Ephesians 5:8-14

Sunday, March 9, 2009

Fifth Sunday in Easter/Amistad Sunday

Our Just Peace Identity Team welcomes Rev. Linda Jaramillo to the pulpit on this Sunday.

The Rev. Linda Jaramillo is Executive Minister of the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries, responsible for the church's work on human rights and social, racial, and economic justice. Jaramillo has been active in various UCC settings. She is a former president and vice-president of the Council for Hispanic Ministries and former co-convenor of the Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries. She received a B.S. in Business Administration from Portland (Ore.)

State University and a Master of Divinity degree from UCC-related Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif. Fluent in both English and Spanish; she is the first Hispanic to serve as a member of the Collegium of Officers. Linda has two adult children is a member of Archwood United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH.

Amistad Sunday celebrates the history of social justice work within the United Church of Christ. That history is remembered through the Amistad event. Like many ships sailing the Caribbean 150 years ago, the one ship named *La Amistad* was nothing unusual. It left Havana on June 26, 1839. The ship carried Spanish slave owners and 53 black Africans toward two very different futures—profit for one, slavery for the other. The Africans were chained, forced to lie in filth on a lower deck under a four-foot ceiling, fed rice and water, and disciplined with the whip. Three days out of port, this ordinary ship became the stage for an extraordinary event. Deciding to fight for their freedom, the Africans captured the ship and began to sail home—only to be recaptured and tried for murder and piracy in New Haven, Connecticut. At that time in history, the slave trade was in full swing as cargos of men, women, and children were sent to the Americas for sale. For the next two years, those Africans' quest for freedom became a cause and a commitment that swept throughout

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SUNDAY SCHOOL AT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our children are really enjoying our Lenten rotation, "Meals of Blessing." As you can tell from the Children's Time, they are learning the stories of the Hebrew people's lives as slaves under the Egyptian Pharaoh. Now, we are challenging the children to see the story not just happening in the past, but to look for it in the future. Where are people today living under another's power? Where are people today being forced to labor with unfair wages? Where are people today being called by God to accompany others as they walk from slavery and oppression to freedom and redemption? Where are people today looking for signs of hope from God? Are we the brothers and sisters called by God?

As we continue to hear and tell and seek out this story, we will also begin to explore how Jesus and his community heard the story, and how they celebrated it. Many thanks to our session leaders for working with the children: Sophie Gerstenecker, Jennifer and Grant Robbennolt, Sarah Isaacs, Deirdre Lanesskog, Kristin Hoganson and Charles Gammie, as well as our Shepherds: Jennifer Kelleher, Jim Carnahan and Colie Huppertz.

If you are interested in being part of our Children's Sunday School program, we are seeking volunteers for our final story Rotation, Pentecost: Wind and Fire, which will begin on March 30 and end on May 11. Please see Tracy if you would be willing to lead a 3 week session (March 30, April 6 and 13, or April 20, 27 and May 4).

(Continued from page 3)

New England and inspired our Congregational forebears. Their dedicated ministry and legacy gave birth to a faith-based liberation movement that informs who we are as a church today.

We will also display photos taken last summer by the General Synod delegation which participated in worship and celebration as the reconstructed *La Amistad* departed New Haven, Connecticut to mark Britain's end of the transatlantic slave trade route.

Scripture for that Sunday: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sunday, March 16, 2008

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

We welcome Rev. Tracy Heilman to the pulpit on this Sunday.

Our Palm/Passion Sunday will begin outside (down in the Fellowship Hall if inclement weather) with the Trial of Christ at the glass door entrance facing Daniel

Street. Please receive a palm inside the sanctuary and then join us for that reading and processional. After the reading from the Trial of Christ, the palm processional will follow the cross through the parking lot (going north and then east) and around our church building to the entrance with the large wooden doors facing Sixth Street. Then we ask that you follow the cross and the acolytes to the altar and the stairs where you are invited to lay down your palm.

Scripture for that Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11

Sunday, March 23, 2008 Easter Day

Come, you faithful, raise the strain on the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Scripture for that Sunday: Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20.

Sunday, March 30, 2008

Second Sunday in Easter

We welcome Rev. Karen Bush, United Church of Christ Campus Minister, to the pulpit.

World Day of Prayer**Friday, March 7, 2008****9:30 - 11:00 am****Bethel AME Church****401 E. Park St., Champaign**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of women and men who come together to observe a common day of prayer on the First Friday in March each year. The theme for the 2008 service, written by women of Guyana, is God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding, to express the awesomeness of God's creation and the understanding that we are called to care for it. Church Women United is coordinating the local observance.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

CROP WALK will be Sunday, April 13, 2008. This year the six mile walk will be in west Champaign, beginning and ending at Sinai Temple. CUCC always has a number of walkers--children, youth, adults, seniors. Sign up sheets for walkers and for sponsors will be available in the parlor after church services as we approach Walk Day. Wilsons will be gone March 26-April 9, so we need help as we prepare for the Walk. CROP was the original fund raising walk, beginning in 1946 when Europe was hungry. CROP raises money for

Church World Service, which helps people in all parts of the world who face hunger, disasters, and development needs. Last year 274 walkers from 20 congregations raised almost \$28,000. Help us top \$30,000 this year.

WALK or SPONSOR walkers. All can participate. New tee shirts, caps, walk sheets, brochures and other materials will be available after Rally Day, Feb. 28.

For more information contact the church.

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**

Got a sweet tooth or know someone who does?

" JUST DESSERTS "**Saturday, April 5 – 6 to 8 pm**

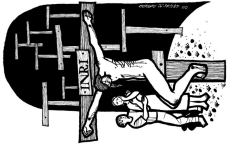
Our UCC Campus Ministry is having a major fundraiser on **Saturday April 5 at St. Peters UCC**. It is called "Just Desserts" and will be a wonderful opportunity for residents in the C-U area to have the chance to sample a wide selection of the premiere desserts of area restaurants and specialty shops for \$10. There will also be an amazing **auktion** at the end of the event whereby attendees get the chance to bid on their favorite dessert of the day unsliced (a whole pie/cake etc). Entertainment provided by U of I students and talent from our area high schools will also be enjoyed. Families will find the event very children friendly with special treats just for little ones included.

Tickets sold in advance and at the door.

All proceeds will go to help fund the UCC Campus Ministry.

For more information contact the church (344-5091).



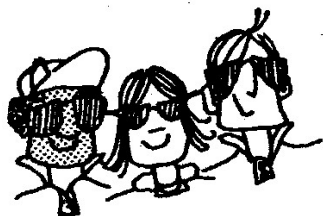


MARCH 2008

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>1 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>2 *See Schedule Above 11:30 am Blood Pressure Checks</p>		<p>4 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens **See Schedule Below 2 pm Invitation to the Journey at Clark Lindsey</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>9 *See Schedule Above 6 pm Reclaiming the World at Tom Watabach & Ellen Kordik's home</p>	<p>10 5:30 pm GCAP 7 pm Call to Covenant at Jeanne & Tom Ward's home</p>		<p>12 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chimers 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm New Sanctuary Movement</p>	<p>13 **See Schedule below 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-coordinators ~ 7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>16 Palm Sunday *See Schedule Above</p>		<p>18</p>	<p>19 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 Maundy Thursday **See Schedule Below 10 am Communion Deadline</p>	<p>21 Good Friday 7 pm Easter Vigil begins</p>	<p>22 Holy Saturday All Day and throughout evening Easter Vigil Continues 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
Holy Week						
<p>23 Easter Sunday 8 am Easter Vigil concludes 9 am Easter Breakfast 10:15 am Easter Worship No Coffee Hour No Youth Group</p>		<p>25</p>	<p>26 Noon Prayer Protest Noon Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chimers 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 **See Schedule Below</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>30 *See Schedule Above</p>				<p><u>**Thursday Schedule</u> 8 pm AA</p>	<p><u>CUCC Office Hours</u> Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm</p>	

YOUTH GROUP AT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



All youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to join us on **Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm**. We meet for discussion and activities, food and fellowship, service and sardines. You and your friends are always welcome!

In the coming weeks and months, we will be preparing for our summer trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Currently, we are watching the film, "Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee" so that we can see the historical context for the current situation. We were challenged at the beginning of the movie with the Sioux proverb, "It is easy to be brave from a distance, easy, and usually very safe."

Members and friends of the church are invited to support our trip by attending our Silent Auction and Dinner this April. We will have a dinner to include Indian tacos. You can expect to have the opportunity to bid on a variety of items and services, with all proceeds going towards the costs of our trip. If you have a service that you would like to offer, please contact Tracy Heilman or Paul Offenbecher.

Upcoming meeting plans:

March 2, 6-8 pm: We'll watch and discuss the 2nd half of "Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee." Pizza and beverages, also.

March 9, 6-8 pm: Silent Auction preparation. We'll do a taste test of the meal, make signs, etc.

March 16, 6-8 pm: Household of Faith. What is faith? We'll explore and create.

March 23: Easter Sunday, no youth group

March 30, 6-8 pm: More preparation for the trip. We'll complete skills assessment, among other things.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

All youth (Junior and Senior High) are invited to join Tom Ward in the library on Sunday mornings for a study of "The Last Week". You don't even have to read the book, as we have it available to download to your MP3 player! Come and give the class a try.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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

- Contact the church office (344-5091) or
- Info@community-ucc.org



BIRTH

Congratulations to Denise & Tony Oligney-Estill regarding the birth of Isabella Grace Oligney-Estill. She



was delivered at 6:34 am on February 8, 2008. Isabella is 19 inches long and weighs 5 pounds and 12 ounces. We wish

them the best with their bundle of joy.

DEATHS

James Rogers Harlan, 90, died Thursday, February 7, 2008, at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie. A memorial service to celebrate Rogers' life was held at Clark-Lindsey Village, on Sunday, February 17.

Word was received that **Doris Reinhart** died January 27. Carol Moorehead, her daughter, called the church office to let CUCC know. The Reinhart's were members in the 70's.

Community United Church of Christ would like to express their condolences to both families.

NEW MEMBERS

Community UCC is pleased to welcome two new members, Jan and Wallace Dobson. Jan and Wallace joined the church during the February 17 worship service. Their sponsors are Grant and Jennifer Robbennolt.

Jan and Wallace come to our community from Missouri (most recently) and California before that. Their son, Noah, is a third grader at Yankee Ridge Elementary School in Urbana. Noah enjoys soccer, basketball, and wrestling.

Jan is involved with finance for Health Alliance Medical Plans. Jan spent much of her childhood in Buckley, Illinois before moving to Centralia for high school and Champaign-Urbana for college. Jan loved the U of I so much she stuck around an extra year after earning her bachelors degree in Accounting to get her Masters in Accounting. She enjoyed this area so much that she dragged Wallace back to CU one year on vacation to satisfy her craving for Papa Del's pizza! Her hobbies include playing the piano, cooking (particularly baking), spending time with Noah, and attending Illini basketball and football games.

Wallace is retired and spends a fair amount of time shepherding Noah to various activities. He spent many years as an insurance auditor for the State of Missouri and also, in retirement, ran a reservation business that made reservations at Bed and Breakfast inns in Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino counties. Wallace enjoys fishing, board games, and cards.

~ Grant and Jennifer Robbennolt



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