

COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 5 APRIL 30, 2008

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Over the past couple of weeks we had the opportunity to get together as a church family for a couple of occasions. The first was for the Indian taco dinner and silent auction, the fund raiser for the youth group. It was a wonderful time for us to get together outside of the traditional times we are at church. The enthusiasm of those who prepared the meal, provided items for the auction and placed their bids was great to see. It helped remind me how important getting together in informal settings can be to strengthening our church family. It will be great to do this more often in the future.

The next day we were together to discuss church business at the congregational meeting. There was vigorous discussion about the future of our church building. Clearly, there are so many people who care deeply about the physical structure and how it can best meet our needs/align with our values in the years to come.

We are losing a dear person who has helped make sure we communicate across our church family, our office manager Cindy. Please join me in wishing her well as she returns to work at her "home" church. Although she is not part of our congregation, she has been a cherished part of our church family.

Again, thanks to all of you for all of your great work that makes Community United Church of Christ a great family to be a part of.

Stig

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Audio copies of Bill Moyers' interview with Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright are available in CD format from the church office. Contact Rev. Mulberry if you are interested.
- National United Church of Christ leadership is requesting that pastors place sermons about race online to foster the sacred conversation going on all through the United Church of Christ. Find resources for this conversation at <http://www.ucc.org/sacred-conversation/>. Rev. Mulberry will soon be placing his sermons online at his blog site. Contact Rev. Mulberry if you are interested in reading these sermons.

~Rev. Mike Mulberry

COMING TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU “THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN” SATURDAY, 2:00 PM, COMMUNITY UCC

This Saturday at 2:00 p.m. the movie that received the first standing ovation of Ebertfest will be showing in our church. Already scheduled as part of the Just Peace Identity Team sponsored “Fight Back with Your Fork” film series, “The Real Dirt on Farmer John” is an incredibly humorous, passionate, and Midwestern movie. The movie tells the story of Farmer John and one of the most commercially successful Community Supported Agriculture share (CSAs) organic farms in the country.

The News-Gazette reported that the filmmakers asked the audience how many people had already purchased CSAs. Around a dozen hands were raised. They then asked how many people were interested in purchasing CSAs. Almost every hand in the theater was raised.

To think that our congregation had close to twenty-five families purchase CSAs last year recognizes how faith communities can lead out their wider community in care for the earth and mutual relationship. I have also heard people inquire about another “feast” like the one we held at Prairie Fruits Farm where over 100 members and friends of Community UCC attended.

Anna Barnes has organized the “Fight Back with Your Fork” series. We are thankful for her mission and ministry among us. This Saturday we get a chance to see “for free” (donations are accepted) a movie that led to a standing ovation at Ebertfest. I encourage folks to attend, not only because this is a great movie, but also because this issue defines mission and ministry in our church.

~Rev. Mike Mulberry

WORSHIP AT COMMUNITY UCC

Sunday, May 4, 2008

Seventh Sunday of Easter

The United Church of Christ Campus Ministry students lead us in worship

Sunday, May 11, 2008

Pentecost

“Sing with the Spirit” Pentecost Cantata with music from Chancel Choir, Children’s Choir, Chimers, Soloists, and a Reader’s Theater. Come to hear this celebration of music and the spoken word.

Scripture for that Sunday: Acts 2:1-21

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Trinity Sunday

The Progressive Christianity Identity Team begins the sacred conversation about race being advanced by United Church of Christ leadership. As President and General Minister John Thomas stated, sacred conversations are difficult conversations. We begin this sacred conversation on Trinity Sunday.

Scripture for that Sunday: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Sunday, May 25, 2008

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture for that Sunday: Matthew 6:24-34

Reminder that Sunday worship time switches to 9:30 a.m. for the first Sunday in June.



~Rev. Mike Mulberry

NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP LEADERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The WLMT received over 60 Worship surveys in our January request for comments from the congregation. During February and March we assembled and read through all of the comments presented to us and developed a list of recommendations to improve the worship experience. This list was presented to the CLB during their April board meeting. We have also spoken with personnel and ministry teams whose mission these results most directly affect.

We have a very diverse congregation whose needs vary in education, spirituality and music. Most respondents are happy with the current worship environment and find that their spiritual needs are being met. However, a number of respondents expressed concerns with a variety of aspects of worship. Here, I briefly outline our suggestions. Please be aware that many of these recommendations are currently being considered. Some will be implemented quickly, some will take time to plan and develop, others will not be implemented. For a fuller accounting of responses and recommendations, please pick up a copy of the full report to the CLB, available on the credenza at the back of the sanctuary.

Some of the responses to our questions provided obvious recommendations: we plan to maintain the current structure for the Christmas Eve services, continue three summer outdoor services, and hold three Lenten Services.

The congregation feels that the optimal length of a "typical" Sunday morning worship service is 60 - 75 minutes. While this time frame has been consistently met during the last few months, we have developed a suggested time schedule for parts of a "typical" service to guide development. Announcements and Joys and Concerns were two areas mentioned as sometimes too long. We encourage everyone to bear in mind announcements should be for the life and work of the church and kept to no more than one minute (two sentences if possible). We will also begin including

birthdays, anniversaries and ongoing concerns in the bulletin. Also, while there was great praise for the work done by Rev. Heilman with the children, the Children's Moment was frequently mentioned as running too long. We recommend trimming this part of the service to no more than 10 minutes.

The other major recommendation from the report is to extend the music ministry of the church. While most individuals enjoy the variety, quality and current style of music in the church, there was a call from a significant minority of the respondents for contemporary or alternative music more frequently during worship (Jazz, guitar music, other cultures [e.g., Afro-American spirituals], contemporary participatory). We recommend exploring some of these alternative styles with a more contemporary service one Sunday per month. The Worship Leadership MT will be working with the Music MT to develop this service over the next year. We plan to explore different styles to find what speaks to us, and will be looking for your feedback on what works and what doesn't as we move forward.

We wish to thank all church members for their input and encourage you to speak to us with your concerns and suggestions as we move forward to improve our worship experience. Please pick up a copy of the report on the credenza or email the church info@community-ucc.org for an electronic copy to read further recommendations and opinions of your fellow congregants.

Mike Allen (chair)

Upcoming Special Events

4 May: Campus Ministry Service and Graduation Sunday

11 May: Choir Cantata

1 June: Outdoor service which is the first Summer service which begins at 9:30 am (location TBD)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS AND REQUEST FOR INPUT

At the CUCC meeting held on Sunday, April 20, the congregation approved to proceed with a capital campaign to solicit funds for renovations of the church facilities. The congregation also approved (35-yes, 10-no) to issue Requests for Proposals (RFP) to develop the church parking lot and 510 E. Daniel properties, with the understanding that a future congregational meeting will approve the key components of the RFP. This congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, June 8 after the worship service.

Congregational members interested in taking part in planning the capital campaign and/or providing input are asked to please contact the church office.

Thank you!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Our quest to be 5 for 5 is coming to a close (for this year!) with our upcoming One Great Hour of Sharing offering! Over the next few weeks, we will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing. This collection goes to support disaster relief around the world.

A couple years ago, New Orleans was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and the after effects. People who had lived there all their lives were displaced, communities were torn apart, and the

city was left to fend for themselves by our government.

Through all of this the UCC was there. Through their "A New Hope" campaign, the UCC has been helping to rebuild the lives and communities in New Orleans. That campaign is financed through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Just a couple weeks ago, our own Campus Ministry went to New Orleans for their spring break work trip. The results were as-

tonishing. We may be two years since the devastation, but we have not made two years worth of progress rebuilding that community. There is still so much to do in the community, and the UCC continues to be a working force in this area.

Please prayerfully consider your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing to help the UCC continue to rebuild forgotten communities.

Thanks,
Susan

BAPTISM



Isabella Grace Oligney-Estill received holy Baptism on Sunday, March 30, 2008. She is the daughter of Tony and Denise Oligney-Estill.

Eliana Nicole Cattell and Dmitry Jacob Cattell received holy Baptism on Sunday, April 13. They are the children of Nancy Cattell.

Congratulations!

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF CUCC

We have lost track of a number of our members. These are people who have moved away from town and we no longer have valid addresses for them. We'd like to be able to keep contact with our members as much as possible. Please take a look at this. If you know how to get in contact with anyone on this list, would you please contact the church office?

Thanks, David Willcox

Mark Anlicker
 Julie-Elise Burroughs
 Lisa Sieja Durham
 Dawn Dziuba
 Chester Fontenot
 Sherri Foreman
 George Frampton Jr
 Beth Garrigus
 Anna Gillis
 Brian Good
 Sherry Good
 Ann Griffin
 Elizabeth Hanson
 Douglas Harridge
 Pam Hayward
 David and Lara Heady
 Steve Hettinger

David Hill
 Kim Hague Jacobs
 Nathan Keyes
 Michael Langendorf
 Tim Lommasson
 Bonet M'Tukudzi
 Carol Maloney
 Matt Maloney
 Mayer Maloney
 Laurina Manning
 Mark Manning
 Scott McLean
 Amy Molner
 Erica Montgomery
 Elizabeth Moore-Shay
 Chance Nicols
 Carolyn Palmer

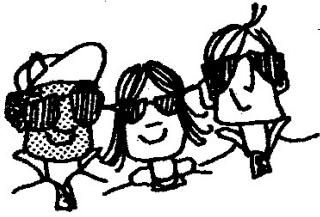
Jaiprakash Paul
 Merle Penny
 Mark Poznanski
 Robert Reinhart
 John Seckman
 Neil Shay
 Suan Sprunger
 Melissa Steiner
 Phil Sumida
 Valerie Gannon Sumida
 Sue Utting (Swisher)
 Bill Takahashi
 Lawrence (Renny) Chilton Thomas
 Karl Vogel
 W. Jon Williams
 Anne and Gary Wood

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





With the help of this congregation, we surpassed our Fund-raising Goal of \$1600 for the

YOUTH GROUP IN MAY

Silent Auction and Dinner. We brought in nearly \$2300! This is good news not only for our trip this year, but also for next summer as this will give us a head start of \$1700.

We're going to be kicking back and relaxing during our time together in May. If you are in 6th-12th grade, we hope you'll join us on Sunday evenings from 6 pm till 8 pm.

May 4th: We're invited to Paul's house (Kordik that is) for an evening of Dance Dance Revolution, Guitar Hero, Air Hockey and maybe a movie. Gather at Paul's at 6 pm, and plan to be picked up by 8 pm. Paul's address is: 4814 Sandcherry Drive in Champaign.

May 11th: It's Mother's Day, so we'll cancel youth group to give you an opportunity to do

something nice for your mother. (flowers, dinner, a special note?)

May 18th: We're going to gather at the church, catch up with each other, and have fun. Don't miss it!

May 25th: Let's celebrate the beginning of the summer season with a cook-out and kickball.

CHILD CARE PROVIDER NEEDED

Now Hiring in the Nursery: We have a position open for Child Care Provider in our church nursery. We are looking for someone with experience caring for children, ideally with an educational focus on children. The standard hours would be from 9:15 until 11:15 each Sunday of the summer, with additional hours possible. Please contact Rev. Tracy Heilman if you are interested. You may send your resume to: tracy@community-ucc.org.

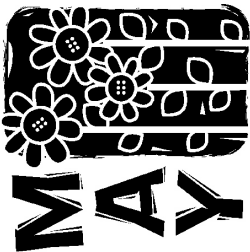
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

On May 4th, we'll have our final session of "Pentecost: Wind and Fire". I am still looking for 1 or 2 adults to lead this session. Please call me if you can help.

May 11th is our final day of Sunday School for the 2007/2008 year. We invite all of our teachers and students, along with their families, to join us as we

celebrate all we've learned and all we've shared. We'll have a continental breakfast beginning at 9 am, followed by a time of recognition, as well as activities for students and families to enjoy together.

There will be no Sunday School on **May 18th or 25th**.



MAY 2008

*"Honor thy mother.
And everyone else's."*

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 & Jr High Youth</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>CUCC Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm</p> </div>			<p>1 7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens 2 pm Invitation to the Journey at Clark Lindsey 8 pm AA</p>	<p>2 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>3 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>4 *See Schedule Above Free Blood Pressure Checks Campus Ministry Led Worship & Graduation Sunday</p>		<p>6 Noon Prayer Protest 11:45 am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 Noon Prayer Protest 11:45 am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8 1 pm Women's Fellowship at Mary Ellen Schroeder's home 6 pm Identity Teams and Ministry Groups meet ~ 7 pm Chairs of Ministry Groups meet with CLB Coordinators ~ 7:30 pm Church Life Board meeting</p>	<p>9 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>10 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>10 am-4 pm Folletts Book Store ~ Buy Back Books Event</p>						
<p>11 *See Schedule Above Mother's Day Sing with the Spirit Pentecost with Music & Text No Youth Group</p>	<p>12 5:30 pm GCAP</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Noon Prayer Protest 11:45 am Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chimers 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm New Sanctuary Movement</p>	<p>15 8 pm AA</p>	<p>16 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>17 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>18 *See Schedule Above No Sunday School</p>		<p>20</p>	<p>21 11:45 am Bulletin Deadline Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 10 am Communiongram Deadline 8 pm AA</p>	<p>23 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>24 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>
<p>25 *See Schedule Above No Sunday School</p>	<p>26 Memorial Day Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 11:45 am Bulletin Deadline Noon Bulletin Deadline Communiongram Mailed</p>	<p>29 8 pm AA</p>	<p>30 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p>31 9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>

FROM JUST PEACE & PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY IDENTITY TEAMS

CHRISTIAN FAITH AND IMMIGRATION

IN CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE, THE OBLIGATION to extend hospitality to the stranger is a key requirement of faithfulness. Who is the neighbor whom we are to love? Frequently in the Bible the answer is the stranger. In fact, right at the center of Christian faithfulness is the challenge and the opportunity to love the stranger as ourselves, to love the stranger as God loves the stranger, to love the stranger as one with whom Jesus explicitly identifies. This biblical teaching does not tell us precisely what U.S. immigration policy ought to be. But it does require us to ask—in the midst of our debates about immigration—what it means for Christians and Christian churches to be bearers of the tradition of hospitality today. I believe it means three things: we must practice mercy, establish justice, and seek transforming relationships.

First, practice mercy. The stranger is often characterized by the condition of vulnerability. The stranger, by definition, is an outsider. As such, she or he may be excluded from the networks which insiders rely on for the satisfaction of their daily needs. Christian teaching about hospitality, however, insists that strangers be treated the same as insiders. Indeed the outsiders become our neighbors. They are created in the image of God. They are valued by God no less than others of us. As such they have certain basic rights that they do not have to earn. From a Christian standpoint, they have these rights simply by virtue of their humanness.

Some of the immigration legislation currently proposed would deny basic services to undocumented workers, and in fact would make it a crime to provide such assistance. Many Christians have responded with outrage at these proposals. They fly in the face of elementary decency much less the mercifulness of Christian hospitality. A good society will ensure that the basic needs of all people living within its borders will be met, documented or not. For Christians the vulnerability of strangers reminds us of the dependence all of us have on the generosity of God.

Second, establish justice. The stranger is often treated unjustly. In many cases the stranger does not have structures for addressing injustices. Certainly this is the case with undocumented workers. They are an underground work force who must seek to remain invisible in order to keep working. The injustice is compounded when these workers are blamed for a whole host of problems in the United States. The bitter irony is that they are doing work American employers need. They are providing goods and services upon which the rest of us rely. They are contributing members of their communities. Yet instead of recognizing and appreciating their work, many people would deny them a path to legalization and citizenship.

Hospitality to strangers, therefore, requires the establishment of justice. Particularly, given the vulnerability of undocumented workers, the public advocacy of churches on behalf of justice for them is crucial.

(Continued on page 9)

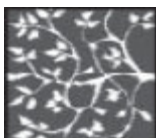
God calls us to be particularly attentive to the ways the voiceless and defenseless are treated. Surely justice would seem to mean that those who are engaged in work our communities value should be given the opportunity, under reasonable conditions, for full membership in these communities.

Third, seek transforming relationships. One way to view the stranger in the biblical tradition is as a “herald.” The stranger, the sojourner, brings news. If we don’t grant hospitality, we don’t get the news. We miss something that we need to know. In the book of Hebrews, the writer tells us that in giving hospitality to the stranger we may be welcoming an angel without knowing it. In the stranger, God calls us to new horizons of opportunity and responsibility, beyond what we are able to generate out of our established environments. In this understanding, hospitality to the stranger is necessary in order that the church may be faithful to God.

What is morally significant about the stranger? Often we emphasize that human beings are basically alike. In some respects this is certainly true. But it is also true that human beings are different. Immigrants are often regarded as “strangers” in this sense. They are different from “us.” Difference becomes a justification for keeping them out of our communities or treating them harshly if they are already here.

In Christian teaching, to welcome the stranger, the immigrant, is to receive gratefully the gifts of the “other.” We need the stranger to open us to possibilities of transformation God has in store beyond what we might have previously recognized. In the history of the United States there is no question that immigration changes both residents and immigrants. We are mutually transformed. While facing squarely the challenges of immigration, and they are real, the Christian ethic of hospitality must lead our churches to emphasize not the threats but rather the gifts and the possibilities for the creative multicultural communities that immigrants bring to us.

—By Dana W. Wilbanks is professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Iliff School of Theology, in Denver, CO



The Progressive Christian Witness

A Ministry of Pacific School of Religion

The Progressive Christian Witness: A Ministry of Pacific School of Religion, www.progressivechristianwitness.org, aims to strengthen the voices of progressive Christianity in the public square by publishing theologically grounded resources—brief articles like this one and longer essays—for laypeople and pastors on significant issues in American life. Contact us at pcw@psr.edu or 800/999-0528.

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"Sing with the Spirit"

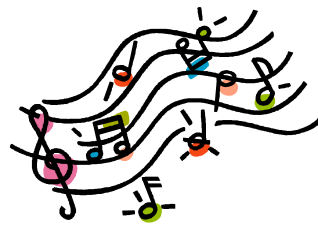
A Pentecost celebration through music and spoken word.



Sunday, May 11th at 10:15 am

Featuring:

The CUCC Chancel Choir, Children's Choir,
Chimers and Soloists.



Soloists:

Amy Fuller, Laura Kimmel Ballantyne,
Raphael Luquis, Gustavo Flores and Chad Ballantyne

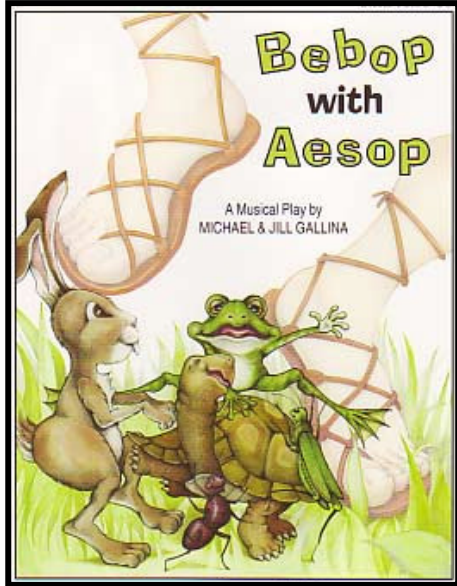
Robert L. Smith, Director

Linda Vaughn, Organist

Audrey Vallance, Children's Choir

Original Texts by Rev. Mike Mulberry

9th Annual CUCC 2007 Community Arts Camp



Aesop's unforgettable fables
set to 50's rock and roll!

By Michael and Jill Gallina

Directed by Audrey Vallance
& Angela Schneider

June 16 - 29

Monday-Friday ~ 9 am - 3 pm

Tuition - \$150

4th grade through 8th grade

Maximum enrollment - 30 students

Registration Deadline: Monday, May 5

For more information, contact Audrey Vallance
avallance@comcast.net

(Limited or partial scholarships available)

Send \$150 Tuition payment to: Community Arts Camp—UCC,
805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Name: _____

Grade Level 2007-08 year _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ and/or email _____

Parents/Guardians: _____



COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUST PEACE, PROGRESSIVE
LGBTQ OPEN AND AFFIRMING



805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: (217) 344-5091 ~ FAX: (217) 344-5008

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, Elena Houseal, Julia Kara, Jessica Bush

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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Label

The next Communigram will be mailed out on May 28.

**SUNDAY
REGULAR SCHEDULE**

9:00 am Sunday School

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:15 am Worship

After the Children's Time, children

up to 4 years old are welcome in the nursery.

11:15 am Children dismissed for children's choir

11:30 am Coffee Hour

6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group

**SUNDAY
SUMMER SCHEDULE
BEGINS JUNE 1**

8:45 am Choir Rehearsal

9:30 am Worship

9:30 am Nursery

10:30 am Coffee Hour

6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group



Upcoming Special Events

4 May: Campus Ministry Service and Graduation Sunday

11 May: Choir Cantata

1 June: Outdoor service which is the first **Summer Service** which begins at 9:30 am (location TBD)